

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Elizabeth, my granddaughter, Isabella, and I just returned from the FOHBC 2017 Springfield National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo and are finally catching our breaths after almost two years of planning by the FOHBC and Team Springfield. We've returned to some more bad weather and a purported tornado touched down on our street with damage to another house up the road. Six inches of rain yesterday and today. Fortunately, our flight made it in though many were canceled or diverted. All-in-all, we had such a great time and from what I hear, many of you did too.

We will be putting full coverage of the 2017 Springfield National in the November-December issue of Bottles and Extras. Obviously, it would have been better in this issue, but the art would have been due to the printer by the 10th of August and that is impossible with our show concluding on the 6th. With dated advertisements and unreliable postal service, we just could not delay the magazine or rush a series of Springfield National articles. We have 2,000 or so photographs to review, too! These pictures were taken by our official show photographers, Carol and Bill Petscavage. They did a fantastic job and we thank them so much. They volunteered their time and provided excellent professional coverage from start to finish.

The numbers are not in yet and that will take a number of weeks or months to put together, but early indications point to success at many levels and many junctures. It seems like dealer sales were strong and people purchased for their collections or resale, the weather cooperated for the most part (we had a rainy Saturday), and the MassMutual Center and Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel venues were superb.

The educational displays this year were excellent. Thanks here to the displayers and Fran Hughes for spearheading this task. The seminars were well-attended and received favorable reviews. Thank you Peter Bleiberg, Michael George, Wes Seemann, Richard Strunk & Mark Yates, John Spellman and Mark Vuono. Thank you, Michael George again, for heading up the seminars. Much more coverage will come later.

The Springfield Armory Reception on the first day was successful but under attended. I believe this was due to the non-sanctioned Coker auction that occurred at the same time. It appears that we need to put a non-compete clause in our hotel and convention center contracts. We had leftover food and had it delivered to the local homeless shelter by one of the Park Rangers.

The banquet was the best ever. Good food, attendance and the great tribute to Dick & Elma Watson with their family in attendance. A big thanks to Jim Bender, Phyllis Koch and Bob Strickhart for this heartfelt tribute. There was also the Hall of Fame award to Charles & Mark Vuono and the Honor Roll award for Jon Landers. It was nice to hear from Mark and Jon when they accepted their awards. We even sang Happy Birthday and

had a gigantic birthday cake presented to Dr. Burton Spiller!

Many clubs received awards for their club articles, newsletters, websites and club flyers. The front operations team (Alicia Booth, Val Berry, Elizabeth Meyer, Linda Sheppard & Bev Siri) received the 2017 President's Award for their outstanding work at the FOHBC 2016 Sacramento National Antique Bottle Show.

Jim Hagenbuch and his Glass Works Auctions team should be congratulated for the outstanding Watson One Auction. This was our first morning auction in many, many years. The lots were called by Jesse Sailor and it all seemed pretty exciting. A great cross-section of iconic bottles from probably the largest bottle and jar collection ever.

The Springfield Bottle Battle was well attended. Rick Ciralli did an outstanding job emceeding the event as excellent bottles were presented for each of the three categories (Saratoga Type Spring Water Bottles, Sandwich Glass and Best Massachusetts Bottle). Congratulations to the winners. They will be featured in the next issue along with many color images.

It was also nice to have all the volunteers that helped at the front FOHBC tables and elsewhere. Thank you, Isabella Alucema, Val Berry, Elizabeth Meyer and Linda Sheppard. Thank you. Louis Fifer and Matt Lacy, for setting up for the FOHBC 2018 Cleveland National Antique Bottle Convention & Expo. Onward to the Rock & Roll Hall and Fame and Cleveland! Thank you to Jeff Ullman for technical and security assistance. Thanks to Bill Rose for marketing.

The Virtual Museum presence was very successful. We were able to film a number of bottles and educate our audience. I was able to personally connect with a number of people and recount the museum's Mission Statement which is as follows, "The FOHBC Virtual Museum will be established to display, inform, educate, and enhance the enjoyment of historical bottle and glass collecting by providing an online virtual museum experience for significant historical bottles and other items related to early glass. The Virtual Museum will be a digital expression of what one might find in a real 'bricks and mortar' museum. There will be galleries, exhibitions, research, resources and support functions to enhance the visitor experience. The museum will contain, but not be limited to, images of subject bottles and glass, a written description of those subjects with dimensions, videos, and if available, the history of the bottles along with an estimation of rarity. The museum will grow and be expandable." We took in additional donation money and showed the beta web site with 10 or so pages of bit-ers (our first gallery). We mapped out the next year a bit more with folks wanting a visit. A big thanks to Alan DeMaison is in order here.

We also have the biggest and nicest Souvenir Program yet at 152 pages including covers. The program is sure to become a collector's item. I have already received a dozen or so requests for copies from folks that could not attend the show. Thank you to all of the content providers and advertisers that made the program a success and to Jim & Val Berry for heading up the effort.

I would also like to thank Jim Bender, Eric McGuire and Jeff Ullman and for their fine northeastern-themed articles in Bottles and Extras this past year. These articles certainly set the stage for Springfield and even continue in this issue with a reprint of Northeastern Favorites taken from the program.

I am sure I forgot to thank some but I need to get this off to our Editor, Martin Van Zant, and Bill Baab to proof.