



# *Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors*

## **FOHBC Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Board of Directors Conference Call / Zoom Meeting**

**March 13, 2021 8:00am CST**

President John O'Neill called the conference call/Zoom meeting of the Federation to order at 8am EST.

**Present:** John O'Neill, President  
Michael Seeliger, Second Vice-President  
Jim Berry, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager  
Ferdinand Meyer V, 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:** Jeff Wichmann, First Vice-President  
Jim Bender, Historian  
Linda Sheppard, Membership Director

#### **AGENDA A: Call to Order (O'Neill) Welcome, Attendance, Roll Call, Guest Recognition**

John O'Neill welcomed all who were in attendance for the semi-annual Board Meeting via Zoom. Roll call was taken for board members. Guests (FOHBC members), who were invited to join the Zoom meeting, introduced themselves.

#### **AGENDA B: State of the Hobby & State of the FOHBC (O'Neill & Meyer et al)**

Ferdinand Meyer discussed the changes that have been occurring recently regarding our lives and the way we live it. This includes the way businesses are being conducted (working at home, less travel), retail businesses, (shopping online), reduction in travel, dining (ordering out rather than in), etc. These changes affect the bottle collecting world. The concerns we have are the cancellation of many bottle shows; very few bottle club meetings or bottle shows; the FOHBC 2020 Reno National Expo was cancelled (no opportunity to raise money). However, bottle auctions continued although they were done online.

John O'Neill agreed with Ferdinand's comments. It is important to continue to communicate with our membership as well as others and look at the technology that we are using today. Online virtual platforms (Zoom meetings, online communication) seem to be the norm right now and work is being

done via this mode of communication. We can sit back and do nothing or choose to adapt and move forward -- that is what we are trying to do here.

### **AGENDA C: Financial (Berry)**

Previously, board members were sent information regarding the financial report. Jim Berry briefly reviewed the present state of the FOHBC's investment accounts. Although we did withdraw \$20,000 from one investment account, the total is back within \$5,000 from the time we withdrew the \$20,000 (Sept 2020, investment total was \$154,654 and as of Dec 31, 2020, the total is \$150,671).

Jim reviewed the inflow versus outflow for our present financial year of July 1, 2020 to March 13, 2021. We currently show a loss of \$9,031.97.

There are no major expenses due at this time other than wages for March and the May-June magazine (which will be paid in April).

Elizabeth Meyer reported that there are 787 active members and includes 164 life members. She did note that we are within 20 members from this time last year. There are 80 clubs and 17 digital members. Elizabeth does send reminder emails to let members and clubs know their dues are due. She also said there are membership options (i.e., three-year) so they don't have to be reminded every year.

### **AGENDA D: Board Positions and Election Status Update New Positions 2022-2024, Voting Status & Process**

As everyone is aware, the election of officers was scheduled for 2020 for a two-year term for 2020-2022. However, due to the major issues with the pandemic causing the cancellation of our Reno show, the election process was not completed. Although seven officers ended their term in 2020, others agreed to remain on the Board at least for another year. John O'Neill stepped up to assume the position of President and was able to appoint several others to serve as board members.

Again, due to the current situation with the pandemic, we would like to ask that the current board members remain in their positions for one more year when we can get back to the regular election cycle of 2022 – 2024; per Article 8 of the bylaws. The election process for 2022 Reno could be started now with the President appointing a **Nominating Committee** and an **Election Committee** to oversee and conduct the Federation election.

However, the restructuring of the board would need to be addressed first, amend bylaws, then begin the election process.

**Action Taken:** A motion was made by John O'Neill to develop a Committee, headed by Val Berry and in conjunction with Elizabeth and Ferdinand Meyer, to study the redesign of board positions and develop a slate for 2022. Motion was seconded by Martin Van Zant.

A poll vote was taken among board members; All were in favor with no opposition. Motion approved.

**AGENDA E: FOHBC Reposition Presentation (Meyer et al)**

One Hour (20-minute presentation, discussion and plan of action)

[See Presentation](#)

Past: Ferdinand Meyer apprised us of the history of the “Kings and Queens” of antique bottle-collecting and FOHBC Hall of Fame and Honor Roll recipients involved with the FOHBC.

Departure: We lost several (7) board members within the past year (2020) who chose not to remain on the board.

Present: Several board members did agree to remain on the Board. However, John O’Neill stepped up to serve as President and promptly was able to get several new board officers to join.

Our hobby and the FOHBC is in perilous times with the changing world compounded by the Covid-19 Pandemic. We need to understand who we are and where we are going – It’s time to act now.

Ferdinand developed 12-steps (copy on file) to increase membership, operations and positions.

1. Merge the Magazines (Bottles and Extras and Antique Bottle & Glass Collector)
2. Open the Virtual Museum (still in construction mode), Go National and International
3. National Expos (transition from 1 to 2 to 4-year intervals)
4. Research Historical Archiving
5. Communication (embellish and market the broad base of communication tools such as our website, Facebook, Instagram and email services)
6. Financial Security
7. Education (part of our Mission Statement). Work on monthly 1-hour zoom seminars
8. Bottle Shows (dwindling due to changes). Conduct quarterly Regional shows on Zoom
9. Just Plain Fun (Look at developing games or events requiring audience participation)
10. Restructure the Board
11. New Tiers of Membership
12. Restructure our Regions (increase from 4 to 5 or 7)

John O’Neill said that this was a great presentation with a lot of information given by Ferdinand. Mike Seeliger commented noting that he likes articles that include other antiques rather than just bottles. As Mike feels that many dealers and attendees at shows are not Federation members, he thought having an

FOHBC booth/display at shows/conventions to exhibit what the FOHBC is doing and what the value of being a member would be, particularly with the Virtual Museum site. He thought perhaps having an article about the Federation itself may generate some interest.

Ferdinand responded that we do have a Public Relations person, Ken Hall, who has contacts to all museums, newspapers, websites for antique-related items. Information (such as a packet for Reno 2022) is sent to Ken and he broadcasts this info across the country. This is important to get information about us in as many places as possible. Ian Moody, who works for Ken, was hired by the FOHBC; he is growing into our Social Media manager.

Fred DeCarlo, Northeast Region Director, agreed that increasing the number of regions is a good idea. He tries to make as many of his regional club meetings; but the northeast area is too large. Steve Lang, Midwest Region Director, agreed that redistricting regions would be helpful.

Fred also asked about the Virtual Museum and members submitting pictures. Ferdinand reviewed the Virtual Museum process involved with photographing bottles/collections.

Bruce Shepard, FOHBC member, noted that there are many organizations, such as insulators, that are not considered glass. He suggested joint membership opportunities that could reach out to other glass organizations, groups or clubs. Ferdinand thought that a 'sub-tier' associate membership could include these other groups.

Jake Smith, Southern Region Director, reported that he has many issues with communication involving clubs/show chairman, finding it difficult to get FOHBC information to them. Not just through emails, but also through phone calls – he finds that many do not return calls. Ferdinand said we now have the ability to do mass emailing, using Facebook, etc., to get information out immediately. However, Jake feels we do have to be better at getting the word out and communicate among ourselves.

John O'Neill said that although we do have FOHBC member clubs, we do not have the club's individual member emails (some may be FOHBC members, but some may not). It would be helpful to have an email data base of individual members who would then be included in "email blasts."

It was suggested that region directors could possibly contact clubs and gather information on individual members to begin developing a database. For example, instead of sending email blasts out to 760 FOHBC members, it could be sent to 3,000 antique bottle and glass collectors.

### **AGENDA F: FOHBC 2021 Syracuse National Antique Bottle Show (Berry, Bender)**

Jim and Val Berry reported on the current status of the 2021 Syracuse Show. At this point in time, 12 contracts have been received for a total of 17 tables, 2 banquet reservations and no Early Admissions. We met with staff of the Oncenter and the Crowne Plaza Hotel this past Tuesday (March 9<sup>th</sup>). Currently, with state restrictions and guidelines in place, the Oncenter is closed, and the Crowne Plaza cannot hold large banquets. However, we did continue to talk and get things arranged as if these restrictions and guidelines will be removed. We are all very optimistic about this taking into consideration that vaccinations are happening now and some guidelines in Upstate New York have been revised already.

However, we did set a drop-dead date of June 15<sup>th</sup> for cancellation. If we do not have enough table sales (at least 162; we are hoping for 200 or more).

THIS IS IMPORTANT - We need to let people/dealers know that they cannot wait to send in contracts for tables, early admission or banquet reservations. If they have any thought of attending the show, getting a table or whatever - they need to do it now. We also need to confirm to everyone that there will be a full refund on event sales if the show is cancelled.

Ferdinand said that this information can be done in an 'e-mail blast' as soon as possible. Val and Ferdinand will develop a write-up for this information and put in Facebook, Instagram, etc. as well.

There is no penalty for either the Oncenter or the Crowne Plaza Hotel if the show is cancelled due to the continued issues with the pandemic. However, they were interested in rescheduling our event asap. Possibly 2023 or 2025?

#### **AGENDA G: FOHBC Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention (Siri, Meyer)**

Richard Siri reviewed the status of Reno 2022 (July 28 to July 31, 2022) stating that hotel/show room costs will remain the same as was scheduled for 2020. He has received several inquiries regarding the show (room costs, table cost, etc.). Events being scheduled were discussed (silent auction, bowling, bottle competition).

The Jim Healy raffle jugs will be done for both Reno and Syracuse.

Contracts for Reno 2022 will be available one week prior to the 2021 Syracuse show.

#### **AGENDA H: 2023 – National show break, no show**

The FOHBC continues to hold shows/conventions annually according to our bylaws (Article VII, F1). It was suggested to take a break for 2023 then relook at the schedule for FOHBC national shows.

It was suggested to leave 2023 open as an option for Syracuse if it has to be rescheduled.

#### **AGENDA I: FOHBC 2024 Houston National Antique Bottle Expo (Meyer)**

Ferdinand Meyer spoke of the possibility of Houston, Texas, hosting the FOHBC 2024 Houston Antique Bottle and Glass Exposition (copy on file) at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (at no cost). Host Hotel would be Hotel Zaza Houston Museum District. Ferdinand reviewed the proposed expo event agenda for the dates of Wed., July 31 through Sun., August 4, 2024.

**Action Taken:** At this time, John O'Neill made a motion a vote be taken to consider a national show break for 2023 but hold in reserve for the potential re-scheduling for Syracuse, NY. Motion was seconded by Richard Siri. Vote was taken by board members present and all were in favor. Motion approved.

### **AGENDA J: Virtual Museum Update**

Richard Siri reported stating that new entries are included every day, including great photos and history behind the piece(s). The two photographers, Gina Pellegrini and Alan DeMaison are doing a wonderful job with their photos and spinning images. Work continues although Gina and Alan have chosen not to travel to collections at this time due to the pandemic.

### **AGENDA K: Bottles and Extras Merger and Magazine Status**

Ferdinand Meyer presented a report and reviewed the history of the merger since its inception back in November 2013. [See Presentation.](#)

In the past, John Pastor spoke with Ferdinand about gifting or selling (for \$1.00) *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* as he has been and continues to be interested in concentrating on his primary auction business, American Glass Gallery. This matter was presented to the Board several times with no action being taken. Ferdinand reiterated that both magazines are good for the hobby – they have well designed ads, beautiful covers, lots of content, they are delivered on time, contain stimulating articles and have stable writers.

Recently, discussions have begun again with a committee of Ferdinand, Elizabeth Meyer, John O’Neill, Jeff Wichmann and John Pastor (copy of report on file). Both sides had certain items they sought to preserve particularly the name of the magazine. John O’Neill reported that in discussion, one of the first things they decided was that the name ‘Antique Bottle and Glass Collector’ is the better name. Many other aspects of merging two magazines would be addressed. The magazine would remain at *B & E’s* 72-page color format and continue on a bi-monthly schedule among other things.

The report submitted regarding all the information of the *Bottles and Extras* and *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* magazines was reviewed. Of significant note is an overlap of only 354 people who receive both magazines. That being said, the FOHBC could increase its membership by over 1,100. Pros and Cons were reviewed.

**Action Taken:** At this time, John O’Neill made a motion with support of the Board to authorize the committee to continue looking at the merger of the magazines and developing a subcommittee to bring to membership for a final vote.

Motion was seconded by Richard Siri. Vote was taken by board members present and all were in favor. Motion approved.

### **AGENDA L: Web Site and Social Media (Meyer)**

This item will be discussed at an upcoming conference call with board members as time ran out during this call. **Update:** A follow-up conference call was scheduled to review Agenda L on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm CST. The call was attended by Jim Bender, Jim Berry, Fred DeCarlo, Eric McGuire, Elizabeth Meyer, Ferdinand Meyer, John O’Neill and Jeff Wichmann.

Ferdinand Meyer reviewed the status of the FOHBC web site, the FOHBC Facebook page and the FOHBC Instagram account. All are working in good order. Ian Moody, the new FOHBC social media consultant with Ken Hall was discussed. Ferdinand recommended extending Ian's contract another six (6) months. An email vote will be obtained from the board by Elizabeth Meyer for same as there were not enough board members on the call to call a vote.

Ferdinand noted that the FOHBC was again using MailChimp for online marketing and mass emailing. Similar to Constant Contact etc.

### **AGENDA M: Historical Documentation (Seeliger)**

Michael Seeliger reported that upon joining the FOHBC, he was tasked with three projects. One is obtaining books to be placed in the Virtual Museum Library (with approval from authors to scan and include in the library). A second project is the search of files for collections, large or small, complete or incomplete and past or present. Another project involves obtaining a collection of old photos of collectors, shows, displays, attendance and sales tables to put together a photo history of the early days of bottle collecting pre-2000 or so. Ads have been placed in the magazines (AB&GC and B&E) asking for historical images. At this time, the project is initiated with the collection of Jerry Phelps (showcased in the March/April issue of *Bottles and Extras*).

### **AGENDA N: Auction Price Report (Meyer)**

This item will be discussed at an upcoming conference call with board members as time ran out during this call. **Update:** A follow-up conference call was scheduled to review Agenda N on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm CST. The call was attended by Jim Bender, Jim Berry, Fred DeCarlo, Eric McGuire, Elizabeth Meyer, Ferdinand Meyer, John O'Neill and Jeff Wichmann.

Ferdinand discussed that a potential donor had stated that he would fund the resurrection of the Dealers & Collectors (D&C) Auction Price Results book last printed in 2012. The updated material from 2012 to date could be sold as a book and kept up-to-date using Adobe InDesign publication software. Once we draw a line in the sand, we print but we would keep an up-to-date issue online by making a PDF and uploading to ISSUU page by page software. Jeff Wichmann suggested adding access to his large database of images and videos.

A committee was formed by O'Neill with Jim Bender, Ferdinand Meyer and Jeff Wichmann. The committee will study getting the software for the D&C book. Contacts were Jason Heckler and Bill Meier. Maybe they would donate it to us?

We would also need to add 2012 to 2021 auctions for sections and specific items. We would then add to the FOHBC web site and sell access via PayPal. Members get it free? We could print and sell hardcopy via PayPal. Ferdinand can get budget price. We would need to determine a cost for annual upkeep. Once we agree and define the project, we get a budget cost, then we get back to potential donor. Miguel Ruiz is budget pricing. Jeff will obtain budget pricing too.

### **AGENDA O: Regional Director Reports**

Eric McGuire, Western Region Director, reported that the continued Covid-related lock-down still has a significant effect on bottle collecting activities in the West. Many bottle collectors have resorted to social media to keep in touch with other bottle collectors. The Facebook site, 'California Antique Bottles' gets much interaction with approximately 640 bottle collectors. Meetings, if any, have had low attendance and held outside, wearing masks, not exactly a pleasant experience.

Fred DeCarlo, Northeast Region Director, reported that he has sent emails to the regional clubs encouraging them to keep him informed of any happenings within their club. Many are still not holding meetings due to Covid issues resulting in low attendance. Some Northeast shows are still scheduled for this spring. Many collectors are getting anxious to attend shows in person, including himself.

Steve Lang, Midwest Region Director, reported that the Midwest is doing as well as can be expected. Many clubs are holding their meetings although with low attendance, wearing masks; membership is dwindling with some clubs not collecting dues for 2020. There has been as many shows cancelled as there are still going on. For instance, the St. Louis Club show (March 21) has sold 113 tables (sell out considering the 6' requirement) and also noted that membership to this club is down to 7 members with one person being under the age of 70. The major issue we face is the 'aging' of the collectors and the number of clubs declining.

Jake Smith, Southern Region Director, reported that several shows are scheduled just about every weekend for the upcoming months April, May and June. A few shows held in the southern region in January and February did well with a good amount of table and relatively fair foot traffic.

### **AGENDA P: Hall of Fame and Honor Roll Presentation & Status (E. Meyer)**

Elizabeth Meyer reported that no Honor Roll applications were submitted this year. There is one Hall of Fame nomination of Ferdinand Meyer V submitted by Jim and Val Berry. All board members have received this application. Within a week or two, Elizabeth will send information to the board members for a secret vote – Board Members are to respond to Elizabeth only. Votes are confidential and will be tallied and results will be given when completed. Voting will be validated by one other person and president O'Neill

### **AGENDA Q: Sullivan Bequest**

This item will be discussed at an upcoming conference call with board members as time ran out during this call. **Update:** A follow-up conference call was scheduled to review Agenda Q on Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 6:00 pm CST. The call was attended by Jim Bender, Jim Berry, Fred DeCarlo, Eric McGuire, Elizabeth Meyer, Ferdinand Meyer, John O'Neill and Jeff Wichmann.

Ferdinand reviewed the following letter from Jack Sullivan, FOHBC author and Hall of Fame recipient.

To Whom It May Concern: Since 2011, I have maintained a website called "Pre-Prohibition Whiskey Men" (<https://pre-prowhiskeymen.blogspot.com/>) that contains approaching 900



individual posts and has had more than a million “hits.” The blog is devoted to the distillers, whiskey wholesalers, retail dealers, saloonkeeper, bartenders and others who were the fabric of the American liquor trade before the 1920 imposition of National Prohibition.

In writing those vignettes I often have had the assistance of members of the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (FOHBC), an organization to which I have belonged for many years and believe serves a valuable role. As a result, I hereby grant to the FOHBC the immediate right to use any of the material from the website for such purposes as it deems appropriate and upon my death to claim exclusive rights to such material.

While it is my hope that the body of the website can be maintained as a whole as part of the Library in the FOHBC “Virtual Museum,” this grant is unrestricted. A copy of this document will be filed in my estate folder in order that my heirs may see and respect my wishes.

Ferdinand recommended that we accept and sign the agreement. An email vote will be obtained from the board by Elizabeth Meyer for same. Ferdinand will recommend how we nest on the FOHBC website(s). Ferdinand will confirm if there is any cost exposure though Jack Sullivan previously said there was not.

There is a similar project ongoing to resurrect the Cecil Munsey website. Cecil was a prolific author, FOHBC board member and Hall of Fame recipient. Richard Kramerich and Ferdinand working on tracking down permission as wen site went down after Cecil’s death.

### **General Discussion, Conclusion, Path Forward**

No discussion was held at this time. John and Ferdinand noted during the follow-up conference call that they will be issuing a point-by-point action report on all open items from this meeting

**The conference call was ended at 11:17am CST**

Respectfully submitted,  
Val Berry, Secretary