

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MICHAEL SEELIGER

President Federation of
Historical Bottle Collectors

N8211 Smith Road,
Brooklyn, Wisconsin 53521
608.575.2922
mwseeliger@gmail.com



Greetings from your new President.

Most of you probably do not know me, so let me tell you a little bit about how I got here.

I began collecting ruby red Schlitz beer bottles while out hunting game in the 1970s at the request of my mother. She traded them for antiques at shops in

the Midwest. I found older bottles much more interesting when I found five Warner bottles on a farmer's hillside. I was hooked! I helped form and was active in the South Central Wisconsin Bottle Club in the 70s. Then I put bottle collecting aside when Alice and I started raising our two boys. Bill Mitchell got me back into the hobby in the 1990s and I have been hooked again ever since.

My primary passion is H. H. Warner and Dr. Charles Craig products. I wrote my first book in 1974 and have been redoing it for the last few years in digital format. (It's about 700 pages now!) Though I've been a Federation member for many years, it was only recently that I took a really active interest and offered a few suggestions. You know how that goes...so here I am. (And, incidentally, I twisted my wife Alice's arm enough to get her involved also.)

I'll admit to being an early doubter and late adopter to all this Internet stuff but now I couldn't function without it, and my bottle collecting ability has increased by leaps and bounds. It is also how I keep in contact with collectors around the world. I realized their stories are being lost and that there is a way to save and share those stories through the Federation's resources. That's how I came to spearhead the request for photos, articles, and stories from the past and I'm excited to get these in to the Federation's website for all to see.

A tremendous amount of work has been done to get us to the point of having so many resources at our fingertips – An active and committed Board of Directors, National Conventions, the Virtual Museum, FOHBC website, FOHBC Facebook and Instagram page, Auction Price Report and the official publication of FOHBC—*Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*. None of this would have happened if not for the inspiration and dedication of key members who have stepped forward through the years to bring you these resources. You simply must take full advantage of being a FOHBC member to fully understand what the FOHBC has to offer.

It goes without saying, the last couple of years have been rough because of Covid 19. Reno 2022 is our phoenix, so to speak, and

I'm grateful we're all still here. I would like to thank:

- all the FOHBC Members and AB&GC subscribers who stuck with us as we completed the monumental task of combining *Bottles and Extras* and *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* magazines.

- Team Reno 2022

- All our great writers who contribute to the magazine and editors, designers and proofreaders who make us look good.

- The collectors who have invited the Virtual Museum team into their homes to share their collections.

- The advertisers who continuously support the FOHBC.

- Small to large donors who have supported the FOHBC, Virtual Museum and Auction Price Report.

- National convention sellers, buyers, volunteers, displayers and attendees.

To continue making FOHBC a strong organization of great benefit to its membership, here are just a few items I will be championing:

- Bylaws. Review/Revision to bring them up to date.

- Gathering the stories, photos, books and resources of our members to share with others.

- Soliciting input from membership through a user-friendly survey.

- Revisiting dues structure, advertising rates, financial status.

- Increasing Federation presence at local shows.

- and that's just the beginning!

None of this can happen without help from many more members. I will be forming committees to take on these, and other, tasks that are vital for the health and longevity of this organization. I hope you will step forward with enthusiasm and help the FOHBC continue to be an organization you can be proud of.

P.S. Just wrapped up the Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention at publication deadline. Fantastic Success! Many thanks to all who made this possible. I hope you found bottles you could not live without! More on this in the next issue.

