

# FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**JOHN O'NEILL**

**President | Federation of  
Historical Bottle Collectors**  
1805 Ralston Avenue,  
Belmont, California 94002  
650.619.8209  
[Joneill@risk-strategies.com](mailto:Joneill@risk-strategies.com)

I want to start by wishing all of you a very happy and healthy new year in 2022. And with this New Year comes a New Beginning in many ways for the FOHBC. If we have learned anything from the past few years, nothing remains the same. In the spirit of Charles Darwin, we must evolve and adapt to a new landscape brought about by a pandemic, an aging group of collectors, and a financial position that requires a new approach.

We must stay relevant to our readers and our fellow antique bottle collecting enthusiasts and attract the next generation of younger collectors. With that said, 2022 is going to see some significant improvements to our FOHBC platform. Continuing to go down the same path was not going to save the organization from what I believe was a slow, gradual decline into the potential dismantling of the FOHBC. This sentiment was shared by current and past board members as well. The Covid-19 Pandemic exacerbated the problem to a level that change was required from a survival perspective. The board has been pushing efforts to develop what it hopes will be the best possible outcomes, so I lay the following upon your door-step in preparation for a brighter tomorrow. The FOHBC has several initiatives starting with what will surely be a new direction for our organization.

In our March–April 2022 magazine issue, you will see our publication's new name, evolving from *Bottles and Extras* to *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* as John Pastor has gifted his magazine to the FOHBC. The merger of the two magazines will be conducted under the leadership and direction of board member and past president, Ferdinand Meyer V. Our magazine will still be the same 72-page, all-color content distributed six times a year. There will be some new additions to our writing staff and a continuation of a number of our favorite authors. We think it's taking the best of both worlds and creating a new dynamic publication that will cover many bottle collecting areas of interest.

The combination will increase our membership by about 1100 new members to the FOHBC, further enhancing the hobby with a consolidated voice and publication. This membership boost will, in turn, translate to solid financial footing, and this is just the start of what we are building for you, the members.

The FOHBC Virtual Museum now has three imaging specialists with the recent addition of Eric McGuire from Petaluma, California. This additional new imaging station will add more high-resolution turntable specimen images to the galleries as we expand and open additional galleries. Soon we will be announcing new categories of bottles such as ACL sodas, milk and cream bottles, black glass, and pot lids. The museum is very well-received, and we will continue to add new content just as quickly as possible. This monumental endeavor allows us to broaden our reach and appeal to National and International collectors.

The FOHBC will also release its *Auction Price Guide* in 2022, which will provide the last ten years of auction data from all the major auction house sites for antique bottles and glass. The guide is free to FOHBC members and will hopefully encourage new FOHBC members. For example, if you find yourself at a bottle show wanting to know what a particular bottle is worth, you pull out your mobile device, open your internet browser, and log on to the web-



site to access the *Auction Price Guide*. You will then see the price records of that bottle you searched for in dated order every time it sold. What a great technological tool and resource for our members! Jeff Wichmann and Ferdinand Meyer are heading up this project with the board in full support to bring this to reality.

If this is not enough, how about our National Antique Bottle Show held at the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno, Nevada, in August 2022? The show chairs are Richard and Bev Siri, who have done so much for our hobby. Reno has always been a blockbuster location with what I believe will be a sellout of tables. With all the passion and excitement building for the past two years, it's a must-attend event. I have always come away from the Western Shows with fantastic new additions to my collection, and the feedback has historically been exceptional. These shows have also produced stellar financial results, which have further bolstered the FOHBC's financial position. Please make your travel plans and room reservations now, as this will sell out. Also, Reno and the surrounding silver mining town of Virginia City will give you an authentic glimpse of the Old West as it was. The gaming tables might add to your experience as well.

And, did I mention that we are focusing on education with online seminars? These video-conference seminars will be free to members and will hopefully encourage new members to join the FOHBC. This project is being led by collecting veteran Michael Seeliger. The seminars are being planned over the next year on a Zoom or Microsoft Teams platform where you can log on and enjoy seeing a presentation, a collection, and have a great learning experience. This effort will benefit all of us through the social experience and acquired knowledge.

Additionally, restructuring the FOHBC board into new, more relevant positions and more meaningful regions will allow us to have better representation and responsiveness to our clubs and members.

The regions as they stand now are too large for adequate representation. The United States is a geographically large place, and smaller is better for effective leadership and representation. Everyone should know and see their regional representatives at the shows and bring issues they feel are essential to our attention. We are currently exploring increasing our regions from four to seven.

Tiered membership options are also being considered based on membership wants and needs; from a very basic membership to a deluxe membership category providing the broadest range of services and availability to all products and services.

We have not had an election of FOHBC officers since 2018, as the 2020 elections were cancelled due to Covid. Our next elections will be held this coming year. The closing date for nominations is April 1, 2022, at midnight. Additional nominations will be printed alongside the slate proposed by the nominating committee. They will be listed in the May-June 2022 issue of our magazine, along with a short biography of each candidate. FOHBC members will vote by a form provided by mail. The new board members will be announced after a vote count at the annual Membership Meeting Breakfast at the FOHBC Reno 2022 bottle convention on Friday, July 29, 2022. More information is provided in Member News within this issue.

So as you can see, the future is bright for all of us. I want to encourage all of you to think about how you can assist the FOHBC in volunteering to benefit the hobby all of us appreciate and enable future generations of collectors to learn from your efforts. Thanks again for your membership, your financial support, and the sharing of your knowledge.