



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Wow, what a hot and dry summer so far! It was 107 degrees one day in Houston as we look forward to the relief of fall and some rain. Most of us are busy with life and of course, we had our recent 2015 National Antique Bottle Show in Chattanooga, Tennessee. It was quite amazing as the temperatures seemed to subside for a few days to allow our visitors to enjoy the great city of Chattanooga.

The show really wasn't over for me until I returned to Houston and completed the article and references to the show for this issue of BOTTLES and EXTRAS. I mean, who wants to read about our show in the November - December issue? Probably be snowing in the northeast! Unfortunately, this meant an incredibly tight deadline to do the article, fit in the magazine and get it to the printer.

We need to get our thanks out of the way first here before I give a recap of this wonderful show. First of all, thank you to our co-chairs John Joiner and Jack Hewitt. John, in particular, really pulled the freight and is a model for all show chairs as far as I am concerned. Next I would like to thank the Federation board members who have encouraged and supported this great show. We should also thank the City of Chattanooga, Marriott Downtown Hotel (our host hotel), Staybridge Suites (support hotel) and the Chattanooga Convention Center for really reaching out and making this a great event for our members and attending bottle collectors.

Next we have our committee chairs who need our thanks such as Bill Johnson for advertising, Mike Newman for the Battle of Chattanooga, Tom Lines for Displays, Alan and Elaine DeMaison for the FOHBC Virtual Museum, Jim Hewitt for Bottle Appraisals and of course the girls up front in the locomotive cockpit. This would primarily be Val Berry, Linda Sheppard, Alicia Booth, Helen Forbes, Wanda Joiner and my wife Elizabeth Meyer. These women oversaw show registration, membership, merchandise and general information throughout the show. We also need to thank Jim and Pattey Daniel with Daniel Auctions for conducting the rather professional and exciting Rolling Thunder live auction.

Next we need to thank Mallory Boyle for contributing her time to be our official show photographer. Her images are used in this issue and on our web site. We also need to thank Steven Libbey for his spectacular Virtual Museum video and Jeff Wichmann of American Bottle Auctions for his generous gifts to the Federation. A special shout-out goes to Tom Hicks who was our keynote banquet speaker. Tom, as many of you know, fell ill on Saturday after the banquet and missed the show. Collectively, as a group we all prayed for his speedy recovery. We also thank and congratulate Ralph Finch for his heartfelt remarks following his induction into the prestigious FOHBC Hall of Fame.

We need to thank our seminar speakers including Tommy Schimpf, Jack

Sullivan, Mike Northcutt, Jim Witkowski, Doug McCoy, Rick Phillips and Paul Sampson. If you saw the super displays, we need to thank Ed Provine, Gene Bradberry, Mike Newman, Dale Murschell, Walter Smith, Mike Jordan, Tom Sproat, Bill Haley, Jim Bender, Amy Autenreith, Dennis Smith, Jim Berry and Mike Northcutt. Congratulations to Mike Newman and Tom Sproat for winning awards here.

Also, thanks to John Sharp for the Sunday worship service, Chip Cable for filming the Battle of Chattanooga, the Battle of Chattanooga judges and winners, all of the dealers and anyone who came to our show. Also, I would like to thank all of the people who contributed comments to the forthcoming article. I was able to use every comment that came in before the deadline. A special thanks is also due to all of our advertisers in the souvenir program.

Please excuse me if I left someone out. As you can see, this is really a major team effort to put on a Federation show. Teamwork is the norm and paramount for success.

Since I have been president, I have kind of grown into a role to help these shows where needed. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that strong co-chairs and super volunteers are needed make it happen. Each show we learn something, we do something right, we do something wrong, but we study it and move forward. We always build a better tomorrow for our hobby and members.

We had surprisingly strong numbers at our Southern Region show which pleased me greatly. In my mind, we usually have less than stellar representation in the south which I can not explain as the south is bursting at the seams with bottle collectors. We sold 256 tables of the 300 we had available, had 143 early admission and 365 general admission on Sunday. Obviously, we need work here. Our television report for the show happened on Sunday night instead of Saturday. Go figure. Our bottle hall did feel like it was full of activity which is good and we had a wide variety of antique bottles and glass.

We turned people away from our Banquet who wanted last minute tickets and had a capacity crowd of about 110 members for our first ever Membership Meeting Breakfast. We gave away a couple dozen bottle grab bags to children, had incredible displays and seminars, and an exciting live auction and the Battle of Chattanooga where you could see bottles that you might not see again. We sold about three times as much merchandise as last year, broke a record with souvenir program advertising sales, and raised close to \$3,000 for the Virtual Museum where we had a special table and new video. We also signed up 44 new members!

Little details like Glen Miller's Chattanooga Choo Choo greeting banquet arrivers and "See Rock City" bird feeder centerpieces filled with chocolates made for interesting tables appearance. The hat contest could have been promoted better and our last minute Chattanooga bus trip just did not have time to materialize. It was too cold in the hall. My apologies to all.

We will have a conference call soon to debrief ourselves on the show and to learn from it. The Sacramento, Springfield and Ohio chairs will attend. We will continually get better. I am also looking forward to a team meeting at the Lions Gate Hotel in Sacramento on September 11th in preparation for our 2016 National Convention. In the first week of sales, we sold 20% of the available tables. Better make your plans soon. This will be one for the books.