



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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It is always interesting to straddle months and seasons during times of change. I started last week in the extreme heat in Houston and finished the week deep in the Sierra Mountains in Downieville, California with a morning mountain chill. Now, as I write this, I am flying home from Lexington, Kentucky, where I saw hints of autumn and wore a jacket in this next to last week of September. All this, as I anticipate our readers receiving and reading this issue in early November, with Thanksgiving and Christmas on the radar. Time moves too fast.

Of course, we cannot control father time and we all eventually run out of this luxury. This issue addresses the untimely loss of one of the elder statesman of our hobby, Junior Carl Sturm. You will read a tribute within by Hall of Famer Bill Baab and many of Carl's friends. Carl was a FOHBC life member, previous editor of The Federation Letter and The Federation Glassworks newsletter, predecessors to Bottles and Extras, which the Federation acquired in 1995. That was the year Carl was elected to his first term as the organization's president. Rest in peace, Carl. You were an inspiration to all and have a special place within our collective hearts. Somehow it seemed like you would be around forever.

Our convention director, Tom Phillips, and the Lexington National Show hosts, Sheldon Baugh, Randee Kaiser and Hall of Famer Gene Bradberry, will be heading up to Lexington soon for yet another visit to the Lexington Convention Center and adjoining Hyatt Regency Hotel to conduct the next round of show preparations. They will be paying close attention to the 'Run for the Roses' room and banquet event so we can more adequately address and engage the audience. We are even considering a 'hat judging event' to parallel the great hats you might see at a Kentucky Derby. They could even be 'bottle themed' for ladies and gents alike. So much planning goes into one of these events. You can keep up-to-date with all show news by visiting FOHBC.org and visiting the show page. Please make sure you plan ahead and reserve your dealer tables, early admission, hotel and banquet tickets sooner rather than later. We will have 325 tables. This will be a big one!

A committee has been selected to start looking at potential candidates for FOHBC board positions for 2014 and 2015. There will be a few vacancies and you certainly can run for a position. We need new people and ideas to help us better prepare for our

hobbies future. As I have said many times before, times have changed and we need to move with the times and be in the forefront of each aspect of change.

I know some of you are still not on computers and some of you may never be due to various reasons. The magazine attempts to keep you up to date and informed, but I have to tell you, there is so much more bottle and glass news online that it could fill your day with news, images and information. The various web sites, facebook pages and auction houses alone are packed with great material. Please consider expanding your horizons and looking at this material. The Federation facebook page alone has almost 2,000 members. Our FOHBC web site averages close to a thousand visits a day. My personal web site, Peachridge Glass, is closing in on the 1 million-visit milestone. The new generation of collectors is savvy, internet smart and exists in large numbers. We must embrace this community and help others should they wish to expand their horizons. You do not need a desk computer anymore to go online. The smart phone, I-pads and all of the other devices link to these sites in the blink of an eye.

We are also curious if any members might be interested in a 'digital' Bottles and Extras membership at a reduced price? We used to receive dozens of professional and personal interest magazines and periodicals at my office. Now the magazine racks in the studio kitchen are close to empty as many of us receive our subscriptions and newsletters online. Actually, for the first time, I am receiving more courtesy bottle club newsletters in a digital format than via the U.S. postal service. You don't have to deal with a delay there. Even television shows and movies are streaming online, all without commercials. Now I like that.

Stay at your own pace if that is what you like or step out and join the new world. It is your decision. If you hunger for more information, that can be as fresh as the moment, go digital. Your Federation will help you with any advice on hardware, software and other online digital experiences should you ask. The facebook bottle sites are growing so rapidly, I am amazed. Many daily contributors are longtime collectors. It is not just the newer and younger generation as some of you might suspect.

Enough with all this. Let's get on with this issue of the magazine. You will find some truly great articles on a wide variety of subjects. We have an editorial committee that selects and organizes articles for each of the six issues during the year. We are actively looking for new writers and a broader range of topics. Please step up, we assure you that our committee will help you in any way possible with your article.

Rake some leaves, get the fireplace ready for winter, pull your sweaters out, root for your favorite football team and get ready for the next great bottle season. There are so many super shows around the corner, not to mention all of the holidays. My favorite time of the year.