



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Here it is already the second day of February and I start off this Monday morning early at the office thinking about the great Super Bowl game yesterday and watching it with my family. Another cold front was coming through and I see the snow is headed into New England again. At least, if you choose, you can do some nice window shots of your bottles with fresh snow in the background. I really enjoy it when I see bottle pictures that way. It may be a long wait before we see snow in Houston, like maybe the next Ice Age.

The first draft of this issue of Bottles and Extras came in this past Saturday evening from Martin Van Zant, our editor up in Indiana. It takes a lot of work to put each issue together and I would like to thank Martin and our editorial group for looking at each issue and helping us prepare it for press. A special thanks goes to Bill Baab in Georgia for his stellar writing and proofreading abilities. Also, the folks that take time to write articles need a special shout-out too. Please consider submitting an article. The topic range is broad and we can help with the design and layout. Each Bottle and Extras issue outlines the requirements and submittal process (see page 14 this issue). We also want to remind our member clubs of the ability to submit their club newsletter, show flyer or poster, bottle article or web site design for award consideration. Details are on page 34 of this issue. Hurry because the deadline is June 1st. Winners will be announced at the Chattanooga National banquet. Entry forms for each category can be found on the Federation web site under the "Members" green menu bar option.

We would also like to hear from you if you have any bottle news or comments. It is always interesting to hear from our members and we try to select a range of comments to post in our FOHBC News section each issue (see page 6 of this issue). We can only get better if we follow the pulse of our hobby and our membership. So please, set aside some time if you have something on your mind. Contact e-mail and postal address, along with board member telephone numbers, are posted on the FOHBC web site (go to the horizontal green bar and select the pull-down FOHBC menu item until you see "Officer List." There is also a "Meet Your Officers" section with biographies. Paul Dubay, from Poland, Maine, suggested that I change my picture in this President's Message. I had a little fun with that one. Please see my response on page 12.

Speaking of the FOHBC web site, we can honestly say that we have the most complete and up-to-date listing of show dates, locales and information in the hobby. Again, go to the green menu bar and select shows. You will notice that many shows have flyer images. If you are a show chairman, please submit your flyer so we can also add it to the listing. This is more of an attention-grabber and of course, may have more specific information about your show. You can also find show listings in the back of each issue of Bottles and Extras, but the web site is always more current due to our printing schedule. You can also advertise your show in Bottles and Extras. Most clubs do. The 50% member discount cannot be matched. What a deal. Remember, advertising pays!

Our FOHBC web site also has the latest information for the 2015 Chattanooga National and 2016 Sacramento National Antique Bottle Convention. These show pages are updated continuously with new information. Within this issue you will see a full-page advertisement for the Chattanooga National on page 27 plus a full-page advertisement on page 13 from our Chattanooga auctioneer, Jim Daniel. Please consider consigning some items to the auction that will have a definite southern flair. We are really looking forward to working with Mr. Daniel who is experienced and enthusiastic for conducting his first Federation auction. That is going to be one fun night! The auction last year in Lexington, Kentucky was standing room only and we even had to add a few sections of chairs for the robust crowd.

Another area of the Federation web site that keeps growing is our Members Portal. Again go the green horizontal bar and select "Member Portal". You will need your password but once in, you can access a members list, past issues of Bottles and Extras and an indexed list of all articles in recent years. We have even added a section of past issue of The Pontil from the years 1963 to 1970. How fun it has been to read some of these old stories and news about some of the legends of our hobby.

Speaking of history, we are also working on a "History of the FOHBC." You can see this on the Federation web site under the "History" menu option. This is a work-in-progress and is being led by Federation board member Jim Bender who has recently moved from his Membership Director position to replace the late and great Dick Watson who held the Historian position. Speaking of Dick, there is a wonderful article within this issue on page 38.

One last thing, we are asked often for the FOHBC logo or a show logo etc. Art can be found on the Federation Web site under the "Members" green menu bar option.

Stay warm, connect with your bottles, write us a note or story and complete your plans to attend the Chattanooga National. Late July and early August is just around the bend. Choo-Choo! Chattanooga!