



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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11 August 2014: The 2014 Lexington National has come and gone but it is still very much on many of our minds. Debriefing, accounting reports, web posts, image cataloging and the push to get an article in this issue of Bottles and Extras has been the task of many following the show.

As you can imagine, orchestrating and executing a show of this size with so many components and moving parts is a huge task. Not only did we have the show concerns with our all-important members, our dealers, the early buyers, our displayers, seminar givers and the public, we have date specific events like television interviews, our board meeting, the general membership meeting, election counting, registration, membership sales, the cocktail party, hat contest, the banquet and the Run for the Roses bottle competition event... and that was just Friday! On Saturday, we conducted six educational seminars, more registration, membership sales, dealer unloading, display set-up, the ribbon cutting ceremony, dealer and early buyer admittance, raffle drawings, Virtual Museum photography, the auction preview and then finished the day with the Glass Works "Thoroughbred Auction". Sunday followed with more ticket sales and membership sign-ups, dealer and early-bird entry, general admission, many more raffles, more Virtual Museum filming, the appraisal table, the book-signing event, display voting and awards and show closing remarks. Whew, did I get it all?

Banners had to be hung, floor advertising stickers had to be placed, easels had to be positioned with specially designed posters and all of the little details that surface at a moments notice.

By all accounts, our show was a great success but it takes movers and shakers to pull it off. These are the people that step up to the plate and they volunteer their time to make the event better with your experience in mind.

So thank you to outgoing Conventions Director Tom Phillips for leading this effort and putting our shows on the map. Your hard working ethics and dedication for leaving no stone uncovered was evident. We will miss you as you move on but you taught us well. Next we need to thank show Co-Chairs Sheldon Baugh and Randee Kaiser. You will not find a better Kentucky host than Sheldon and a more genuine guy than Randee who seemed to be ever-present in his coat and tie, shaking hands and making everyone seem at home. These two are astonishing and I don't know what we would have done without them. Remember, we did not have a host club for this show as we did in Manchester or Reno. These two filled the gap.

Next, I want to give some special space to Sue Kaiser! Wow, what a woman. Sue took the bull by the horns in so many areas, including financial details, table assignments, registration, volunteers, raffles, badges, proof-reading and continues to be on top of every aspect at any given point in time. Way to go, Sue. Have you heard about Chattanooga?

Next we move to the volunteers that staffed admission, membership, merchandise, Hall of Fame and the appraisal tables. Val Berry was our leader here as she is a focused individual that routinely makes order out of chaos. Linda Sheppard, Pam Selenak, Elizabeth Meyer, Brenda Baugh, Gary Beatty, Jim Berry, Martin Van Zant, Helen Forbes, Ron Hands, Andrew Vuono and all of the others that staffed these tables while they could

have been enjoying the show and shopping on the sales floor. This takes true dedication and commitment when you put the Federation first.

Then there was Scott Selenak, our official FOHBC photographer that covered every possible event with his fine photography. Hundreds if not thousands of stellar images were delivered to us in organized file groups at the tail end of each day. The first posts using Scott's images were going live even during the show. Scott is the best of the best. We are so fortunate to have him. This issue is full of his work.

Other special photography included Chip Cable who headed up the Run for the Roses filming which added so much depth to an exciting event. Additionally, Steven R. Libbey and his crew from Wisconsin filmed Virtual Museum spinners during the show. In a related area, we were fortunate to have Brian Riecker build our fine new lighted display cabinet.

I would also like to single out Jim Bender and Dick Watson who put together the fantastic "FOHBC History" display. What an effort. We hope to profile this display in the next Bottles and Extras issue along with his super display on Reproduction Bottles. Way to go, Jim!

Jamie Houdeshell also gets a shout-out as he assisted with seminars, the Run for the Roses event, site visits and banquet jar decorations. As I mention banquet decorations, thanks to Elizabeth Meyer and Helen Forbes for providing the potpourri, roses and organizing each centerpiece with the mirror, candles and fruit jars with water. Little details make a difference.

Jeff Wichmann, chief of American Bottle Auctions, gets the biggest tip of the hat possible for his very generous \$5,000 raffle contribution. Jeff, you are the man, as always!

Next, I wanted to thank the Lexington Center and Hyatt Regency Hotel for being the best hosts possible. These folks were way ahead of the curve and were waiting for our questions and specific needs. They really took care of us.

I also thank the outgoing FOHBC board members Jamie Houdeshell, Alan DeMaison, Tom Phillips, John Panek, Randee Kaiser, Ed Kuskie, Jack Hewitt and Dave Maryo for your time and service these past two years. We are also proud to announce the new board members, Val Berry, Rick DeMarsh, Steve Ketcham, Matt Lacy, Andrew Vuono, Ron Hands, Eric McGuire and Elizabeth Meyer. Boy, am I excited here with these folks.

Lastly, and I am sure I forgot some and I apologize, we thank Jim Hagenbuch, our official FOHBC auctioneer for conducting the "Thoroughbred Auction", all of our displayers, seminar givers, Run for the Roses judges, and contestants and all of the individuals that made an effort and wore a themed hat. Leanne Peace was our winner and she was so excited. That alone made it worthwhile.

I know, if this was the Academy Awards, the music would be playing and I would be ushered off the stage at this point.

I also want to challenge Pam Selenak (new FOHBC Conventions Director), Jack Hewitt and John Joiner (Chattanooga Show Co-Chairs), our membership, our dealers and all parties associated with our upcoming shows to think outside of the box. Think positive. Don't fear something because it didn't work before or because we haven't done it before. I would like to see options on the table within the month for organized member tour possibilities (walking or bus), a member breakfast, a show-room floor children's digging event for ages 4 - 10, a younger 'bring your favorite bottle and story' event for youngsters 11 - 18 and anything else that will make our shows and your experience better. Consider volunteering, too, because we need your help. Signing off. We hope you enjoy this issue of Bottles and Extra. Please visit our website, FOHBC.org which has expanded coverage of the Lexington National.