



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Some of you may know that I spend quite a bit of time travelling for business. Sometimes, I can even tie in a weekend bottle show if I am fortunate. With all of the tools available, I can run my little world from my laptop and I-Pad, using the Internet, video meetings, cell phone, conference calls and e-mails. I know that this is not for everyone but it works for me. I don't like down time so I make the best of my free time in hotels, taxis, airports, airplanes and Starbucks, my office away from office. I do miss my six dogs, though. I have not figured a way to have them with me yet.

What I find so fascinating about all this is the ability to research libraries, newspapers and other sources from wherever I am, so I am zooming around the virtual world, too. One moment it may be 1860s newspapers in New Orleans, the next I may be at the Library of Congress in Washington looking at bottle patents, the next looking at current day San Francisco building pictures from an address I entered on Google Earth, and a few moments later I might be looking at ancestry dating back to Germany for a certain bitters manufacturer. Next, I can be communicating with an immense group of collectors on the World Wide Web. It is very exciting and really makes you respect communication in earlier centuries and especially map making. I mean, how did they make those great maps without satellites!

Why am I saying all this? Well, let me tell you. I have been spending quite a bit of virtual time in Chattanooga, Tenn., Sacramento, Calif., Springfield, Mass. and various locales in the Midwest this past month. Sound familiar? You bet. These are the regional locations for the FOHBC 2015 Chattanooga National Antique Bottle Show (Southern Region), FOHBC 2016 Sacramento National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo (Western Region), FOHBC 2017 Springfield National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo (Northeast Region), and Midwest opportunities for our FOHBC 2018 National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo. Every day of late, something is happening with each. Of course, most of the attention is on Chattanooga, but our new Federation is reaching out further to make plans for better events and experiences for you. This virtual time now becomes real time with dated Federation events.

The really cool thing about this is the GREAT people we have leading these efforts in each region. These folks are working tireless hours to pull it all together. Remember, these are not just bottle shows; they are major antique bottle and glass events with meetings, sales, displays, seminars, auction, banquet, breakfast and tours. They are events to be remembered.

In Chattanooga, experienced show organizers John Joiner and Jack Hewitt, who are Co-Chairs for the event, lead our "A" team. In Sacramento, the Show Chairs are Richard and Beverley Siri who are anchors in the west. We now have big-time veterans Jim Bender and Bob

Strickhart as Co-Chairs in the Northeast who just announced, in a grand way, that Springfield, Massachusetts would be our convention location in 2017. If that is not enough, we have a new generation of major talent in Louis Fifer and Matt Lacy heading up the 2018 event. Wow, it really makes you proud to be part of such great operations.

If you see these people at a show or bottle meeting, please take the time to shake their hand and say thanks. Consider volunteering because we need your help. It takes courage, talent, dedication and time to be a Co-Chair. What I have observed from these individuals is an infectious desire to do and be the best. Jim Bender and Bob Strickhart are saying they want their Federation show to be the "show of the century." Wow.

It wasn't too long ago, maybe 10 years back, that we were only projecting our events one year out. This always put us behind the curve and in a defensive posture. We were also stepping on other local shows with our events. I remember our Reno National in 2012 had five or six other shows the same weekend as our national show. That doesn't happen anymore. Just look at the show calendar and Federation show advertisements in this issue of BOTTLES and EXTRAS. We have planted our FOHBC flag within a date window for three years ahead. This takes a lot of hard work and coordination.

As you review this issue of BOTTLES and EXTRAS, make sure you focus on the FOHBC Membership Meeting breakfast on Saturday, August 1, at the Chattanooga National. This is the first time we are having a breakfast that is at no cost to our members. We have important votes to be taken and we want our membership in attendance. The FOHBC board is recommending that FOHBC membership rates be increased as follows: Regular standard membership: \$40, 1st Class membership: \$55, Canada membership: \$60, Other Countries: \$80, Clubs: \$75, Three-Year membership, 2nd class: \$110, Digital membership (new): \$25, (Associate membership will continue at \$5; Not available with Life or Digital Membership). We are also recommending the reinstatement of Life Membership. This type of membership has to appeal to everyone. Three possible levels of Life Membership were recommended for single members only: Level 1: \$1,000, includes all benefits of a regular membership. No promise of a printed magazine for life. Level 2: \$500, Includes all benefits of a regular membership, but you will not receive a printed magazine, but rather a digital subscription. Note: In the future, a Level 1 could become a Level 2. Level 3: Earned or Honoree. The Board would have the option of bestowing an honorary Life Membership. This person would continue to join the FOHBC at the regular membership rate. The Board will determine how this honor is earned. You can read the full notice in Member News of this issue.

Also look at the Chattanooga National article within this issue as it has a complete listing of events and information. Of course, you can also find complete and the most up-to-date information on our web site, FOHBC.org.

You will also find an article on the great Jack Pelletier, "The Bininger Man" collection, by Jim Bender. This article idea was hatched at the 2015 Baltimore Antique Bottle Show and Jim was able to spend some time with Jack and his fabulous collection. Thank you both.

So enjoy your bottle collecting in the way you like best, but please make plans to come to our National shows. In the end, it is the people that make our hobby the greatest on earth.