

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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I can't think of a more fitting ending to a great year. I am writing this shortly after my return from the Bethlehem, Pennsylvania bottle show. This is the second year Louis Fifer and I have made the journey on Thanksgiving weekend, and do we have a lot to be thankful for! We saw many friends, old and new, and had a great time. This is the first time I ever recall being even slightly late to a bottle show; somehow we got the dealer setup and early entry times mixed up, but things worked out anyway. The show was high energy from the moment we stepped into the room and it was nonstop action until about 30 minutes before teardown. What a whirlwind! We each got to add a great bottle to our collections and some close friends made a few great acquisitions as well.

I know we all have stories of that one show that stood out this past year. Take a moment and reflect back on 2018. What was the great show for you? Make sure to take a moment now and let the club, team, or individuals know that you really appreciate the work they put in to make the show possible. It will mean a great deal to them and will make their new year a bit brighter.

I mentioned this in my last letter, and thought it was worth mentioning again. The FOHBC *Bottle & Extras* magazine is going through a transition phase. Thank you to all of those who have supported us and continue to support us as we move forward. We are currently seeking authors, researchers, and bottle enthusiasts that are willing to contribute content to be published in the magazine. If you write it and give us a few pictures, we will take care of the rest. Many collectors are extremely knowledgeable, and this is a great way to share that information with the collecting community. If you have an interest sharing your expertise or sensational story, please reach out to Martin Van Zant at mdvanzant@yahoo.com or myself at mlacy28@yahoo.com.

We are also looking for show reports from all areas of the country to publish in the magazine, on the website, and on the social media platforms. We have talked to a number of subscribers that are interested in reading about the latest happenings in the hobby. Some of the best-told stories are the journey treasure finds on the way to and from shows, discoveries of that "diamond in the rough" at the show, or the incredible friends and memories we make at bottle shows. Whether you are a show chair excited to

share the success of your show, or a bottle show enthusiast who can take fellow collectors along your experience of the weekend, your perspective is what builds the excitement. Tell us your story. If you are new to the bottle community or even remotely interested in learning more about collecting antique bottles, I would encourage you to get to a local or regional show. You will meet great people, make contacts and, who knows, maybe even find a mentor or two that will become a lifelong friend. In addition, you may even find a nice addition to your collection or notice bottles you have never seen. Growing up in the hobby and being an active collector for 28 years, I still see something new and learn something at every single show I attend. The thrilling part of this hobby is that once you think you have seen it all, something new turns up. Anyway, I encourage everyone to attend your local and regional shows. It may be the ticket to that "once in a lifetime" opportunity.

While on the topic of bottle shows, I am very excited that the FOHBC board is getting together to discuss an "overhaul" of all that goes into the National Show format, schedule, etc. I have talked with countless collectors that have voiced their desires for future shows. Now is our time to make the changes needed and bring back the excitement and joy that we all know these shows can bring!

On that note, I am getting excited as with this New Year brings a new FOHBC National Convention! Team Augusta is on fire, and they are very excited about this summer. I got an email this evening from Bill Baab sharing some of his thoughts and plans to make this a great event for those that attend. Those of you that know Bill know that his energy and excitement are contagious! I am super excited to work with the team in the coming months to plan another great FOHBC National Convention. We are already making family plans for the trip in August, including spending some time visiting the great state of Georgia. Between Atlanta and Augusta, there are many attractions to explore before the big event. I encourage you to bring the family and make a trip out of the opportunity! Who knows, there may just be a future bottle collector with you!

In this first issue of 2019, I just want to use this opportunity to look back on 2018 and say thank you to all the great people who make this hobby so enjoyable. Overall, there were a lot of memorable and inspiring moments to make 2018 a great year in the bottle hobby and 2019 has the encouraging fortune to continue the same path. There are conversations of exceptional glass becoming available, competitive auctions planned, and more outstanding bottle shows on the calendar. I look forward to spending time with family and friends, and continuing to serve the bottle community in the upcoming year. Have a great and exciting 2019!