



Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors

President :

President's Message

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I must admit, time has a way of slipping by. These past two years as President of the Federation have been both exciting and challenging. It has also been a very rewarding experience. At a time when many hobby and collector organizations have been struggling and witnessing the erosion of their membership, the Federation (and I believe the hobby in general) has enjoyed a rejuvenation of interest and strength in membership.

The Federation exists both as an educational organization for its members and to promote the hobby. Two primary ways that we have endeavored to achieve these goals is by offering a high quality, informative, and educational magazine and also by hosting the annual National and EXPO Bottle Shows. The magazine speaks to the educational goals of the organization while the National and EXPO Shows serve both to promote the awareness of the hobby and to foster the educational aspect of the Federation's mission statement. The shows do this by offering informative seminars and specialty group meetings; a wide array of educational exhibits and by offering a venue to bring collectors together from all walks of life and from all corners of the country.

If you have not already made plans to do so, I would encourage you to attend the Federation's 2006 National Bottle Show in Reno, Nevada, August 19-20. As always, it should be a very exciting event filled with wonderful glass, interesting and informative seminars and a variety of fantastic and educational displays. For more information, please contact show chairman Wayne Lowry, 401 Johnson Court, Raymore, MO 64083. Phone: 816.318.0161.

While the Federation has enjoyed some successes in working towards several key goals (enrichment in the quality and content of our magazine; growth of membership,

and the implementation of a liability insurance policy covering all FOHBC Affiliated Member Clubs), there is still much to be done!

I have said it before, so at the risk of repeating myself, I firmly believe that the local clubs (*and their shows*) are the lifeblood of the hobby. Unfortunately, I am all too aware that several local clubs have disbanded in recent times. Their local show often serves as the "glue" that holds the club together and provides the income to help sustain their monthly meetings and other activities throughout the year. While this issue has been touched on before, I would encourage the development of a "Show Assistance Package" for Federation Affiliated Member Clubs. This package would offer helpful tips and ideas on conducting a successful local bottle show and in making the most out of the resources that the club has available. Often there are relatively simple things that can be done that will greatly enhance the enjoyment and the success of the event.

Correspondingly, the Federation has begun discussion on developing a set of guidelines to help local clubs who may be interested in playing host to a Federation National or EXPO Show understand the procedures, facilities requirements, logistics and other nuances involved, and how to go about submitting a proposal.

In addition, the Federation's Board continues to explore the viability of the *Newsletter* and the feasibility of migrating to a more frequent publishing schedule for *Bottle and Extras* while maintaining fiscal responsibility and ensuring the long-term viability of the organization. With renewed strength and growth in membership, this issue edges closer to becoming a viable option. The importance of having an adequate membership base is key to having a healthy organization. Please encourage a fellow collector to join and introduce a friend to the Federation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to again thank Kathy Hopson-Sathe for the

beautiful job that she has done as editor of *Bottles and Extras*. As I am sure that you will agree, Kathy has done a remarkable job and her dedication and hard work are very much appreciated. In addition to the periodicals, Kathy also maintains and updates the Federation website. We are truly fortunate to have her as a part of this organization.

And finally, I would like to extend an invitation for you or your club to participate in the organization. We need dedicated and talented volunteers! We all possess our own unique and individual set of skills. And, we all have *something* that we can offer to the organization and to the hobby. Please consider sharing your knowledge and contributing an article or series of articles on your particular collecting specialty or an interesting discovery, or recent digging excursion. Sign up a new member to the Federation, introduce a friend to the hobby and become involved in the organization. We would love to hear from you.

It has been my privilege to have served on the Federation's board as President, Vice President, and in the capacity of conducting five National Auctions as well as Show Chairman for the 2005 National Bottle Show. I have witnessed a great deal of change in both the hobby as well as our organization. We are an organization made up of volunteers and I would like to thank each of you for your support. Furthermore, I would ask that you please continue to show your support for incoming FOHBC President, Carl Sturm and to those who have volunteered their time and effort to serve on the Federation's board for the next two years. I look forward to continuing to work on your behalf as a Director-at-Large.

With warm regards,

John R. Pastor