



The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

FOHBC Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Conference Call November 5, 2020 7:00pm CST

President John O'Neill called the conference call of the Federation to order at 7:00pm CST.

Present: John O'Neill, President
Jim Berry, Treasurer
Jim Bender, Historian
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager
Ferdinand Meyer, Director-at-Large
Linda Sheppard, Membership Director
Steve Lang, Midwest Region Director
Jeff Ullman, Northeast Region Director
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Martin Van Zant, Editor

Absent: Richard Siri, Director-at-Large (arrived on call 8:02CST)
Val Berry, Secretary, Merchandise Director (arrived on call 7:28CST)
Jake Smith, Southern Region Director

AGENDA 1: Finance Elizabeth Meyer, Jim Berry

Elizabeth explained her efforts on membership renewals through emails, letters and phone calls. The return has been okay but slow with many member concerns regarding the economy, some state they only joined for the show discount and some who have joined consistently are unsure whether they want to rejoin or not. Club memberships are down and it seems that most clubs join when they have a show to get the benefit of the show insurance. Since most shows have been cancelled, several clubs have not rejoined. Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager, suggested that the board consider a reinstatement fee (\$10) be implemented for the clubs that let their membership expire. All club memberships are due on May 1st of each year. Our insurance is based on the number of clubs and membership we hold. This would help cover the cost of insurance.

Jim Berry sent Board member the current Financial Report (copy on file). He said our stocks have increased this past year; however, our income that we depend on to pay the bills is minimal.

As a result of the financial concerns, it is being recommended by the Business Manager and Treasurer to withdraw \$20,000 from Silver Oaks Securities.

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John O'Neill made a motion to approve the withdrawal of \$20,000 to be transferred to the FOHBC checking account. Motion was seconded by Martin Van Zant.

A vote was taken with nine (9) in favor and one (1) against. Motion was approved.

Further discussion was held regarding how long this money will last. Due to not having a National Show in 2020 and in conjunction with the pandemic, income has substantially decreased. The next National show is in August 2021 (provided there is a show). The largest expense at this point is the magazine, which is every two months.

AGENDA 2: FOHBC Board Positions Ferdinand Meyer, Val Berry

John O'Neill noted on the agenda that we have Three Directions: President to fill outstanding positions or downsize status quo or new format. John reported that he currently has two people interested in joining the board: Michael Seeliger and Jeff Wichmann.

Ferdinand reiterated the three directions noted above, stating that the President does have the authority to fill vacant positions. Second, Val Berry has been working on revising the bylaws to decrease the number of FOHBC directors. (It was mentioned that any revisions to the bylaws must be presented to the full membership and voted on at the annual general membership meeting.) Third, Ferdinand said that board positions and titles should be redefined and brought up-to-date including changes in social media, public relations and adding others such as Magazine Director and Virtual Museum member.

It was suggested that a subcommittee of Val Berry, Ferdinand and Elizabeth Meyer be formed to study board positions for the future. It will be presented to the board with John O'Neill's approval, and if approved, it can be presented to the general membership at 2021 Syracuse.

What direction does the board want to go in - keep status quo or do we want to put an initiative out to change positions? John asked the board do we want to restructure board or keep current set up? He can fill at least two positions and, according to the current bylaws, this can be done.

Ferdinand explained that Michal Seeliger is interested in a project that involves obtaining a collection of old photos to put together a photo history of the early days of bottle collecting pre-2000 or so. Board members are in favor of this endeavor.

Board members are in approval of the two people recommended for appointment by President, John O'Neill. John will contact each one and discuss with them which position they are interested in. He will notify the board when completed.

AGENDA 3: Bottles & Extras and AB&GC Merger John O'Neill and Ferdinand Meyer

John and Ferdinand have been in discussion with John Pastor as this topic has never been fully resolved. In looking at our expenses, they are heavily weighed on the magazine. John O'Neill does not think that the hobby is large enough to provide two magazines at this point and due to the

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pandemic, it is time to look at changes. John Pastor is no longer interested in the magazine business. We can't keep sustaining the magazine with our current membership base. Ferdinand agrees and sees that putting so much effort into the 72-page magazine when only so few people are getting it. John Pastor is still interested in "gifting" the magazine to the FOHBC.

General discussion was held regarding the exceptional quality of B & E, the group effort involved in completing it, the cost, a current decrease in membership with the hopes of an increase due to a merger and the future possibility of not having a magazine at all.

John O'Neill will talk with John Pastor and ask if he would give a presentation (including specifics such as cost of magazine, what his profit/loss is) to the Board at a conference call. All agreed.

AGENDA 4: New FOHBC Membership Tier Ferdinand Meyer

Ferdinand would like to discuss developing a tiered approach in membership for the near future and getting away from a membership based on a magazine subscription. People think when you join, you get a magazine - that's all it is. We need to think of a better way to get younger, millennial people online to somehow be a card-carrying member and not get the magazine. Very few new people want the magazine and if they do, it's digital. Jim Berry asked how many digital members there are and Elizabeth reported approximately 25 digital members. Ferdinand and Elizabeth will put together some possibilities of a tiered approach. John O'Neill suggested including Jeff Wichmann.

The goal would be to get us to a reasonable number of members to justify what we are doing.

AGENDA 5: Board of Director Roles John O'Neill

John O'Neill discussed the Regional Director roles, briefly noting what the duties are. Due to a lack of bottle shows this year, he wants to commend the regional directors for their reports published in the Nov/Dec issue of Bottles and Extras and trying to work on their responsibilities.

The next deadline for reports is Jan/Feb issue is Nov. 15, 2020. An attempt to improve and streamline the proofreading task of B & E will be made; such as those proofreading will be able to see comments made, proofing a little at a time rather than 72 pages at once. Martin's schedule will be sent to the team; reviews are numbered and Martin will give a deadline for comments after each review.

AGENDA 6: Status 2021 Syracuse Jim and Val Berry

At this point in time, there is not much to report. The Syracuse 2021 show ad has been on the website and has been put in both Bottles and Extras and AB & GC magazines. So far, there has been little interest shown with only one call. As most local (New York) bottle meetings have been cancelled, we have not been able to attend one, but will reach out through emails to those clubs trying to gather interest. The future entailing the pandemic is still uncertain but we will continue with our efforts.

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Ferdinand suggested that the 2021 Syracuse team develop a projected Profit/Loss Statement.

AGENDA 7: Status 2022 Reno Ferdinand Meyer and Richard Siri

Ferdinand briefly reported. Moving from 2020 to 2022, Richard was able to retain negotiated costs, the deposits have been made and we will wait to see what happens.

AGENDA 8: Status 2023 Ferdinand Meyer

Ferdinand said there is interest shown for a 2023 FOHBC in Houston, TX. We may need to change our normal region schedule due to the pandemic and cancelled Western Region 2020 show. This person, a major bottle collector, is willing to donate his facility for the show which includes a parking garage and can offer discounts through hotels. Ferdinand does not have an actual proposal but will pursue with approval which he received.

NEW BUSINESS / GENERAL QUESTIONS and DISUCSSION

John O'Neill would like to have monthly conference calls to keep everyone up-to-date and current Board members are welcome to submit agenda items for discussion.

The conference call was ended at 9:17 pm CST

Respectfully submitted,
Val Berry, Secretary