

The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

Baltimore, MD

March 7, 2020 8:03 am



Matt Lacy
FOHBC
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Current Board Members (X = those in attendance or on the phone)

x - Matt Lacy	President
x - Louis Fifer	First Vice President
x - John O'Neill	Second Vice President
x - Jim Berry	Treasurer
x - Andrew Rapoza	Secretary
x - Jim Bender	Historian
x - Lindsey Fifer	Conventions Director
x - Ferdinand Meyer	Director at Large
x - John Pastor	Director at Large
x - Richard Siri	Director at Large
Jeff Ullman	Northeast Region Director
Brad Seigler	Southern Region Director
X - John Fifer	Midwest Region Director
Eric McGuire	Western Region Director
X - Elizabeth Meyer	Business Manager
X - Val Berry	Merchandise Director
X - Linda Sheppard	Membership Director
X - Elizabeth Lacy	Public Relations Director
Martin Van Zant	<i>Bottles and Extras</i> Editor

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order (M. Lacy)
 - a. Welcome and Roll Call. There were no guests in attendance.
2. Financial Report (J. Berry, E. Meyer)
 - a. Treasurer's Report
Jim distributed and reviewed copies of the Financial report which included our current balance, income and expenses to date (fiscal date is July 1, 2019 to present) and the FOHBC investments (previously sent via email).
 - b. Health Check
Jim did state that we are running in the red, however, keeping our heads above water. He explained we need to look at our expenses, which at this time seem to be kept in line.

Jim also talked about Life Members, approximately 161, receiving *Bottles and Extras* at no current cost to them. The FOHBC gets very little in return to help with the cost of printing/ mailing the magazine. Donations from Life Members is minimal (approximately \$500 a year).

It was agreed that Elizabeth Meyer and Val Berry will investigate information regarding past Life Memberships, dates and actual 'contract' terms negotiated at that time. We cannot change what is 'grandfathered' in, however, may be able to solicit suggestions to help with a solution.

Ferdinand Meyer noted that the Bottles and Extras Committee has had several conference calls to study *Bottles and Extras*. Meeting notes were completed on Nov. 19, 2019. It was determined that the magazine is making a small profit.

Ferdinand also stated that the FOHBC needs to renew the discussion regarding a merger with John Pastor's *Antique Bottle and Glass Collector* magazine.

Jim did commend Elizabeth Meyer for working on increasing membership renewals, getting new memberships and club memberships. This has been a good income for our treasury.

c. Investment Accounts

Report of our current balances is included in the Financial Report. We are still in the process of removing Gary Beatty's name and adding Jim Berry's name. Paperwork has been sent and Elizabeth M. stated we are now waiting for the investment company to finalize. This should give us the opportunity to review investment accounts at any time rather than quarterly, our only option at this time.

3. Election Committee Update (V. Berry)

The Nominating Committee consists of John Pastor, Eric McGuire, Elizabeth Meyer and Jim Berry with Val Berry heading up the committee. Val reported that the committee has made several attempts to seek candidates but there has been very little interest shown in FOHBC members serving in an officer capacity. Positions open are President, First Vice President, Secretary, Conventions Director, Director-at-Large (two positions) Public Relations (PR) Director, Midwest, Southern and Northeast Directors.

The recruitment ad placed in *Bottles & Extras* resulted in only one response. This applicant is applying for the Southern Region Director and a brief bio will be requested.

A bio has been received from Steve Lang for the Midwest Region Director and distributed to board members.

Val will follow up with the two current applicants.

Board members are requested to help with any ideas or suggestions they may have. Any member desiring to run may submit a nomination form (to be forwarded to all by Ferdinand). Deadline is April 1st.

4. Future of the FOHBC “Go forward planning” (All)

As a result of the difficulties in finding responsible candidates for officer positions, Elizabeth and Val have been working on the possibility of reducing the number of positions on the Board either by elimination or restructuring/combining responsibilities with other positions. This entails reviewing and revising the Federations Bylaws.

Suggestions given were -

- a. Eliminate 2nd Vice President position leaving a Vice President.
- b. Eliminate the Public Relations (PR) position, adding responsibilities for the Regional Directors to be involved with social media efforts in their subsequent regions (website, Facebook, twitter). Appoint a Social Media liaison.
- c. Eliminate two Director-at-Large positions.
- d. Eliminate Historian as board position.
- e. Eliminate Membership Director and merge responsibilities with Business Manager.
- f. Add Virtual Museum Director position.
- g. Add Magazine or Publication Director position.
- h. Add Technology position (which may be a paid position); would include keeping the website/Facebook page up-to-date; suggested to reintroduce the FOHBC newsletter.

Much discussion was held on this topic with input from current board members.

PR position – The responsibilities of this and other positions have changed tremendously since the inception of the Federation to the age of technology. E. Lacy said the regional directors could take a part in PR and provide magazines/membership forms, ribbons and other FOHBC information to their regional clubs.

John Pastor agrees that the PR position does take a lot of time with so many things to do. A person needs to be internet and social media savvy, however, some Regional Directors (RD) may not be internet and social media savvy. E. Lacy feels the RD could be responsible for face-to-face, paper stuff and the social media aspect could be combined with technology director and/or publication director. Divide responsibilities.

E. Meyer stated that Ferdinand has done a great amount of PR through the website. Ferdinand has agreed to continue to help until someone is actually found. He has a great interest in this and will help wherever it is needed. He did say that If the website gets behind, it is harder to get it up-to-date.

F. Meyer said we need to get back to the online newsletter but has not continued as we cancelled the service used to send out massive emails. The is a benefit for the member and in compliance with our bylaws

It was noted that there are concerns regarding no 'back-up' people prepared to assume any official duties if needed.

F. Meyer agrees restructuring is appropriate, however, reducing the number of positions may affect board voting. He feels we need to add a Virtual Museum Director, a Magazine Director and a Website Director.

5. Anything requiring a general membership vote in Reno (M. Lacy, E. Meyer)
 - a. Board Restructure Vote
 - b. New Slate of Officers
 - c. Possible revision of Bylaws
 - d. Life Membership revision

Matt reviewed what may need to be voted on at the Board meeting in Reno.

Matt noted that in order to be prepared for inclusion in the next *Bottles and Extras*, results of the above must be completed and approved as soon as possible (by March 27th). A conference call will be scheduled.

6. Hall of Fame Nominations (E. Meyer, F. Meyer)

Matt reported there are three nominations this year for Hall of Fame this year. There are no nominations for Honor Roll. All Board members have previously received the information on each one.

- a. Ferdinand presented Willy Van Den Bossche. Mr. Van Den Bossche is currently an Honor Roll member (2003) and this is an upgrade to Hall of Fame.
- b. Bill Baab nominated Harvey S. Teal and was presented to the board by Elizabeth.
- c. Bill Baab also nominated Ron Fowler who is currently an Honor Roll member (1992). Elizabeth presented Ron's application in Bill's absence.

Board members are reminded that "No more than two persons may be inducted into the Hall of Fame per year." Board members are asked to review the nominations. Business Manager, Elizabeth Meyer, will prepare a ballot form and e-mail to every board member. Members will be asked to respond to her only with their vote by a deadline date given. Elizabeth will then tally the vote and follow up by e-mail informing board members of the results.

7. Reno Update (R. Siri, F. Meyer)

Matt Lacy commented on the current situation regarding the health scare (coronavirus) in this country. Several upcoming conferences have been cancelled due to this; however, it is hoped that the situation will not continue through August.

Richard gave the current update on Reno 2020. At this time, there are 108 tables, 69 dealers, 8 early admissions, 35 banquet reservations. The room block is at 39%. The seminars and displays are covered as well as several other events. As always, the numbers are expected to increase as time gets closer.

A brief discussion was held regarding Display Awards. It was agreed that there will be two Display Awards – Best in Show and Most Educational. Richard felt he would like to present a Participation Ribbon to those who take the time to put together their display. All agreed.

Lindsey Fifer reported on options for the Reno membership breakfast.

- a. Option 1: \$18 pp plus fees. Includes pastries, hot items, beverages.
- b. Option 2: \$11.25 pp plus fees. Includes beverages, pastries, bagels, etc. Add-ins can cost \$4-\$5 pp.
- c. Option 3: \$26.50 pp plus fees. Full buffet, beverages.

It was noted that the membership breakfast is an FOHBC expense. After a brief discussion, John Pastor made a motion to approve Option 1 for the Reno Membership Breakfast. Motion was seconded by Elizabeth Lacy. All were in favor with no opposition.

The Merchandising Director will provide Reno T-shirts for sale. Val will ask Ferdinand for a Reno graphic design.

Reno 2024 has been suggested; no commitment at this time. Richard is on hold for second as it is booked.

8. 2021 Northeast Show in Syracuse, NY (J. Berry, V. Berry, J. Bender)

An update was given regarding show location, hotel choices and costs, show facility, banquet facility, etc. A more complete/Informational report will be provided to Lindsey Fifer and the Board as soon as possible. There is a major difference in cost between two local hotels so a decision will need to be made shortly.

A target date for contract information is Reno 2020.

9. Virtual Museum Update (R. Siri, F. Meyer)

- a. Ferdinand reported on the development of more galleries and information posted on the Virtual Museum. A 'soft opening' was of the VM.
He asked how many board members actually have viewed the VM's soft opening. No board member has viewed the VM at this point in time. Ferdinand encourages board members to view the museum.

10. Membership Update (E. Meyer, L. Sheppard)

Elizabeth reported the current membership status is within 5 at one year ago. Reminder emails/letters are sent out before membership expiration and after the membership has expired. Richard Siri noted that it is expected memberships will increase with the benefit of the Virtual Museum.

11. Floor Open for Other Discussion

Matt reviewed the follow-up required as discussed in this meeting.

- a. Board slate
- b. Revision of bylaws
- c. Life membership criteria
- d. Online Newsletter
- e. Relook at magazine merger

There was no further discussion.

The semi-annual Board Meeting was Adjourned at 11:02 am