



Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors

President :

President's Message

Winter 2005

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Service and volunteerism: Two key elements that are crucial for a healthy and vibrant organization.

There is no greater example of exemplary service than that given to the Federation by Ralph VanBrocklin. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ralph for all of his hard work and dedication while serving as President of the Federation over these past two years. During Ralph's tenure, the Federation faced and solved some significant challenges:

- Selection of Kathy Hopson, our dedicated and hard working editor, to replace Dave Cheadle
- Stemming the fiscal tide of red ink and putting the organization back on more solid financial footing
- Spearheading the transition of our publication, *Bottles and Extras* to the beautiful, comprehensive and high quality magazine that it has become
- Reversing the stagnation or attrition of our membership base. Under his leadership the Federation has enjoyed a rejuvenation of its membership roles (with a significant increase of more than two hundred new members!)

Ralph, on behalf of the Federation, I thank you for all that you have done and for the contributions that you continue to make for this organization.

I would also like to thank Norm and Junne Barnett for their tireless efforts and long-standing service to the Federation and to this hobby. Together, they have worked on countless projects and combined, their service has spanned several decades. Norm and Junne retired from the board effective this past August, but remain active in their local club (continuing to serve as Show Chairman and coordinators of the Midwest Antique Fruit Jar & Bottle Show).

Other dedicated members who have recently retired from the board, effective with the annual meeting this past August include Margie Williams, Jack Hewitt, and Tom Lines, all great supporters of this hobby. Thank you all for your valuable contributions and for your time that you have so selflessly given.

Without "new blood", an organization becomes stagnant and ceases to evolve. As mentioned above, I am most pleased to report that over the past several years, membership in the Federation has increased significantly. If you are a new member to the Federation, I would like to thank you for your interest in the organization and welcome you to the group! I would especially like to encourage you to take part and enjoy the many benefits that membership has to offer including the subscription to *Bottles and Extras*, free "For Sale" advertising and "Wanted" ads, discounted pricing for "Early Bird" admission to the Federation sponsored National and EXPO Shows, assistance for publishing your book or manuscript and a forum for your research and articles, as well as many other benefits.

While we are on the subject of benefits, I would like to briefly mention a few projects that the Federation is currently working on for your benefit. The Board is in the process of exploring the feasibility, cost, and interest of providing liability insurance at reduced group rates to the Federation Affiliated Member Clubs. This insurance would primarily provide liability insurance for local club shows as well as other miscellaneous club functions that may arise during the course of a typical year (such as club meetings, picnics, etc.). We will have more on this to report following the January 2005, mid-year board meeting.

The 2005 National Show Committee is working diligently, laying the groundwork and making preparations for what promises to be an enthusiastic and exciting – well organized, and very full weekend of great bottles and activities. Please make your

plans early to be a part of this fun-filled and exciting weekend. Plans for the souvenir program, a very special banquet (*you will not want to miss*), educational exhibits, seminars and specialty group meetings, are well under way. Watch for details and additional information in the months ahead. The host hotel, the *Amway Grand Plaza*, and the new, state of the art Exhibition Hall at *DeVos Place*, are second to none. August in Michigan is a beautiful time of year and numerous activities abound. The picturesque Lake Michigan shoreline is an easy 30 minutes away with beautiful sandy beaches, boating, fishing, quaint coastal towns, and antique shops. Within just a few blocks of the Amway Grand Plaza and DeVos Place are several wonderful museums (including the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum), botanical gardens, the zoo and many great restaurants.

Connecting all of the elements of this message is the original theme: *Service and volunteerism*. At the EXPO in Memphis last August, I had a great conversation with a fellow collector. As the dust was settling and the curtain was lowering in the waning hours of another great EXPO, Liz and I were beginning to take down the Hall of Fame and Honor Roll Exhibits. A gentleman stopped by and simply thanked us for our part as volunteers involved in the hosting of the EXPO. He said, "We all like to go to the party, but someone has to throw it."

It takes a lot of work to make these events happen - for you, our members! If you are willing to contribute your time and talent to your FOHBC, and specifically for the August 2005 National Show, please let us know. We could use your help to throw the party!

For additional information, dealer contracts or questions regarding hosting a specialty meeting for your group, please contact myself, John Pastor, by phone 616-285-7604, or E-mail: jpastor2000@msn.com. We will look forward to seeing everyone at the 2005 National, August 13 & 14, 2005!