

FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Time for another issue of *Bottles and Extras* and the President's Message. Our magazine has grown so much, there always seems to be something to work on each day. Incoming articles, images, Photoshop work, proof-reading, design, layout, advertising coordination and the myriad of other components that make up and complete our periodical six times a year. We sure have matured in this area. I also have a stack of our magazines from 1992 to 2002 sitting behind me that need to be scanned for archival inclusion on our web site so we are working on the back end, too. Please keep your membership up-to-date, consider submitting articles, advertise your show and specific needs and submit your letters, comments, finds and photography for consideration. We have a spot for you.

In the Virtual Museum arena, we are progressing nicely. Director Alan DeMaison is spearheading the photography and 3D imaging and is doing a great job. Alan has really mastered bottle photography and dimensional imaging which is just plain tough if you have not tried it yourself. His passion and drive are second to none. Alan was down in Houston in April photographing select bottles from our collection. We both, along with Terry Crislip, were in Denver a few weeks later imaging bitters and other significant historical flasks from the Sandor P. Fuss collection. If you haven't figured it out yet, the bitters gallery will open first, followed by historical flasks. Down the road, there will be medicines, spirits, fruit jars, inks etc. What a project. We plan to unveil some of our work at the 2017 Springfield National banquet. Alan has already made plans for additional visits with other collectors and will be set up and filming at the Springfield National.

Speaking of Springfield, the national is progressing nicely thanks to a large part to our chairs, Jim Bender and Bob Strickhart. Team Springfield recently announced that Glass Works Auctions, under the leadership of Jim Hagenbuch, will conduct our annual auction consisting of approximately 115 carefully selected lots from the Elma and Dick Watson collection of extraordinary bottles and glass on Saturday morning, August 5th. You can see a new full-page advertisement on page 12 of this issue. At this point, you can refer all questions to Glass Works Auctions. We do know that there will be on-line bidding and catalogs for the auction as is typical each year. As of last week, the grouping of bottles was still being changed around to make a better mix. All the other convention events are shaping up nicely, too, and we have a full green light and no red flags from our chairs. This really ought to be something.

Oh, and don't forget our room-hopping on Saturday night since our auction is in the morning. This is a new event for us. Just heard yesterday that Michael Seeliger, Michael Craig, Kathie Craig, Jack Stecher, Terry McMurray, Stephen Jackson, Dr. Edward Atwater and other

Warner enthusiasts have invited you to stop by their room to discuss Warner bottles, Warner advertising and products as well as Warner's connection with Dr. Charles Craig, inventor of the Kidney Cure. They will have slides of every Warner bottle and advertising available and the book open on computers to discuss sections. You can also bring Warner bottles to buy, sell or trade. Wow, that's cool. I think Jerry Forbes and I, along with the girls, will also have our door open to discuss and look at some extraordinary bitters. A full lineup of events can be found on the FOHBC web site and on pages 10 thru 13 in this issue. This also includes a schedule of events.

The FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo is also taking form with many events planned by our chairs Louis Fifer and Matt Lacy. Personally, I am looking forward to our opening reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Our venues are great, our team is great and the city is great. Believe me, Cleveland has really changed. Boy, will you be in for a surprise. The Cleveland Info Packets and Dealer Contracts go online on 28 July 2017 and you can get hard copies at the Springfield National.

Here is a surprise folks. Though we don't yet have board approval, I'm going to gamble here and announce that our Southern Region 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo will be in Augusta, Georgia. A group of us visited Augusta on 19 April (our short-list finalist) for meetings and tours that were productive and positive. Some of the great things we saw were strong regional and local leadership support from antique bottle collectors such as but not limited to Bill & Bea Baab, John Joiner, Art Gose, Mike Newman, Walter Smith, Marty Vollmer and Eric Warren. Strong FOHBC national support will come from Alicia Booth, Louis Fifer, Brad Seigler and others from the FOHBC convention and leadership team. If you don't already know, Augusta is a southern charm city located within reasonable driving distance to strong bottle-collecting cities such as Atlanta, Birmingham, Charleston, Charlotte, Columbia, Columbus, Greenville, Jackson, Macon, Raleigh, Savannah and Tallahassee, among others. Our strategically positioned Marriott Convention Center host hotel complex will house all events. With two on-premise hotels, this provides us our primary and secondary hotels. The convention center is also connected to both hotels and covered parking. You can see some early graphics work on page 63 of this issue. I'm super excited as I love Augusta. I spend a lot of time there for business and just love that city. Also, our opening reception will be hosted by Bill & Bea Baab at the Augusta Museum of History where we can see their outstanding bottle collection.

Now for a sad note to close this off. By now, most of you know of the passing of the great Mayor Bob Ferraro. Bob was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 2002 and was President of the Federation from 1977-79. He collected bottles since the mid-1950s and built an outstanding collection of figural bitters, eastern whiskeys and Nevada bottles. He co-authored (with his first wife Pat) *The Past in Glass* (1963) and *A Bottle Collector's Book* (1964). He also served the Federation as first vice president from 2008-14 and director-at-large in 2015. Elizabeth and I visited with Bob and Connie and I was fortunate to know this man personally and to be able to call him my friend. Bob also visited us in Houston and you will find no finer man in this hobby. I miss you, Bob. You are the greatest there ever was, at least in my book.

Springfield or bust!