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## The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

### Minutes of the General Membership Meeting

Augusta, GA

02 August 2019

#### Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order (Matt Lacy) – 7:30 AM
  - a. Welcome
  - b. Guest Recognition – Recognized members by region / Board Members / Augusta National Consortium. Two years of work to make these events happen. Financial contributions and In-Kind donations. Last but not least: the dealers, advertisers in the souvenir program, early admission purchasers. Elizabeth Meyer, show photographer
  - c. Acknowledgement of thank you's for yesterday's events: Mike Newman's reception / Bill Baab's exhibition / Sweet Georgia Peaches Bottle Competition
  - d. Coming up: (Ferd Meyer:) quick description of the six seminars coming up immediately after this membership meeting. Dealer set-up; Early Admission at 1:00 PM; Banquet at 5:00 PM with keynote speaker, Justin Guy, Master Potter.
  
2. Reno, NV 2020 National
  - a. (Richard Siri:) "Everyone should have 2020 vision about the next national at Reno!" Reserve early (last time hotel sold out). Also RV spaces available.
  - b. Reno Contracts available at this show. Reno in "walking distance" of the airport with free shuttle service to the hotel, so car rental is not neces
  
3. Board of Directors Elections (Matt)
  - a. Encouraged people to volunteer and to express their interest about participating on the board.
  - b. Lots of interest in the hobby (9,000 followers on facebook)
  
4. By-laws Amendment Vote (Matt)
  - a. Vote to change ballot process. We've had to send out ballots for an uncontested slate of officers for the past two elections. We would like to make the changes to the bylaws as indicated in the document that was distributed (allowing the FOHBC to make a singular vote for an uncontested slate of officers).
    - i. Motion made and seconded.
    - ii. Motion unanimously passed.

5. 2021 National Antique Bottle Convention Progress Update
  - a. (Lindsey Fifer:) Sent out requests for proposals in the northeast region and now also sent to Midwest region. Of 50+ inquiries sent out, but only two responses. Put out the request for inquiries and interest. Talk to your clubs, your friends when you go back home: you know your area best; can help us know the good and bad for your area. I'm opening the request to anywhere.
  - b. (Ferd:) This show is the first time we have put on a National using a "consortium" (6-person, no single leader); we need to know who the team is going to be. We need your help; we're behind schedule.
  - c. (Matt:) The Federation is here to help; you don't have to put it on by yourself. We have a convention manual that clearly outlines how to put on an event and we will work closely with you.
  
6. Membership Trending (Matt:) – Since 2017 our membership has declined by 9%; In the last year we have declined by 11%. People aging and passing away; that's certainly one of the elements. We definitely have some young people coming on as well, though.
  
7. Bottles & Extras Update (Matt:) – We're trying to figure out the future of the magazine; we're losing money in every issue. We have formed a committee to look for ideas on how to figure out the future of *Bottles & Extras*. We're also looking at how we can move into the social media space even more; there are more opportunities to engage and interact with a larger audience.
  
8. Financial Update - (Jim Berry) Our finances are doing okay; it will be helpful to do something about increasing the membership. Burton Spiller left \$20K+ in his will to the FOHBC. We're still trending downward in our expenses vs revenues. In the last couple of years, the shows have hit us hard. (Matt:) We do a lot of mailings, a lot of printing; so we have to look into the expenses and how to improve the finances. We have a committee formed for that purpose and will be working hard on these issues.

Meeting closed: 8:07 AM.