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The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

Conference Call 20 JUN 2019 9:00 PM EST

ROLL CALL

Present:

Matt Lacy	President
Louis Fifer	First Vice President
John O'Neill	Second Vice President
Jim Berry	Treasurer
Andrew Rapoza	Secretary
Jim Bender	Historian
Lindsey Fifer	Conventions Director
John Pastor	Director at Large
Jeff Ullman	Northeast Region Director
Eric McGuire	Western Region Director
Val Berry	Merchandise Director
Linda Sheppard	Membership Director
Elizabeth Lacy	Public Relations Director

Not Available:

Ferdinand Meyer V	Director at Large
Richard Siri	Director at Large
John Fifer	Midwest Region Director
Brad Seigler	Southern Region Director
Elizabeth Meyer	Business Manager (non-vote)
Martin Van Zant	Bottles and Extras Editor (non-vote)

AGENDA

- Roll Call (Matt Lacy - 5 minutes)
- Status update (Lindsey Fifer - 10 minutes)
- By-laws (Matt Lacy - 5 minutes)
- Open discussion (All - 30 minutes)
- Define course of action based on discussion or consensus (Matt Lacy - 5 minutes)
- Closing Comments (All - 5 minutes)

Status Update: 2021 FOHBC National

- (Lindsey):
 - No Northeast club has expressed interest. Only interest expressed has been from an individual, Peter Jablonski in Buffalo, NY. Local Sheraton quote rooms somewhere between \$189-\$209; might get down a little bit, but it is high tourist season for them. Niagara Falls Convention Center (\$18,000/day) not available for our usual weekend. Buffalo Convention Center (\$11,000/day meeting room rental); not sure yet if there was negotiation room with that

- quote. Hotels in that area don't have anything but lodging in this area (no meeting rooms). There is no large club in the area to provide backing.
- Sent out an RFP to convention centers and hotels in the Boston and Baltimore area; should be getting info end of this week or early next week. Baltimore's Marriott Hilton might have convention space. Need a place with 30,000+ sq ft range. Just not getting a strong response from the Northeast.
 - Next option is the Midwest.
 - Dayton, OH returned interest; has about 12,000 ft meeting space (hotel is connected with convention center).
 - Lexington, KY hotel returned interest (same hotel from 2013 show) undergoing renovation until late 2021, so they would be in final stages of renovations at that point, but the convention space would be done.
 - Lindsey is willing to send RFPs to Midwest clubs if needed, but interest is still lacking.

By-laws

- (Matt): The by-laws state that if we can't secure a place in the scheduled region, we are to look at the next scheduled region; therefore, if the Northeast is not possible for 2021, the next region to be considered is the Midwest. An acceptable meeting space and accommodations are one part of the issue; finding a team to support the organization and execution of the show is the other big part. Lindsey has been great on reaching out, but chairpersons are needed to take on the responsibility of the show and are not yet being found.

Open Discussion (Jeff): I have heard enthusiastic interest by individuals about it coming back to the Northeast, but no one who is willing to host it.

- (John O'Neil): Why aren't we getting the support for the shows?
- (Jeff): A lot of the active members are older and unwilling to take on the responsibility, and the younger ones are focused on their jobs, etc., and cannot commit that kind of time to doing so.
- (John Pastor): Lexington was a good show, but there isn't anyone there locally to spearhead a show there. Is Pittsburgh in the Northeastern Region? Lots of collectors in the area, vibrant city/area, large bottle club in the area; Pittsburgh *might* be something to look into.
- (Matt): I definitely agree; that's a great suggestion. We need to look into that.
- (Lindsey): I'll check out that area and if we get positive response from hotel and convention venues, we can then check with the clubs in that area.
- (Jim Bender): The problem we've had in the past is that it ends up being Board members that step up and make the shows happen, not the local clubs doing it. It's going to take an individual who's going to step up to do it. Strickhart and I went to Philadelphia and Lancaster before we ended up with Springfield. Both places were too expensive. \$20,000+ is just too much to make it work; we're going to be in trouble. We should go in at less than \$15,000, and try to get the tables and chairs thrown in too (there are so many additional costs that add up quickly). You should also stay away from a union facility. I don't think a hotel needs to be attached to the convention space to be successful: York was this way and it was great; there were hotels near enough. It also had the advantage of being a smaller community (therefore less traffic, construction, etc.).
- (Val): It used to be that we had an Expo every four years and a National every two years in between, until 2016. That board decided to make the show bigger: a 4-5 day show. I think Reno should be the last one, and go back to smaller national shows in between the expo years.
- (Matt): If we try to change the format of the show today, interest won't be there.

- (Jim Bender): I disagree. I think if the responsibility was less upfront, there would be more interest to chair. When you try to have an Expo, there's so much involved, people don't want to be involved.
- (Lindsey): The RFP I'm sending out has the board meeting on Thursday, the seminars, show, and banquet on Friday, and the show on Saturday.
- (Matt): If there is someone or a club willing to take responsibility of hosting the show, I will gladly talk with them.
- (Val): It's just not working: too many days and too many events. Let's just have a show and sell bottles.
- (Matt): If we just do a show, then we need to get out of the convention business. We have a responsibility to provide education as well as shows. We need to stay on track in this discussion about the 2021 show; in Augusta we can discuss the future direction of our shows and events.
- (Val): Okay; let's just stop discussing it then (for now).
- (Andy): I understand that none of the Northeastern clubs have expressed interest to host the 2021, but I'm just wondering if we have any strong clubs in the Northeast and, if so, which ones?
- (Jeff): We absolutely do, but they're just not willing to step up.
- (Matt): The effort we need local support with is just coordinating the venue; the federation organizes the event.
- (Jim Bender): What is the option?
- (Matt): A two-day show; we successfully host a two-day show every year in Ohio.
- (Lindsey): What I have had in my information packet states there will be a Board meeting Thursday, seminars in the morning on Friday and a show half-day Friday and all day Saturday.
- (Matt): So for the attendees, we're already talking about a two-day event.
- (Jim Bender): And we're still not getting a response on that two-day format.

Define course of action based on discussion or consensus

- (Matt):
 - Asked Lindsey to look into Pittsburgh. (She acknowledged she would do so right away.)
 - Review RFP responses of the Midwestern venues that express interest (like Dayton, OH and Lexington, KY).
 - Urged the board to plan to continue the discussion in Augusta about show formats and options for FOHBC Nationals in the future.

Closing Comments

- (Matt): The Augusta board meeting agenda will include FOHBC status, magazine issues as discussed and National show formats.

Recorded and submitted by secretary Andrew Rapoza