

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Autumn always seems to be the busiest time of year for me. This is true in all aspects of life, including the bottle hobby, as many clubs host a fall bottle show. Thankfully, I have been able to attend several local shows the past few weeks. Road trips to local bottle shows bring much nostalgia for me, leading to an odd sense of familiarity and comfort from growing up within the hobby and attending shows frequently with family and friends throughout my life.

There is something special about the feel of a smaller, local bottle show. The mechanics of the show are overshadowed by the sense of community as soon as you walk through the door. While these shows tend to have a scheduled start time, the mornings are more laid back which carries through a relaxed day. Dealers often value their time catching up with friends over a donut or cup of coffee, instead of the rush to lay bottles out immediately on their table. Friendly greetings are hollered between rows of tables, and a dealer's attention can be grabbed by a wave over one's head.

Shows like the Buffalo Bottle Show in New York know the way to anyone's heart is through their stomach, feeding their dealers donuts, pizza and chicken wings. The ladies and gentlemen of Ohio Bottle Club hosted a full potluck dinner on the eve of their fall show in Strongsville this year. Hospitality and kinship like this create friendships that transpose from show to show each year, and I am constantly reminded that these friendships are the fundamental reason for traveling to regional shows.

This is the issue that many of you have asked for. The magazine is full of featured coverage of the FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention in Augusta, Georgia. As mentioned before, the events scheduled for the weekend kicked off with the bi-annual, face-to-face, 4-hour board meeting on Thursday morning. The meeting was well attended by board officers, and a lot of very positive outcomes were recognized through discussion at the meeting.

After much discussion about the subject of the FOHBC publication that day, a subcommittee was born from a collaborative effort by the board members present in the meeting. This committee was formed to continue to take on the challenge of discussion for the future of our *Bottles and Extras* publication. Bottom-line,

the *Bottle and Extras* magazine loses money with each issue produced. Production, printing and mailing costs have given us insight into the plausible sustainability of the publication. There have been regular calls and communications within the formed committee up to this writing, discussing all aspects of the process to produce each issue. This group of individuals is currently conducting a full cost analysis to understand the current financial benchmarks. This will help us better understand the next steps in moving forward.

A topic that was slated to be discussed during the board meeting in Augusta, but was tabled temporarily due to time constraints, was the future of the FOHBC National Conventions and Expos. RFPs were sent to the Northeast Region and the Midwest Region with very little interest from a host club or individual chairs. We have had a number of people reach out with ideas for host cities.

There is no shortage of great venues in great regions; in fact we have found many. The area of impediment with selecting a location is lack of willing local talent such as a host club or small group of collectors that desires to put on a national level event. An effort is currently underway to stand up a subcommittee which will evaluate the situation for near and long-term future, generate ideas and report recommendations back to the FOHBC board.

The Federation of Historic Bottle Collectors officer elections are set to take place in August of 2020 at the FOHBC Reno National Antique Bottle Convention. We formed an elections committee at the board meeting in Augusta to determine who would be continuing to serve the organization, thus determining the positions that will be open. This effort is currently underway by the subcommittee of current officers. Please reach out to myself or committee Chairperson Val Berry if you have any interest in serving as a 2 year FOHBC officer term starting in 2020. We are seeking passionate collectors and individuals with fresh, innovative ideas to continue to move the organization forward within the hobby.

As you can surmise, bottle collecting is only one aspect of this great hobby we enjoy. From regional bottle shows to national conventions and everything in between, there are individuals working diligently to provide a future path for the hobby while preserving all the things we know and love around the bottle collecting community: the friendships, hospitality, knowledge and resources. You are a part of that. I invite you to connect and make an impact.

As always, I look forward to serving you!

Matt Lacy - FOHBC President