

FOHBC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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The 2019 FOHBC 50th Anniversary National Antique Bottle Convention in Augusta, Georgia is just around the corner. I got a very encouraging email from Team Augusta member Eric Warren with the latest updates. Table numbers are picking up. We are starting to see the hotel room blocks fill up. A number of board members made reservations at the Augusta Marriott, our host hotel, as the room blocks are beginning to fill. Make sure to call to make your reservations as well so you can get in under the special show rate and not have to find another hotel once the room block is full.

We were reminded at the recent board meeting of how important this year's convention is to the collecting community. This is our 50TH ANNIVERSARY! This year represents 50 years of amazing shows and all of the legends that have made them possible. We are working to plan some special treats for this upcoming convention. One of the things the FOHBC is looking at is creating a special historical display representing the past 50 years to honor those who have kept this hobby strong. We look forward to celebrating with each one of you in Augusta.

I also want to assure you that there will be some great bottles available in the major collecting categories. I know I am personally excited to see some of the great historical flasks that will be hitting the tables at the show, and hopefully will find a few nice additions for my shelves. I think we sometimes forget that these are national events and dealers travel in from all over the country, offering some of the best bottles and glass to be purchased by the swift and ready collector.

My family and I have been making plans to travel to Georgia prior to the convention. We are planning to fly into Atlanta and spend a day visiting the Georgia Aquarium. I recently learned it is the largest Aquarium in the world and the only one in North America with Whale Sharks. How exhilarating! We also would like to spend some time visiting some of the amazing historic sites that Georgia has to offer.

Speaking of local attractions, we just got back from the Baltimore bottle show where prior to we took our 10 year old son, Owen, to visit the National Aquarium. John and Louis Fifer joined us for the occasion, and we had a blast. We did this to kick off the weekend, followed by the FOHBC bi-annual board meeting which was followed by a fantastic show. The Baltimore crew always does a fine job and hats off to them for another very successful year. I know we all appreciate it. The show had incredible attendance and the general gate was very large yet again.

The board meeting was extremely productive to say the least. When assembling the agenda, I realized I scheduled 6 hours of content in a

hour window. Knowing that wasn't going to fly, it was trimmed down to a very intense 4 hours in which we covered a lot of topics. We, of course, discussed the upcoming Augusta itinerary. We also discussed the 2020 Reno National show and the RFPs for the 2021 Northeast National show. I cannot wait until we can announce details on the 2020 Reno National Convention and Expo! The rates that Richard Siri has worked to negotiate are unbelievable. It is very exciting, and more details will come soon!

We have also gotten a few inquiries back on possible locations to host the 2021 National Convention in the Northeast region. It is NOT too late to submit an RFP. Please contact Jeff Ullman or Lindsey Fifer, and we would be glad to assist in any way we can. Remember we are looking to make these events cost effective for everyone, and give everyone the ability to attend and enjoy the FOHBC National Conventions. We are here to help you if you should decide to submit a proposal. We have also assembled an operations guide to make the planning process easy on the selected team. This guide details out all of the requirements, details and tasks involved in putting on one of these events. Additionally, we have a great board with many experience show or convention chairs that are willing to work closely with the team.

Switching gears a bit, I am excited as spring arrives here in Northeast Ohio. The weather is slowly warming up and we have been out probing and digging. Unfortunately, we have dug a few "dry" pits recently, but getting outside and enjoying some fresh air is well worth it. The stories behind these digs are sometimes the best part. If you are out digging, consider taking some pictures and writing your story for the magazine. We would love to hear about your experience and enjoy a good digging story! You do not have to be a professional writer. Draft up an article and send us a few pictures. Our staff will edit and lay out the photos to make your article look great for all readers to enjoy.

The same goes for anyone attending a bottle show. We would love to hear about your experience and observations. I have heard so many great stories about shows over the years, but many of them have never been printed. Shows are still at the core of our hobby and there are always interesting things that happen. We would love to hear from you.

I have also been closely observing debate about the large number of bottle auctions this past March. Is it good or bad for the hobby? There are so many different perspectives on this topic. I personally was curious as to how prices would fare with so much great glass available. As I write this, I am also watching the final hours of those auctions. I can say that I think the prices are doing well for the amount of great items available. I am hoping to see an article soon weighing in on the many perspectives of the current markets. This topic sure has generated a lot of buzz.

In closing, there are a lot of great things happening in this hobby. It is sometimes easy to lose sight of all the positive great things that champions of this hobby are doing. It is because of you that we continue to see excitement and energy around the great events in the world of glass.

As always, I look forward to serving you!