

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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First, I would like to welcome all of the new *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* subscribers to the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (FOHBC). We hope you will find our inaugural issue of *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* (AB&GC) informative and enjoyable. Yes, the *Bottles and Extras* name is now part of Federation history and has been retired. I would also like to thank our members for bearing with us during these ex-

traordinary times as we strive to make our organization stronger and our great hobby even better.

We are thrilled to be able to provide good content and well-written articles on digging, historical information, and even fiction behind the antique bottles we collect. We are also trying to give you the best of both publications coming together in a united magazine that will keep you informed on so many fronts. This issue and the planned issues ahead are packed with information and great articles.

I encourage all of our members to go to our FOHBC.org website and look at FOHBC history that goes back to 1959 with the founding of the Antique Bottle Collector's Club by John Tibbitts in Sacramento, California. That was the official beginning in 1969 of the Federation of Historical Bottles Clubs, as it was first called.

Our FOHBC website has all sorts of great information and content. We have a members portal where you can gain additional access to the site with a password. On our website, you can find the latest FOHBC news, information about our officers and board members, history, national convention information, a member list, and even readable copies of all the previous magazine issues going all the way back to our original newsletters forming the roots of our organization. Additionally, we will also be archiving all the past issues of AB&GC. The site also provides the latest information on the Virtual Museum, which keeps adding so much great glass that it is hard to keep up with.

Our regional directors are well-known across the country. They frequently attend shows in their regions and act as liaisons between our members and the board. I am always open to receiving positive and negative comments to better your organization. I encourage participation on all levels.

I want to personally thank John Pastor for gifting his AB&GC magazine to the FOHBC which will allow him to focus on his antique bottle auctions at American Glass Gallery. I also want

to thank Jeff Wichmann for his significant contributions as Vice President. Jeff (and an anonymous donor) donated the proceeds of a green Drake's Plantation Bitters to the FOHBC, which amounted to \$27,000, and John Pastor graciously donated his commission on this sale. Jeff, who also runs American Bottle Auctions, also provided new FOHBC memberships to all winning bidders in his recent auction. A huge thanks to Ferdinand and Elizabeth Meyer, who put this magazine together, keep the engine on the tracks, and all the other board members who graciously give their time and dedication.

Nothing happens without our volunteers, so consider participating by giving some of your time back to a hobby from which everyone receives a great deal of pleasure. Since we have so many new members, I hope you will take the opportunity to consider serving in some capacity to work with your fellow collectors. This might involve serving on a local club board or stepping up and joining our board of directors for the FOHBC. We have several open positions that we would love to fill to complete our board which is working well together to put out our magazine, virtual museum, national convention, and conduct the business of the organization. A dozen or so other significant initiatives are in the works.

It may be as simple as writing an article and having it published in our magazine, whether a report on a recent dig or your specific collecting interest that you would like to share with our readers. We appreciate anything you wish to contribute.

Our upcoming Reno 2022 national show will be a blockbuster, so I encourage you to get your room reservations as soon as possible. If you want to participate by buying a sales table or helping with any of the scheduled components or events, just visit our website for the information. I thank Richard Siri, our show chairman, and our Reno 22 team for their outstanding work to date.

The closing out of 2021 ended a year filled with tremendous challenges due to the pandemic and some of the most rewarding digging I had personally done in a number of years. 2022 looks like another year of wonderful opportunities with lots of plans on the drawing boards. Life is what you make of it, and you need to get out and do what you're comfortable with while still maintaining your safety. The more you seek, the more you will find.

I wish you a successful search for new acquisitions and additions to your collections in 2022, and I sincerely hope you will reach out and say hello to our board members when you see them at the local shows, which are the backbone of the hobby. Let them know if you have suggestions the board should consider, or just a simple thank you for their efforts on behalf of the hobby.

