

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Wednesday, 30 March 2016. I typically feel like I should mention the date when I write these President's Messages since we are preparing BOTTLES and EXTRAS in a much more timely manner so that an issue arrives a week or so before the publication date. Though I work full time, it seems that I spend a good portion of my second part of the day on FOHBC business. Good thing I always have my laptop and smartphone with me with access to all the board members, convention teams, bottle collectors and my bottle files in digital and cloud storage. This way I can work (or bottle play) in airports, hotels, Starbucks and my house etc. I also love what I do and I am addicted to antique bottles and glass. That helps keep me on schedule and gets me through the rough spots and bumps in the road.

We've received a lot of praise for BOTTLES and EXTRAS so far this year. We've been focusing on the design, gone to full color and will be adding some new areas like the "Member Photos" we added last issue. Lots of compliments there. I will be referencing this issue a number of times in this message so bear with me.

The Western Region's FOHBC 2016 Sacramento National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo seems to be front and center more and more of late, with our "Back to our Roots" event-of-the-year scheduled this August 4 - 7. We announced this past Monday that we will kick things off on Thursday, August 4th, with an "Open House" at American Bottle Auctions where you will be able to meet with Jeff Wichmann and tour Jeff's super studio and see some wonderful displays of antique bottles and western memorabilia. More information is on the FOHBC web site.

The "Generals House Reception" happens later in the day from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., at the historic Lions Gate Hotel Generals House. This event is sponsored by American Bottle Auctions and Peachridge Glass. The reception is for dealers who have bought tables, their assistants, displayers, seminar givers and those with early admission passes. [see page 46]. Also on page 46, you will see a notice for the FOHBC General Membership Meeting Breakfast on Friday, August 5th, on the Lions Gate Hotel patio. Please join us for the latest Federation news! The new board members for 2016-2018 will also be announced. What a dream team! You can read about each candidate on page 52.

If that isn't enough for the first day, our "Sacramento Shootout" bottle competition will occur at the Lions Gate Hotel club ballroom that opening day evening, from 8 - 11 p.m. There will be three categories. Each category will have three judges. Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place for the categories of Jesse Moore Sole Agent (cylinder fifths), U.S.A. Hosp. Dept. quarts and Hostetter's Bitters. [see page 14]. The western guys seem to pull off these types of competitions so well!

The Holabird Western Americana Collections "49er Bottle Jamboree" auction is really shaping up, too, according to renowned auctioneer Fred Holabird. The auction will be live on Saturday night and will be using four different live Internet bidding platforms. Fred already has some super bottles, bottle-related advertising and whiskey tokens. We ask for more consignments to make this an auction to remember! His latest advertisement is on page 12.

The Sacramento "Souvenir Program" is deep in design and is up to 134 pages or so. We are actively taking advertising orders and have included a section called "Best of the West" that insures that this program will become a collectors item. There is so much more, I could go on and on for pages here. Just visit our FOHBC.org Sacramento National page, which seems to be updated every day with new information like last week when we did a press release on Betty Zumwalt who will be guest speaker at our banquet on Friday night discussing our "50 year celebration of achievement." During this exciting evening, we will also be elevating Jeff Wichmann from FOHBC Honor Roll into the prestigious FOHBC Hall of Fame and presenting Jeff with his award along with Tommy Mitchiner (deceased), who will be receiving the FOHBC Honor Roll award. Awards will also be given to our member clubs (see page 59). Speaking of awards, look at that super advertisement on page 47 for the Los Angeles Historical Bottle Club!

Switching to the other side of the country and 2017, I will be joining Jim Bender and Bob Strickhart in Springfield, Massachusetts on April 28, 2016. They are the co-chairs for FOHBC's 2017 National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo. We will tour the Mass Mutual Convention Center and Sheraton Monarch Place Hotel with tighter focus on the event spaces. Jim and Bob have been up there many times already and are bursting with excitement and ideas for their event. This is in preparation for having the Springfield "General Information and Dealer Contract" packets ready by 28 July 2017 when sales will commence. Jim will also have a table totally dedicated to Springfield at the Sacramento Convention.

As a teaser, Jim and Bob state that they are excited to announce that their "Judging Trio" for the wide open category of "Best Massachusetts Bottle" in the "Battle of Springfield" bottle competition will include three of the most knowledgeable and experienced individuals in the realm of collecting antique bottles and glass. For the first time together, three bottle powerhouses will take on the judging duties and will include antique bottle authorities and auctioneers James Hagenbuch (Glass Works Auctions), Norman C. Heckler Sr. (Heckler Auctions) and John Pastor (American Glass Gallery). Now there's a photo opportunity! Let's see if you have something that can pass muster with these three judges! Wow, I get fired up just writing this stuff!

Did you know that the Hartford-Springfield region is known as the "Knowledge Corridor" because it hosts over 160,000 university students and over 32 universities and liberal arts colleges - the second-highest concentration of higher-learning institutions in the United States. Springfield also has several nicknames - "The City of Firsts" -- because of its many innovations: "The City of Homes," due to its Victorian residential architecture, and "Hoop City," as basketball, one of the world's most popular sports, was invented in Springfield by James Naismith. Speaking of basketball, the NCAA Final Four starts here in downtown Houston this weekend. Boy, is this place wild with excitement.

Well, I think I need to stop here as I am running out of digital space. Our FOHBC web site has become our workhorse so visit the site often for FOHBC history, news, membership, bottle show listings and bottle show reports, along with so much more. Take care and I hope to see y'all soon!