

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



FERDINAND MEYER V

FMG Design, Inc.
101 Crawford Street
Studio 1A
Houston, Texas 77002
713.222.7979 x115
fmeyer@fohbc.org

It's hard to believe that this will be my last President's message for the FOHBC in *Bottles and Extras*. My, has time flown by. Six years as President and thirty-six issues of *Bottles and Extras* with me standing on a soap box. I remember looking at a blank screen and wondering if I could fill a half page with chatter (copy). It seems like previous presidents did about the same. Well, before I knew it, I was using a full page and was reducing the cap height to fit about 1,100 or 1,200 words in each issue. Yes, still chatter but it always felt good to get it off my chest and to keep our membership up to date with club news from my viewpoint.

Sometimes I wonder if anybody even reads the Prez Message? I mean, I would rather look at bottle pictures and stories any day! Anyway, here is my last message. I thought it might be appropriate to put down a few events or mention a few people who have made it a real pleasure to serve. No particular order and I know I will forget so many, but here goes. My apologies there.

I suppose I am most proud of the board members I have had the honor to serve with. Each year it just gets better and better. I'll list a few here who served multi-terms. Thank you, Sheldon Baugh, Gary Beatty, Jim Bender, Jim Berry, Val Berry, Gene Bradberry, Alan DeMaison, Bob Ferraro, Louis Fifer, Ron Hands, Jack Hewitt, Jamie Houdeshell, Rande Kaiser, Steve Ketcham, Ed Kuskie, Matt Lacy, Dave Maryo, Eric McGuire, Elizabeth Meyer, John Panek, John Pastor, Tom Phillips, Pam Selenak, Linda Sheppard, Richard Siri, Martin Van Zant and Dick Watson. There are so many to list and many that are not listed as I was in another position on the board when they served. And our new slate for August 2018-2020 is the best yet!

I'm pleased that our magazine is full color and in tip-top shape each issue. It is mailed out on time and full of wonderful articles and pieces by great writers and authors. A special thanks here to Hall of Famer Bill Baab for leading up our proof reading efforts and Martin Van Zant for assembling the magazine each issue. Also, a shout-out to our top five authors which include Steve Abbott, Bill Baab, Jeff Mihalik, Eric McGuire and Jack Sullivan. What a lineup!

Thank you to the great Show Chairs that have led our national events since 2012. This includes Sheldon Baugh, Jim Bender, Maureen Crawford, Louis Fifer, Mike George, Marty Hall, Jack Hewitt, John Joiner, Rande Kaiser, Matt Lacy, Richard Siri, Bev Siri and Bob Strickhart. A special thanks to Tom Phillips for leading us into a new generation of shows when he served as Conventions Director.

Now a shout out to the wonderful women who staff the front tables at our annual bottle shows and semi-annual meeting shows. This includes but is not limited to Adriana Alucema, Val Berry, Alicia Booth, Wanda Joiner, Sue Kaiser, Elizabeth Meyer, Linda Sheppard, Bev Siri and Marianne Strickhart. Many hours of hard work here, folks. Val heads up our merchandise and awards component, Linda our membership and

Elizabeth is our business manager. Great job. I can never fully express my gratitude here.

I'm grateful that our national shows have made a profit each year. Usually averaging around \$12,000 profit with Sacramento even reaching \$19,000. Sure, money is not everything, but it does allow us to conduct better events each year. Our Souvenir Programs are included in these numbers and usually generates \$15,000 or so of advertising sales. Thanks to all our advertisers and the ad coordinators such as Jim and Val Berry, Warren Friedrich, John Joiner and Adam and Phyllis Koch.

I am super-pleased with the absolute great work Alan DeMaison is doing with our Virtual Museum. We write about his efforts each issue, so I will not repeat except to say he is the very best bottle imager out there and boy, does he have some stiff competition with Ed Gray, Jim Hagenbuch, Norm Heckler, Ray Klingensmith, John Pastor and Jeff Wichmann, among others. While I mention Jeff here, Jeff has always been a super supporter of the FOHBC in many ways along with helping many others such as the National Bottle Museum. Thank you, Richard Siri, for coming up with the Virtual Museum concept.

I'm pleased that we have made amends for the most part with the National Bottle Museum. We help them in many ways as they help us. Thank you, Jim Bender, for leading this effort.

Also, a big thanks to Jim Bender as our Historian. His FOHBC display is outstanding, his talks are informative and his History's Corner each issue is refreshing. Way to go.

Thank you, Jerry McCann, for representing the FOHBC on legal matters and counseling me when I have questions. I respect the heck out of you and thank you so much.

I'm grateful that the FOHBC board charged me with creating a new web site for the FOHBC. I can honestly say, there is no other web site that is more robust and full of information as our site. It's full of historical information, has the latest news, the most complete listing of bottle shows and so much more. I'm also pleased we now have a digital newsletter and a Facebook page to boot.

Thank you, Jim and Val Berry, for always making sure our conference call and meeting notes are an accurate representation of our meetings. Of course, they're always posted on the FOHBC web site. Thank you, Sheldon Baugh, for being our elder statesman with wise temperament.

Thank you to the many folks that have let me into your homes to break bread and to see your collections. I am truly humbled by these experiences. This includes Marilyn Albers, Bill Baab, Jeff Burkhardt, Don Dwyer, John Feldmann, Bob Ferraro, Ralph & Janet Finch, Jerry & Helen Forbes, Sandor Fuss, Bill Ham, Norm Heckler, Jim Mitchell, Mike Newman, John Pastor, Ken Schwartz, Richard Tucker, Mark Vuono, Jeff Wichmann and Frank Wicker to name a few.

Wow, I'm running out of room and have so much more to say. What do I regret? There are a few things, sadly. I am not a politician and took this position out of passion, business experience and mainly because no one else would. I know this. I regret losing some friends who came between my duty and our relationship. I guess that happens; sure, I could have done better. I did my best. I regret not meeting and learning about every member and bottle collector out there. Sometimes my mind is bursting with activity and I forget to be courteous. I apologize, maybe I will have more time. I doubt it. Please support the FOHBC.