



Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

FOHBC Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Conference Call / Zoom Meeting

September 29, 2021 8:00pm EST

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

Present: John O'Neill, President
Jeff Wichmann, First Vice-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
Fred DeCarlo, Northeast Region Director
Steve Lang, Midwest Region Director
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Martin Van Zant, Editor

Absent: Jim Bender, Historian
Linda Sheppard, Membership Director
Jake Smith, Southern Region 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 conference/zoom meeting. Roll call was taken for board members. There were no Guests present on the call.

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

John O'Neill explained the pandemic continues to impact the organization. There have been several bottle shows and auctions with good success. Auctions continue to be strong; Jeff Wichmann agreed reporting good prices. Steve Lang reported their local show (with Martin VanZant in Indiana) went well with good attendance and good sales. However, meeting attendance is low. Fred DeCarlo noted that his club in Utica has resumed meetings and their attendance has been near 30. Ferdinand Meyer has seen a lot of activity with show flyers and few cancellations for shows. Elizabeth Meyer noted that show ads for the magazine have been coming in.

AGENDA C: Financial (Berry)

An updated financial report was sent to all board members.

Jim reported that the Syracuse Show checking account was closed. The balance was transferred to the FOHBC checking account. The only outstanding bill for the Syracuse show is from the show ads placed in John Pastor's magazine.

At this time, our finances are low. Although there is some money coming in from memberships, ads, etc., by the time payroll is done along with the next edition of the magazine, we will not have much left. Jim explained the current situation with more money going out than coming in. Since July 1, 2021 our income is at \$8,329 to date. Our expenses total \$17,217. The Federation has been in the red every year since 2018 (when Jim took over as Treasurer). Not having a show in the past two years, has certainly hurt our bottom line.

Jim speculates that we will have to withdraw from an investment account again – we should be okay to cover the Nov/Dec magazine, but that's it for 2021. No action required at this time.

Elizabeth Meyer has reduced the printed count of the magazine from 1,000 to 900. She will also cut down the number of copies that are sent to regional directors, show chairs, etc., as well as the number of extras sent to her.

Jeff Wichmann feels that the FOHBC should start a membership drive and is willing to head this up. He thinks it would be very successful. Elizabeth Meyer is offering to help. Several suggestions to encourage memberships were given; this will be followed up later.

AGENDA D: FOHBC Reposition Presentation Status (Meyer, et al)

In March 2021, Ferdinand developed and presented to the Board, a 12-step presentation to increase membership, operations and positions. The FOHBC and the hobby itself is at risk with the changing world compounded by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Therefore, we need to understand who we are and where we are going. This information was posted in the magazine and the website receiving several positive comments. Ferdinand did not receive any comments regarding the presentation from Board members.

However, most responses he received concerned positive comments such as holding Zoom seminars and Zoom meetings to connect with our membership. This is another plus as an FOHBC member to be able to attend a monthly presentation on something they may be interested in. For example, seeing someone's collection, speaking on a topic, hold a 'bottle show' or a digging excursion, just to name a few.

Michael Seeliger was working on a Warner's presentation for the Syracuse show; he is willing to be the first to present his seminar via Zoom. Ferdinand will help Michael with this endeavor. This 'test case' will enable us to critique what we did wrong or right and improve. Once we start this, it should have a good following. John O'Neill felt there are many options available, including generating a revenue

source as many other organizations charge a minimal amount. Ferdinand agreed stating that this enhances FOHBC member benefits (getting auction price reports, access to the Virtual Museum, discounts at national shows, stellar magazine, zoom seminars), as most people just associate the FOHBC with getting a magazine.

Fred DeCarlo asked what the options are if someone cannot attend. The seminars could be recorded and archived.

AGENDA E: Board Positions and Election Status (E. Meyer, V. Berry)

Elizabeth Meyer reported that in May 2021, she contacted every current Board member to see if they would agree to stay on for another term. All were in favor of staying except Jim Bender, Historian and Linda Sheppard, Membership Director. This leaves several positions open (Conventions Director, Historian, Director-at-Large, Membership Director, Public Relations Director). Ferdinand noted there may be someone interested in serving on the board. He reminded board members that due to the pandemic, we are not following our bylaws. The goal should be to get back on track with our two-year election process.

Jim Berry inquired as to why two positions, Jim Bender and Linda Sheppard, were taken off the list in the Sept/Oct magazine. Ferdinand understood that they did not want to continue, however, no election was held. John O'Neill will contract Jim and Linda personally.

It was noted that Jim Bender was our liaison/consultant to the National Bottle Museum and was investigating using museum space for the FOHBC history.

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

Other than repeating that the checking account was closed, Jim said there has been no response from John Pastor regarding payment for Syracuse ads placed in his magazine.

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). Tables are being reserved as well as several displays. Ferdinand asked if there are any restrictions in place at Reno. Richard said at this time, there are no restrictions, such as capacity. Ferdinand will complete the souvenir program for Reno.

AGENDA H: 2023 – National show break, no show

The FOHBC will not hold a national show in the year 2023.

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

Ferdinand Meyer is not hopeful about the possibility of the National Show in Houston, Texas for 2024. No other information is available at this time.

AGENDA J: Virtual Museum Update (Meyer, Siri)

Ferdinand continues to send out daily reports on entries into the VM. He noted that due to the pandemic, things were put on hold for about a year or so. Alan DeMaison has begun to visit those in the Northeast imaging collections. Gina Pellegrini has started a family and not as active as previous. However, Eric McGuire has joined the group and will be the Western station and they are working on getting him set up. Stations are also needed in the Northeast, East or South. The VM will fund it, but you have to be a photographer and able to use the computer. There is much traffic on the site. Financially, the VM is in good shape.

The conference call was ended at 9:01pm EST

The next Zoom meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 8pm EST

Respectfully submitted,
Val Berry, Secretary

AGENDA K: *Bottles and Extras* Merger and Magazine Status (O'Neill, Meyer, Wichmann)

AGENDA L: Web Site and Social Media (Meyer)

AGENDA M: Historical Documentation (Seeliger)

AGENDA N: Auction Price Report (Wichmann)

AGENDA O: Regional Director Reports

AGENDA P: Hall of Fame and Honor Roll (E. Meyer)

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AGENDA Q: Sullivan Bequest

AGENDA R: FOHBC Book Publishing (Meyer)

AGENDA S: General Discussion, Display Awards, Conclusion, Path Forward

Respectfully submitted,
Val Berry, Secretary