



Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors

President :

President's Message

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As I reach the conclusion of my two-year stint as President of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors I reflect with pride upon the advances the organization has made and look forward, with anticipation, to the progress we will make in the next two years with John Pastor at the helm and a Board that will include new individuals and the new ideas they will foster!

The improvements we have seen in the Federation are wholly due to the volunteers whose talents we have had the honor of drawing upon. My thanks go out to our current Board who made the difficult decisions to alter publication frequency while setting in motion the framework for a superior magazine and newsletter format. Provision of free advertising of sale items and reduced charges for display ads to our Affiliated Clubs are tangible benefits that this Board has promoted. The complimentary individual membership provided to each club is an effective way for them to thank someone for the work they have done on behalf of the club and brings an additional industrious collector to the Federations' rolls.

Our authors are the backbone of our periodicals and they deserve our greatest laudatory comments. I am thankful for those friends who have written consistent columns for us over my tenure and, equally, for those who have shared with us their knowledge on a single issue basis. I admit to shamelessly imposing on a large number of my friends to help us by sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm

for what they collect and to all of you who have answered the call (and who yet will!), please know that I sincerely appreciate what you have done for us!

A very special thanks goes out to our Regional Correspondents, who summarize the newsletters from their region six times yearly, often with a wonderful interjection of wit and personality. Joe Terry (Midwestern), Larry Fox (Northeastern), Bill Baab (Southern) and Scott Grandstaff (Western) perform one of the most important tasks that we ask of our members, imparting cohesiveness to the group and lending us one of the truly unique features that exists in our publications when compared to others.

Keeping all of the functions of the periodicals and the website coordinated and the materials appropriately presented requires a tremendous outlay of time and energy and the Federation owes it's greatest dose of gratitude to Kathy Hopson, our Editor. I can honestly say that without her my task would have been impossible and that there could be no finer advocate for the hobby or steward of *Bottles and Extras* and our other periodicals.

One of the largest expenditures of effort by Federation representatives—and one of the areas in which we consistently provide a quality service to the bottle collecting community—is the yearly National Show. I sincerely appreciate the endeavors of all who have been involved in these shows over my tenure, including seminars, displays and set-up/coordination. A particularly heartfelt thanks to show chairmen Barb

Schwarting and Larry Fox for the 2002 Syracuse National, June and Wayne Lowry for the 2003 Louisville National and Gene Bradberry for the upcoming EXPO 2004 to be held in Memphis, Tennessee, this August.

Finally, as I consider all who have assisted the Federation over the past two years, I would like to express my gratitude to those Life Members who have continued to make donations to the Federation, despite no obligation to do so. These additional monies have made it possible to keep the organization viable and have paved the way for a more responsive and improved Federation. Particularly generous donations were made by Mr. Robert Hagge, Jr. and Mrs. Isabel Sherwood who left the Federation a donation in her estate.

I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in my role as Immediate Past President.

Thank you, one and all, for being members of this wonderful organization!

Ralph Jay Van Brocklin, DMD