

## FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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**B**ottle show "season" is now underway and many collectors are gearing up for the Baltimore show, myself included. I look forward to this trip every year and meeting up with friends to discuss the hobby. The FOHBC will be once again hosting our biannual board meeting on Saturday morning, March 7th at the Country Inn & Suites in Rosedale, Maryland. One of the prominent topics of the board meeting every March is the FOHBC National Conventions. A bit of exciting news in this area is that a location has been selected for the 2021 National Convention in the Northeast! I would personally like to take a moment to thank Jim and Val Berry and Jim Bender for stepping up and making this happen. The team is currently finalizing the details, and an official announcement will be made soon. I can say it will be a show you won't want to miss! Stay tuned for more information.

I recently had a conversation with our Conventions Director, Lindsey Fifer, and the 2022 request for proposals for the FOHBC National Convention in the Midwest region has gone out to clubs and individuals. We are looking for a great location and a few people willing to be the local liaisons to the venue and hotel. The concept of a consortium has been proven effective with the Augusta show. It offers a way for many people to get involved to take on individual tasks, lessening the burden of the convention by sharing responsibilities. This really makes it easy to put on a successful event. We are hopeful that a Midwest club or small group of individuals will have some ideas on a great location and are fired up to have it in the region. Please reach out to Lindsey if you have ideas or thoughts.

Speaking of National Conventions, remember that the Reno 2020 FOHBC National Antique Bottle Show & Expo is just around the corner! Hotel rooms are being booked very fast, and dealers are taking advantage of the great group rate. There are also still tables available for dealers, but contracts come in regularly and spaces will fill in quickly. If you plan to attend Reno, make sure to make your reservations and send in your contracts soon if you haven't already. Team Reno is planning a great convention weekend, and it is one you will want to be part of! One of the feature events is a bowling tournament. Reach out to Richard Siri or Ferdinand Meyer to reserve your lane for a time of fun and unforgettable memories! More information about all of the events can be found on the website at fohbc.org.

As I mentioned before, this year is an election year for the FOHBC and a new slate of officers will be introduced at the National Convention in Reno. We have many opportunities available to serve in one of the open positions. Our elections committee has done a superb job of reaching out to members and collectors. We are looking for people willing to step up and give back to the hobby. We have a very large membership, and have found very few are willing to lead, shape, and mold the future of the organization. It is important to get fresh new perspectives from individuals with ideas about how to make the organization better and remain relevant to the membership. If while reading this, you would like more information, reach out to anyone currently serving on the board for more information. We can put you in touch with the elections committee to better understand the responsibilities of each position.

It certainly is an exciting time to be involved the hobby and part of an organization like the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors. Already this year, we have seen some amazing glass offerings in recent auctions with several notable collections coming market. Amazing pieces have also been showing up individually at auction and through inquires in the Facebook forums. It really goes to show that there are a lot of treasures out there for the ambitious and persistent collector. It seems like every other day I am congratulating someone on an amazing find. It is so much fun to see what is turning up.

Another place in which you can spend time learning and enjoying great glass you don't see every day is the virtual museum. The FOHBC Virtual Museum opened with a soft opening this past January, and the feedback has been very positive. I have read some of the comments in the forums online. Congratulations to the Virtual Museum committee that poured a labor of love into the effort for the past several years. If you are interested in a day pass or construction pass, visit [fohbcvirtualmuseum.org](http://fohbcvirtualmuseum.org). Current FOHBC members get 50% off at this time of both access levels when signing up.

On a personal note, I have had some down time recently during which I have been able to review old auction catalogs. My time reviewing them reminded me of the wealth of information that is contained in these catalogs. Every time I look back at the sales, I find something that I didn't notice before, and almost always learn something new. I think of collectors that are new to the hobby and those collectors who are looking to advance knowledge: Don't forget about these catalogs! You can really acquire a lot of knowledge from these sources. Copies of auction catalogs can often be found on tables at bottles shows and for sale online. There are a few catalogs of famed collections that I have been looking to purchase for years.

All in all, I plan to approach this year with enthusiasm for our very prosperous and fun hobby. I hope to see everyone on the trail.

As always, I look forward to serving you!