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It is hard to believe another year has come and gone. The end of the year is often a time to reflect back on the year, assess progress, and set goals for the next. I am happy to report that your FOHBC board hasn't had much down time to spend thinking about the past, but are rather looking towards the future. I have a lot of exciting news to share. Here I will the wrap up of old business followed by some new and exciting efforts.

The 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention details have been finalized and the books are closed. In addition to the fun and excitement shared by FOHBC members, collectors and the local public, the show also made a handsome profit. The team effort really contributed to the overall success of the event, and we couldn't be more pleased with the outcome. Thank you to all of the individuals, donors, and support who made this event possible. It will always hold a special place in my memories.

While 2019 has passed, we look towards this next year with "2020 Vision." This slogan for the Reno 2020 National Antique Bottle Convention was coined by our very own Director-at-large Richard Siri. Richard has really taken the reins to set the tone for another amazing year. This convention will be far different than past years with a few new original ideas and a lot of fun! Ferdinand Meyer V has drafted up a lot of great marketing material that many of you have likely seen circulating. The Reno team derived the idea of a silent auction incorporating a different auction format that both consignors and buyers can enjoy. In addition to the silent auction event, enter into a whirl of fun with the Reno 2020 Team Bowling Event on Saturday night. This is sure to be a successful affair with a very strong response from our membership already. Table sales have been very strong right since contracts started circulating. I could talk about this show for hours with all the exciting developments.

Another very exciting development in the works is a potential location for the 2021 FOHBC National Convention in the Northeast. A few of our board members who have been major contributors for many years decided to take on the task of finding a location and earning support of the clubs in the Northeast region. We are not yet ready to announce the potential location at the time of writing, but the location may be public knowledge by

the time this letter makes it to publication. I am very excited to say that a number of Northeast clubs have agreed to volunteer to help make this event possible. I would encourage clubs to always consider lending a helping hand if the FOHBC National events come to your region. We don't host these tremendous events for ourselves; these shows are for you! Use it as an opportunity to serve the hobby and, in turn, grow your club.

A much anticipated and thrilling announcement is the soft opening of the FOHBC Virtual Museum on January 1st of 2020. This has been a work in progress for many years with literally hundreds of man-hours poured into its development. Alan DeMaison has travelled all over the country to picture some of the finest glass from each collecting category and region. Ferdinand Meyer V has coordinated the development of the Virtual Museum itself, and has spent countless hours on its design. The FOHBC has an entire subcommittee dedicated to this effort, and dozens of collectors have contributed to the effort. There is more information regarding details of the opening day in this issue. We are looking forward to support from the FOHBC membership to share this amazing revolutionary interactive bottle experience with the collecting community.

At the board meeting at the 2019 Augusta convention, a subcommittee was formed to understand the future of the publication and how to continue to provide a quality conduit of information to collectors. Since then, the members of the subcommittee have been busy working between emails and conference calls. Some of the discussions have led to broader conversations about bringing the FOHBC in-line with modern standards of business. Many of the principles of the original organization have shifted with the changing times, causing a need to review the organization as a whole and adapt to take the FOHBC into the future. We are all looking forward to having discussions on how to better the organization and hobby for our membership.

It really is a very exciting time to be involved with the FOHBC and the efforts to advance our great hobby. This upcoming year is an election year for the FOHBC board. If you have any interest in becoming an officer and serving on the board, please contact Val Berry. We are always looking for new and fresh prospective to continue to keep the FOHBC going strong. I believe the new ballot for the election of officers will be published in the next issue of Bottles and Extras. I hope to see many new names on there to really help shape the future.

I hope everyone is excited for the numerous activities and announcements to come in 2020. Each and every one of us continues to fuel the passion around this hobby. I anticipate fruitful digs, successful shows and quality time with friends. I look forward to seeing what 2020 has in store.

As always, I look forward to serving you!