



Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors

President's Message

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President :

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Time as an officer in a volunteer organization seems to crawl at times and at others to absolutely fly by. It certainly does not seem possible to me that I am well into my second year as President of the Federation, yet here we are again at the point where we need volunteers as candidates for Board positions. There can be no more certain sign that time has marched right along! I have enjoyed my time heading the organization, but it is time for others to step forward and lead the Federation into areas where I have not had the insight to lead it.

Over the past year-plus we have been

able to attend to some organizational matters that were limiting the effectiveness of the organization and draining its resources. Membership is up considerably and the Board is again more responsive to membership suggestions and concerns. Putting mechanisms in place to ensure that the organization functions well is an area in which I am capable. The ability to attend to the problems of the hobby and developing programs which have value to the membership and clubs in both the short-term and for the long haul require new leadership. I hope that a number of you

who read this message will step forward to provide just that brand of leadership!

All of the Board positions are open to nomination, although the Director-At-Large positions are limited to past FOHBC Presidents and Vice Presidents. I encourage you to consider which position you or a friend of yours could capably fill and submit your/your friends name in nomination. Running against established Board Members should not deter you. Experience is not a factor here—interest and industry is all we ask!

The following is a listing of available positions and a brief description of each:

- President -** Sets a general direction for the organization consistent with its overall mission; presides over all Federation meetings, coordinates all Federation functions.
- 1st Vice President -** Presides over Federation matters in the absence of the President; assumes the duties of the President if he/she is unable to perform them; works closely with and assists the President in carrying out the business of the Federation.
- 2nd Vice President -** Presides over Federation matters in the absence of the President and 1st Vice President; assists the President in carrying out the business of the Federation.
- Secretary -** Keeps a complete permanent record of all Federation Board and General Membership meetings along with records of all actions taken; makes copies of all meeting notes available to each Board Member and to the Editor for publication in Bottles and Extras.
- Treasurer -** Responsible for the thorough and efficient handling and record keeping of the finances of the Federation; has custody of all dues, funds and securities for the Federation; pays Federation expenses; files financial reports and forms that are required for income tax purposes.
- Business Manager -** Responsible for the collection and computer entry of new and renewal Federation membership applications and dues payments; performs additional business-related Federation duties requested by the President or Board.
- Membership Director -** Responsible for promoting individual and club membership; coordinates the Federation's membership services with the President and Region Directors, as appropriate.
- Public Relations Director -** Responsible for promoting a positive image of the Federation; works closely with both the Membership Director and the Business Manager in promoting the bottle hobby and Federation membership and in educating the public through written and electronic media; assists in the maintenance and improvement of the Federation website – www.fohbc.com.
- Conventions Director -** Solicits proposals for the annual National Show and Convention; assists in the planning and coordination of events at the annual National Federation Show and Convention in conjunction with the host club.
- Historian -** Responsible for coordinating the preservation and maintenance of an archive documenting the history of the Federation and the bottle hobby.
- Merchandising Director -** Responsible for developing, promoting and marketing all types of Federation-endorsed merchandise.
- Director-at-Large -** Open to ex-Presidents and Vice-Presidents, only; these individuals are involved in an advisory capacity, allowing the Board to utilize their past experience and expertise.
- Region Directors -** One Region Director from each of the four regions (West, Mid-West, North-East and South); promotes the Federation in their region; acts as a liaison between the Board and individual members and clubs; promotes the concerns and suggestions of clubs and individuals in their region.

Each member has responsibilities in attending to matters that ensure the smooth functioning of the Federation and each member has equal opportunities to promote new programs and ideas that further the hobby and the organization. Board members must be available for the

meetings held in conjunction with the annual National Show and it is helpful if they are able to attend the mid-year Board Meetings which are variably conducted. Ballots will be mailed with the mid-May newsletter. Deadline for submission of nominations is April 1, 2004.

I encourage you to share your ideas and to become involved as a Board Member! For more detailed information, contact a Board Member or call me in the evenings at (423) 913-1378.

Ralph Van Brocklin