



FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Every two months, I am faced with a blank "page 3" of the upcoming issue of *Bottles and Extras*. This is where the President of the FOHBC is supposed to give a message. The blankness is expansive until I start hitting the keys on my laptop and set the wheels in motion. A cup of coffee next to me, with the dogs fed and asleep at my feet...it is time to write my message. After all, as President, I report to the Board Members and most importantly, I report to our great and expanding membership. I report to you.

Did you notice that the great Baltimore Antique Bottle Show was a week later this year? Talking to the show chairs, this was a weather gamble that paid off even though there was yet another snow event on the Thursday before the show. Elizabeth and I actually switched flights from Thursday to Friday morning to avoid air traffic delays. That paid off too as we landed mid-day Friday, in frigid but beautiful weather. We had a super time as we stayed in the Inner Harbor near Little Italy, which was mostly frozen over. I love Baltimore, my home town. You can read, "*2015 Baltimore Antique Bottle Show Another Success*" by Jim Bender, club historian, on the Federation web site.

Speaking of Baltimore, we had our semi-annual FOHBC board meeting on Saturday morning. It usually lasts four hours, but we finished a little bit early and covered all of our agenda items. This has not happened in a long time. Teamwork! You can read the notes on the FOHBC web site. All meeting and conference notes are posted by FOHBC Secretary Jim Berry. Just go to the horizontal green bar, select the FOHBC drop down menu and click "Notes of Record." Following the meeting, I sent the following e-mail to the board members with gratitude on my mind:

Dear Board Members:

Thank you for a very productive meeting. We should be very pleased that we covered the entire agenda and even finished early! That's a first, at least for me.

I am especially pleased that we voted to approve the Tiered Membership including Life Membership and Digital Membership. With a membership vote in Chattanooga, we can finally put this to bed and move forward. A special shout-out to Jim Bender and Jim Berry for heading up this effort.

We also are very close to filling BOTH vacant board member positions. We may have this wrapped up next conference call where we can vote for approval.

The HALL OF FAME vote will be a silent vote and occur this week as approved by the Board. Elizabeth Meyer will be conducting the silent bid process. Look for an e-mail on each of the three candidates by Thursday or so with an option to vote YES, NO, Abstain and COMMENT. The results will be confidential.

We walked into the meeting with questions about the Northeast National

Antique Bottle Convention in 2017. We left the room with a plan. Jim Bender and Bob Strickhart are acting Co-Chairs. We will vote to confirm this next board conference call. There was quite a buzz and excitement at Baltimore with this news.

Val Berry and Elizabeth, who staffed our great looking Federation Table, signed up 9 new members, 7 renewals and sold 23 magazines, two t-shirts and received one donation to the Virtual Museum. Thank you!!!!

This is just off the top of my head. Still in Baltimore at the hotel. Off to Greenville, S.C. tomorrow morn. Complete meeting notes will be issued by Jim Berry.

Ferdinand
FOHBC President

Did I mention Hall of Fame voting? I sure did. We had three outstanding candidates that were presented to the Board Members. One candidate achieved the 2/3 Board voting majority and will be inducted into the prestigious FOHBC Hall of Fame at the 2015 Chattanooga National banquet. Congratulations to Ralph Finch. I was able to give Ralph a call after the vote confirmation, and I must say, he could not have been more grateful and pleased with the honor. He is on the road to recovery from serious health issues and plans on being in Chattanooga to pick up the award. More on Ralph and this honor down the road.

A quick week later, Elizabeth and I found ourselves at the wonderful San Luis Obispo Bottle Show in Morro Bay, California. Talk about a drastic change in weather from the Baltimore show! Lucky we changed suitcases. It was gorgeous. Congratulations to Webb Tartaglia and the club for an outstanding event crowned off with the traditional steak, sausage and wine dinner. All provided by Webb. What a man! Bill Ham showed up with a couple hundred bitters from a collection so I was a happy camper. You can see a post from the show on the FOHBC web site. Elizabeth and I also saw bottles in Big Sur and did tourist things in Carmel and Monterey with our bottle friends, Jerry and Helen Forbes. So much fun!

At the Morro Bay show, I ran into Eric McGuire, FOHBC West Coast Region Director. He was able to provide me with microfiche documents representing his epic work on "*Bottled Products and the U.S. Patent Office - 19th Century Trade Mark and Label Registrations*." Eric was hoping that we could figure out a way to put his voluminous effort on the Member's Portal of the FOHBC web site. What a great idea! Another reason to become and stay a member of the FOHBC. This member's portal is really growing with archival material.

Regarding our National Shows and Conventions, please finalize your plans for the 2015 Chattanooga National led by John Joiner and Jack Hewitt. We have taken on another block of hotel rooms. The July August issue of *Bottles and Extras* will have extensive pre-show coverage. This is going to be a great one! The buzz for the 2016 Sacramento National Convention & Expo, led by Richard Siri and team is off the chart. We also have an effort led by Jim Bender and Bob Strickhart heading up the 2017 Northeast Antique Bottle Convention and Louis Fifer and Matt Lacy heading up the 2018 Midwest Antique Bottle Convention. Lots of pots on the stove!

I could go on and on for another page or two but I only get one page. My blank page is now full of copy. This message now goes to Bill Baab in Augusta, Georgia to proof. He usually adds a bunch of commas. Got you there, Bill! Then it goes to Martin Van Zant, our *Bottles and Extras* Editor up in Danville, Indiana. He is putting the magazine together. Actually, I saw the first draft yesterday. Boy, is this going to be a STELLAR issue. Plant some seeds, plant a new bottle on your shelf, spring is finally here.