



The Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

FOHBC Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Conference Call January 12, 2021 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
Jeff Wichmann, 1st VP
Michael Seeliger, 2nd VP
Jim Berry, Treasurer
Jim Bender, Historian
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager
Ferdinand Meyer, Director-at-Large
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large
Val Berry, Secretary, Merchandise Director
Jake Smith, Southern Region Director
Steve Lang, Midwest Region Director
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Martin Van Zant, Editor

Absent: Linda Sheppard, Membership Director

AGENDA 1: Covid-19 Health and Wellness Check

John O'Neill questioned the group on how they were doing considering the pandemic as we, and the whole country, go through this chaos. At this point, we are aware of a couple members being quarantined, however, board members are doing well.

AGENDA 2: Confirm FOHBC Baltimore Bi-Annual Board Meeting

John O'Neill noted that due to the postponement of the Baltimore bottle club's show in March 2021, our bi-annual, three-hour board meeting will be held via ZOOM on March 13th at 9am CST. Please mark your calendars accordingly. If you have an agenda item for the meeting, please let John know.

AGENDA 3: Introduction of New Board Members

Ferdinand introduced the new board members, Jeff Wichmann and Michael Seeliger. They were formally introduced in the January/February issue of *Bottles and Extras*.

AGENDA 4: Jeff Wichmann Marketing Comments

Jeff Wichmann explained that after several discussions with other board members, he agreed to join. Jeff is very interested in helping the FOHBC improve its membership by promoting and marketing *Bottles and Extras* and utilizing social media to the fullest. Jeff described a few of his ideas to the board. He is also interested in investigating the idea of merging with John Pastor's magazine, *Antique Bottle and Glass Collector*.

Ferdinand reminded the group that we are trying to rebuild the board as several board members have left the board leaving a void of several offices. We welcome and are very pleased to have Jeff and Michael join the FOHBC Board of Directors, plus two new members - Region Directors, Steve Lang, Midwest and Jake Smith, South.

Richard Siri commented that he was very impressed with the great quality of the Jan/Feb 2021 issue of *Bottles and Extras*. Others commented that this past issue of was well-done with a nice variety of articles.

AGENDA 5: Michael Seeliger History Project

Michael Seeliger is also eager to join the FOHBC with a couple of ideas he has. He would like to work on putting together a reference library. He is donating his original book, 'HH Warner,' as well as his new updated book. Michael has been approved to work on a project that involves obtaining pictures of collections and old photos of people, bottle shows, etc., to put together a photo history of the early days of bottle collecting pre-2000 or so.

Another thought of Michael's is to consider having educational videos (for example, videos that would teach the difference between tool-top and applied top). These could be made available on the website or Facebook page.

AGENDA 6: Virtual Museum Fundraising

Ferdinand reported that the VM is getting low on funds and although it is an "arm" of the FOHBC, its finances has been kept separate. However, new pieces have continuously been added to the VM and a small icon of 'Mr. Monopoly' has been included to the piece asking for donations. An updated ad was also put in *Bottles and Extras*.

A suggestion was made to consider getting major sponsors to "purchase" a wing of the museum. This is something that has been mentioned previously in a VM report.

AGENDA 7: Thank *Bottles & Extras* Team

Ferdinand Meyer expressed his gratitude for those who have worked hard to make *Bottles and Extras* the fine magazine that it is. Martin Van Zant agreed and thanked Ferdinand and the proofreaders for all their help. Michael Seeliger noted that his wife is interested in helping proof.

AGENDA 8: Replacement of Vacated Northeast Region Director

John O'Neill reported that the Northeast Region Director, Jeff Ullman, has resigned. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested in serving the FOHBC, please let him know. Jim Berry did mention that he will check with someone he knows and will keep the board updated.

AGENDA 9: Current Financial Overview

Jim Berry reported that we did receive the money from our investment account. It has been placed in the FOHBC savings account with half transferred to the checking account. Jim did note that our major expense is the printing and mailing of the magazine. Modern Litho (the printer) requests that postage be paid in advance of the mailing. As this creates time constraints, (the mail has been very slow), Jim along with Business Manager, Elizabeth Meyer, agreed that setting up an automatic payment to Modern Litho from our checking account will be more efficient. This will alleviate any delays in mailings. Currently, three checks are sent via mail for postage, printing and foreign postage.

A financial report will be prepared for the March conference call.

AGENDA 10: Status 2021 Syracuse

Advertisements have been in *Bottles and Extras* and *Antique Bottle and Glass Collector* with the contract information available online. Val Berry reported that she will be asking region directors to contact their regional clubs with information and contracts so they can be disbursed to members/vendors.

At this time, no commitments to sales tables have been made. A couple questions have been asked regarding refunds if the show must be cancelled due to the pandemic. We are informing people that yes, refunds related to the show (sales tables, early admission, banquet, souvenir program ad) will be refunded 100%.

Richard Siri noted that we will need to have to keep a close eye on the progress of the show relative to table sales, etc. If we would not be able to cover expenses, it may be necessary to cancel.

AGENDA 11: Regional Director Work

Reports from regional directors note that some clubs are having meetings face-to-face, some are doing ZOOM meetings and some are not meeting at all. Many larger cities are in lock-down. All in all, things are slow for meetings and obviously many bottle shows have been cancelled. Region directors continue to reach out to clubs.

AGENDA 12: Hall of Fame Update

Ferdinand reminded that due to the cancellation of Reno 2020, Willy Van den Bossche will be inducted at Syracuse 2021.

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12 January 2021 7:00pm CST

Ferdinand explained that due to the situation we are in with the cancellation of Reno 2020 and uncertainty of Syracuse 2021, we may need to have a 'virtual convention' as we still have business to attend to. For instance, elections, awards, seminars, contests, competitions, etc. This is something we will have to look into the future.

Ferdinand noted that one submission he expected to the Hall of Fame will not be ready this year; but they will work on it for next year.

Jim Berry announced that an application was sent to President, John O'Neill and Business Manager, Elizabeth Meyer, to nominate Ferdinand Meyer, V, to the FOHBC Hall of Fame. Congratulations to Ferdinand.

AGENDA 13: Any Other Business

Michael Seeliger made a suggestion that if someone would rather donate a bottle to the Federation instead of including the FOHBC in their will, it would be used at an auction where any income would go to the Virtual Museum. There is a segment in the magazine that informs members the FOHBC is a 501C(3) as a charitable organization and is able to receive donations, either financially or objects, such as bottles. Good idea and follow up may be done via an article describing the suggestion.

The conference call was ended at 8:09 pm CST

Respectfully submitted,
Val Berry, Secretary