

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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It is inconceivable that we are already well into 2019! It is an exciting year for the bottle hobby with the availability of bottles from great collections to complement the anticipated action-packed auction and show schedules. There has never been a better time to be in the hobby and a member of the FOHBC. There are many significant announcements to unveil in this letter, so stay with me.

First of all, let me say that the FOHBC has an absolutely amazing board of officers who have worked diligently in recent months to enact some positive directional changes that our members and National Convention dealers have been anxiously awaiting. There are pros and cons to every single decision or change we make, and sometimes we have to take our time to thoroughly weigh the potential outcomes.

Without further ado, the first announcement is that the 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention in the beautiful host city of Augusta, Georgia, has been changed to a 3-day format rather than the 4-day format in recent years. The new contract and schedule is available at www.fohbc.org. With the updated schedule, we were still able to keep the same amount of show hours. The new condensed timeline allowed us to remove Sunday from the itinerary. This will accomplish a few things. First, this will reduce costs for dealers and attendees with one less night at the hotel, and less time away from home and from work. It will also not be as large of a commitment from dealers to setup for two days rather than three days. We are expecting the new schedule will appeal to more dealers and make for better overall participation with the event.

Speaking of Augusta, the team is on the move and energized. They are working to make this show a special treat for each one of you. This is our 50th anniversary show and will be one to remember. In addition, this show has not only one, but two reception events! Thursday afternoon will kick off with a visit to Mike Newman's house to see his spectacular array of quality glass. This open house is followed immediately by a visit to the Augusta Museum of History where Bill and Bea Baab have donated a great grouping of amazing local bottles and glass. I could continue to talk about all the great things that have occurred in the last month with planning the Convention, but just know it will be worth the trip.

The next big announcement that is somewhat related to the above subject: the Request for Proposals (or RFPs) for hosting the 2021 FOHBC National Convention have been sent. An RFP is sent to

clubs in the upcoming region for those members to collaborate and present a proposal to host the National Convention in their area. It is an exciting time to plan the National Convention, with the board of the FOHBC assisting along the way, and can be a fun way to show a large membership of bottle collectors the bottles, attractions, and history that make your area great! This round of RFPs for the 2021 Convention was sent to our affiliate clubs in the Northeast region. While this is the normal process, the announcement is that this RFP schedule was unanimously approved by the FOHBC board to follow a shortened 3-day event schedule, running Thursday through Saturday. If any clubs or individuals have an interest in hosting the 2021 show in the Northeast or would like to learn more, please contact Lindsey Fifer our Conventions Director with your intent to submit an RFP. We look forward to working with you!

We are also noticing a continued upward trend of collectors using social media outlets to connect with the hobby. In response to that, the FOHBC has also grown its social media presence and now offers member clubs complimentary show flyer postings to our Facebook and Instagram page to help promote their local shows. We are seeing improved and growing reach as the FOHBC Facebook and Instagram pages increase in membership. Find us on Facebook at (Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (FOHBC)) and Instagram (@FOHBC). Be sure to check out the pages, invite your friends, and share any posts that you like! The FOHBC social media pages are a great way to share what is going on within our hobby with those who may not be as involved, and may even encourage us all to connect more within our collecting community.

The *Bottles and Extras* magazine team is also working diligently to provide you with great content. It is important to understand that our content is only as good as what our membership provides. We also love to share great photos of bottles and glass in our "Member's Photos" section of the magazine and rare treasures in our "Lost and Found" section. If you have anything you would like to share in these sections, don't hesitate to reach out to me. These are fun spreads for our team and we enjoy working with members to put them together.

In near future events, the FOHBC will be hosting its biannual in-person board meeting this year in conjunction with the Baltimore Bottle Show on the morning of March 9th at the Country Inn and Suites. This is always a very productive meeting with a full agenda, and this year will be no exception. The FOHBC has a lot of positive momentum and we want to keep that going.

I hope you are looking forward to an eventful year in the collecting hobby. I certainly am! Take the time to enjoy every moment and cherish the memories. I recently got done making reservations to attend a number of shows over the next few months. While I wish I could attend them all, it's simply not possible. If you have never attended a show or haven't been out to a show in a while, I would encourage you to get out and enjoy what this hobby has to offer. There are a lot of great people to meet, amazing stories to hear, and memories to make.

As always, I look forward to serving you!