



Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors

President :

President's Message

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As they say, "Timing is everything". By the time this Spring Issue of *Bottles and Extras* arrives at your doorstep, along with the tulips and apple blossoms, another busy show season will be kicking into high gear. I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate a few of the many benefits that Federation Affiliated Member Clubs enjoy, and to encourage those clubs to take full advantage of these benefits. If your local club is not a Federation Affiliated Club, why not talk to your club officers and consider joining.

Some of the many benefits for Federation Affiliated Clubs include: A free quarter-page display ad in the Federation Newsletter preceding your show; One complimentary *Individual Membership* for your club to use as an honorarium, door prize or raffle item; a free Federation ribbon for Most Educational Display at your show; discounted display advertising rates in *Bottles and Extras*; a library of slide programs available for a nominal usage fee for use at club meetings and activities. And, in the very near future, we hope to add another valuable benefit to this growing list. The board is in the process of exploring the feasibility of offering liability insurance for your club's activities at very reasonable rates. We hope to make this a reality in the very near future and will have more to report on this in the next issue.

On a more individual basis, we have all seen how one vote, one person, can make a difference in a free and democratic society. And, it can certainly make a difference in helping to foster the growth of this organization and our hobby. You, as an individual, do have the power to help strengthen the organization and to make a difference! The Federation is in the process of looking for an Advertising Manager to act as a liaison for individuals and clubs wishing to place ads and to coordinate accounts. This individual would work

closely with our editor and need not have any prior experience. Although this position would not necessarily require a great deal of your time, it is an important position and one that would be of great assistance to the organization. Please don't hesitate to give me a call if you or someone you know may be interested.

There are many other ways in which you can make a difference and to exercise the "power of one person". I would invite you to share your knowledge and expertise by writing an article for *Bottles and Extras* (or perhaps a memorable dig or an interesting discovery), or by showing off a portion of your collection and sharing your knowledge through a display at your local show or perhaps at the National Show in Grand Rapids.

One of the primary goals of the Federation is to foster the educational aspect of the hobby. In fact, the mission of the Federation as stated in the organization's bylaws is "...to encourage growth and public awareness of the bottle hobby and to enhance the enjoyment of such through collecting, dealing and educational endeavors and to promote fair and ethical conduct within the bottle hobby." I am pleased to announce that at the 2005 National Bottle Show in Grand Rapids, Michigan August 13 & 14, plans have been made to incorporate a *minimum* of thirty to forty educational exhibits encompassing a wide variety of collecting disciplines. One of the featured displays that I anticipate will garner a great deal of interest and should also be very enlightening, will be one of "Fakes & Reproductions". Unfortunately, while these are a reality of our hobby, they are by no means new to the scene. "*Antique Fakes & Reproductions*" was the title of an important book by Ruth Webb Lee (original copyright 1938), with chapters on blown glass, historical flasks, and pattern glass reproductions.

If you are interested in contributing a display for the 2005 National Show in Grand Rapids, please contact Jeff Scharnowske, 989.725.3880, or E-mail: scharno@shianet.org. Jeff, as well as all of the 2005 show committee members, has been working hard to ensure that this year's National will be an enjoyable and memorable event for all. Also, be sure to catch in this issue, an article by Liz Maxbauer on Grand Rapids, Michigan, my current resident city and host venue to this year's National Bottle Show.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those folks who have, and who continue to contribute articles to the Federation. We have enjoyed a tremendous outpouring of support and contributions via "the written pen." However, those needs are continual and ever present. In this and in past issues, we have had many wonderful and informative articles that have been written by talented members. Many more articles are waiting to be written by other knowledgeable contributors; we would love to hear from YOU!

In the meantime, I hope that you'll enjoy this issue.

The 2005 National Show packet can be requested from me by phone or mail - or downloaded from our Website at:

http://www.fohbc.com/FOHBC_ShowCalendar.html

Packet includes:

Directions to DeVos Place; Schedule of Events; Rules & General Information for Sales Tables, Displays & Early Buyers; Hotel, Banquet & Reservation form; Auction & Seminar Information; Sales Table & Banquet Reservation form; and Early Admission & Display Application.