



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FERDINAND MEYER V

FMG Design, Inc.
101 Crawford Street
Studio 1A
Houston, Texas 77002
fmeyer@fohbc.org

As I write this message to the membership in early October, we are finally having our first seasonal drop in temperature in Houston. It's always a welcome relief to this antique bottle collector. To me, Autumn means nice and more comfortable runs with my dogs, raking leaves, watching and playing football with my grandson and for some reason, a warmer and closer relationship to my bottle collecting. There are numerous greets shows all throughout the country and bottle chatter on all of the web sites seems to increase. What is your favorite bottle season?

Last week I found myself near Chattanooga, Tennessee and was able to stay at and tour our host Marriott Convention Center Hotel. I also toured the Chattanooga Convention Center. What a great location! We are deep in planning for 2015 National Antique Bottle Show. Tables are for sale now. You can also make your hotel and banquet reservations. Please visit FOHBC.org for all information, show news and the dealer contract. A full page advertisement is also within this issue of Bottles and Extras. Choo-Choo to Chattanooga!

Earlier in September, I had the opportunity to visit the Lion's Gate Hotel and McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento, California with a group of west coast FOHBC representatives in preparation for our 2016 National Antique Bottle Convention. I must say, I was really impressed with the hospitality of our hosts, the McClellan grounds and our venues. Did you know that McClellan Air Force Base (1935-2001) is a former United States Air Force base located in the North Highlands area of Sacramento County, 7 miles northeast of Sacramento, California? This is really going to be one show for the books, so to speak. Very unique, lush and exciting. You also can visit FOHBC.org for more information. I honestly think that once table sales are opened up, that they will sell like Rolling Stones tickets. Please stay tuned. So excited here.

If that isn't enough show news, our request to Northeast bottle clubs for holding the 2017 National Antique Bottle Convention was sent out in early August. The letter is reprinted within this issue of Bottles and Extras. I am hearing that some potential proposal submittals might be coming from locales in Virginia, Maryland and New York. Please let us know if you have any questions if you are on one of the club show committees considering this great and historic opportunity.

And guess what? Two potential groups are considering making a proposal for the 2018 Midwest National Antique Bottle Conventions as they have contacted us. This comes from the great states of Wisconsin and Ohio. Obviously, some collectors are realizing a great opportunity to showcase their city and regional bottle collectors.

We will certainly keep you, our members, posted. As our shows get bigger and better, we must plan out further ahead. Chattanooga will be here before we know it. With Jack Hewitt and John Joiner, both veteran Southern show organizers, there is promise to make this a true Southern event. A southern auctioneer, a super southern keynote banquet speaker (Tom Hicks) and the Battle of Chattanooga bottle competition come to mind first.

With a new slate of Region Directors on the Federation board, we had our first sub-committee conference call last month. Participating on the call, besides myself was Gene Bradberry (FOHBC Second Vice President), Andrew Vuono (Northeast Region Director), Ron Hands (Southern Region Director), Matt Lacy (Midwest Region Director) and Eric McGuire (Western Regional Director). We talked about many things but I think this e-mail from Ron Hands really covers it:

Ron Hands: "I have already been working on connecting with Southern Region clubs for about a month. I tried the e-mail path and only received one response from the State of Franklin Club. I then went to direct contact by phone with about six clubs and have connected with all but one with very good results. I talked with John Sharp with the Mississippi Bottle Club, Marty Vollmer with the South Carolina Club, John Patterson with the Piedmont Bottle Club, Reggie Lynch with The Southern Bottle Club, Sterling Mann with the Raleigh Bottle Club and Melisa Milner with the State of Franklin Club. My common them was:

1. Connection for the Region to the FOHBC
2. Help in anyway I can, membership
3. Awareness of the 2015 Chattanooga National Antique Bottle Show
4. Club exposure
5. Advertising their show in Bottles and Extras
6. Show and Club activities possible covered in Bottles and Extras
7. FOHBC Website awareness
8. Contracts and advertising in the National Show Program

"I'm still working on many more clubs and think it is having an impact. After talking with the Raleigh Club, I asked to speak at the next club meeting on October 7. The only one negative I received was from John Sharp with the Mississippi club, is that the National Show falls on Sunday. Some areas of the south are strong Bible Belt areas. He was real polite but the lack of a Saturday National Show was a concern to him and the others in that area."

Work on the FOHBC Virtual Museum progresses with the planning of a Museum Board of Directors and the production of a 3-minute video of the museum that we might use to solicit larger funds from big companies. All of the work on this museum to date has been volunteered by individuals such as myself, my company and Steven Libbey and his company. We are going to need more of you to step up in many ways with ideas, volunteer time and contributions. Again, the Virtual Museum is a once-in-a-life-time, generational game-changer.

I hope you like this issue of Bottles and Extras. We need more of our members to submit short stories, club news and bottle articles. Be creative. We will help you. Do you also think it would be a good idea to get back to "department" writers for areas such as fruit jars, historical flasks, spirits, sodas, bitters, insulators etc.? We need to have a broader range of articles. We especially need more digging stories. If you look at our title, "Bottles and Extras," pay attention to the word "Extras." This opens up so many great possibilities. PLEASE help us out!

I would also like to give a special "shout-out" to our latest member who submitted a digital application that came in around 1 this morning. Why this morning? It came from Austria! Let us welcome Thomas Melan from Weikersdorf am Steinfeld, Austria. Boy, are we growing. It's truly a global hobby and we are your glue to hold it together. You will see mention of other foreign collectors and web sites in the Member News of this issue.

So happy Autumn and Winter, too, I guess. I hear that is around the corner, too. Hard to think of the holidays just yet, but they will be here sooner than you think.