

Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

FOHBC Bi-Annual Board Meeting Minutes

28 July 2022, 8:00 am, Reno, Nevada

President John O'Neill called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees including guests and those joining by Zoom.

Present: John O'Neill, President
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager
Ferdinand Meyer V, Director at Large
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Michael Seeliger, Second Vice President
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director (Zoom)
Richard Siri, Director at Large [Brief overview, then went to showroom set up]
Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary

Absent: Jeff Wichmann, First Vice President
Jake Smith, Southern Region Director
James Berry, Treasurer

Guests: Richard Kramerich (Zoom)
Craig Cassetta
Bella Alucema
DeAnna Jordt, Reno 2022 Treasurer
Gina Pellegrini-Ott, FOHBC Photographer



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AGENDA Item:

A: Call to Order (O'Neill) Welcome, Attendance, Roll Call, Guest Recognition

John O'Neill welcomed all who were in attendance for the Bi-Annual Board Meeting. Roll call was taken for board members (seven members present). Ferdinand Meyer noted that the Secretary prepares minutes of meeting, distributes first to Business Manager and President. After they approve the minutes they are to be sent to all board members with a note that changes need to be noted within one week. After that time, Ferdinand will place them on the website. Ferd noted that all committee meetings/calls should have minutes which should be distributed in the same way. Ferd also adds links to the minutes in Member News at FOHBC.org

O'Neill noted that while we welcome guests, they will not be permitted to make any comments during the meeting. There was not a blanket invite sent out due to changes in procedures during Covid-19.

B: FOHBC Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention

Ferdinand Meyer V and DeAnna Jordt gave an update on the convention. There are 160 paid tables, 103 vendors, 115 banquet reservations (87 prepaid, 28 walk ins), 121 VIPs (early admission), 76 for the member breakfast and 10 displayers. Bills are coming in from the hotel. A deposit of \$13,284 was paid for food, beverages and rooms. Income received to checking account and paypal is \$41,200. So far known expenses are approximately \$23,000. Ferd noted that he had sent in the souvenir program printing and shipping invoice.

Ferd noted that convention records are now being kept since he started keeping track in 2012. A profit and loss statement will be prepared and sent to Michael Seeliger, Elizabeth Meyer, and Ferdinand Meyer for

FOHBC Bi-annual Board Meeting Minutes

28 July 2022

review. When approved, it will be distributed to the board. It may take three months to get a final P & L statement for review. Ferd also noted that the Reno 2022 Souvenir program has received \$17,400 in paid ads to more than cover the cost of production which is \$5,200. So we will have a nice profit from that.

The Reno Shoot Out is set for tonight (Thursday). Alice Seeliger will help Richard Siri.

The Membership Breakfast on Friday morning is open only to paid members. This is not a show expense but rather an FOHBC expense.

Ferd briefly went over the Convention Schedule noting that the ribbon cutting will be at 12:50 on Friday and the cost of early admission is \$100. The Convention will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday for \$5. Jeff Wichmann has donated \$1,000 for hourly drawings (10 on Friday and Saturday). Vouchers must be spent at the show. Alan de Maison will be demonstrating the Virtual Museum and accepting bottles for photographing. Though we have a lower registration due to Covid, illnesses, etc., we anticipate a very successful show. It was agreed that the tablecloths the Federation purchased some time ago will be given to dealers at the end of show to eliminate the effort required to ship, clean, fold, package, and store them.

The Convention has been promoted heavily in Reno newspapers and TV and the display of the S.S. Central America Gold Treasure Artifacts should bring in more of the general public.

O'Neill thanked Team Reno 2022 and anyone else who has helped.

C. State of the Hobby & State of FOHBC

O'Neill said he felt like he was a "war-time president" with all the difficulties caused by Covid 19. Two shows were lost. And even though we received negative comments when the 2020 show was cancelled, it would have been a financial disaster to continue.

Investments in the Future of FOHBC include:

-Magazine merger – very successful and has put us in a better financial position while bringing in more members.

-Auction Price Report is now on line for paid FOHBC members. This is a huge benefit for members who can see 10 years' worth of auction sales.

-Insurance coverage is available to any member club for their club membership of \$75/year which will cover shows and any events held by the club. O'Neill noted this is a great cost-saving benefit for member clubs and we will be promoting it more heavily.

-Virtual Museum has new bottles added every couple of days by Ferd and this will continue to be a big member benefit going forward.

-O'Neill stated that the Federation is in a better position now than when he started he and is proud of that. He will continue to be available as a board member to help in any way he can.

Michael Seeliger agreed with everything O'Neill said and emphasized that he will be particularly focused on making sure members know all the benefits that are available to them. There are many discoveries to be enjoyed by going through the Membership Portal—more than he had initially understood.

Seeliger stated that he will also be continuing his project of recording member stories, knowledge, books, etc. to add to the Reference Library and is looking forward to interviewing many members.

D. Financial Report

FOHBC Bi-annual Board Meeting Minutes

28 July 2022

In Jim Berry's absence, O'Neill presented a financial report comparing profit and loss from June 2021 to June 2022. Our position decreased by \$41,000 due to magazine combination/start-up costs and no shows for two years. And a \$21,000 decrease in investment principal due to market conditions. Shows bring in an average of \$10,000 to \$12,000 in profit through the auctions and donations. He noted that the Cleveland show lost \$30,000.

The Board reviewed and agreed to leave the investments where they are.

Donations received for the Virtual Museum are substantial and no money comes from the Federation for the VM.

AB&GC magazine will be profitable (advertising rates will be reviewed and are definitely due for increases). It is anticipated that the magazine will bring approximately \$75,000/year profit to the Federation.

Ferd noted that he and Elizabeth are seeing a substantial increase in calls from new members. We received a free membership list from the major bottle auction houses and we need to connect with these potential members.

Currently the Federation has about \$80,000/year in expenses and 1800 members including 140-160 life members and 65 clubs (at \$75/year). A dues increase is something to consider in order to at least cover the cost of the magazine. The goal is for the magazine to pay for itself through advertising revenue.

An independent audit of the Virtual Museum and Federation is in process. Bonding is still needed and O'Neill will spearhead a review of what is needed and make recommendations to the board. Board members and members are currently covered under liability insurance.

O'Neill asked for acceptance of the financial statements, Eric McGuire seconded the motion, unanimous acceptance by board. (It was noted that Richard Siri gave his proxy vote to O'Neill)

E. FOHBC Reposition Overview & Status

F. Meyer reminded board members of The NEW FOHBC report he presented on March 13, 2021 which included 12 steps. He went over the 12 steps and noted the status of each:

Step 1: Merge Magazines. Done as of January 2022

Step 2: Virtual Museum. Up and running with additions every few days.

Step 3: National Exposure. Needs direction confirmed. Transitioning to 2-year intervals for national shows with no show in 2023 and Houston in 2024. No further events are in planning stage.

Step 4: Research Archives. Needs direction confirmed. Major archiving has been completed, need to continue with magazines, on-going project.

Step 5: Communication. Confirm direction. Need PR director in house or hire someone.

Step 6: Financial Security. Confirm direction, but currently in a good place.

Step 7: Education. Stalled. Need to start up periodic zoom educational presentations ie Ohio Bottle Club

Step 8: Bottle Shows--Virtual. Initiative stalled. Jeff and Holly Noordsy and the Bottle, Jar & Insulator group have been successful in selling bottles on line. We need to follow their lead and have web-site bottle shows and on-line sales.

FOHBC Bi-annual Board Meeting Minutes

28 July 2022

Step 9: Just Plain Fun. Initiative Stalled. Activities like bottle digs, field trips, events to entice young people to join the hobby need to be explored and implemented.

Step 10: Restructuring the board. Initiative stalled. This needs to be re-addressed with new board. Must be done in conjunction with Bylaws revisions project.

Step 11: New tiers of membership. Initiative stalled. Need to address along with raising rates, etc.

Step 12: Restructure Regions. Initiative stalled. New Board needs to address along with Bylaws revisions.

XX: Nuclear Options. Confirm direction. On hold as we regroup.

Option A. Shut down Federation

Option B. Shut down FOHBC. Privatize AB&GC, Virtual Museum and Auction Price Report

Ferd noted that we are only reaching approximately 1 percent of potential members. We need to work on this. The magazine has been the biggest accomplishment but it is frustrating that many of these items were derailed. He expects that magazines will all be on line within five years and printing AB&GC will be eliminated.

O'Neill saw no reason to think about the Nuclear Options. We just need to continue working the other steps.

Ferd and Elizabeth are excited about the new energy being brought into the Federation with new board members and will continue working to make the Federation all it can be.

Agenda F. Board Positions and Elections

Alice Seeliger presented the Slate of Officers for the 2022-2024 Board of Directors. All positions are unopposed and several positions remain vacant. The slate was accepted by the current board. Alice will present it at the General Membership meeting without requiring a vote since there are no positions having opponents. Eric McGuire noted that he has a new phone number.

Agenda G. FOHBC Bylaws

O'Neill made a motion that a committee be formed to review the bylaws and present changes to the Board. Discussion: Ferd noted that if the bylaws are changed the President must present them to the board, then to membership through a zoom meeting in August 2023 to be ratified, and then they will be placed on the website. Seeliger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda H. Incoming President Thoughts

Michael Seeliger said he is looking forward to his presidency and will need the help of many people to accomplish our goals. Just as he got involved when he came up with suggestions, he encourages those with ideas on how to make the Federation better to step forward and get involved.

Agenda I. 2023 – National show break, no show

Ferd made a motion to not have a show in 2023. Alice seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda J. FOHBC 2024 Houston National Antique Bottle Convention and Expo

FOHBC Bi-annual Board Meeting Minutes

28 July 2022

Ferd has set up a team and has already begun working on this. He presented a flyer which has been published in the souvenir program and the magazine. The use of the facility, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, is being donated. The event will feature the collection of Sandor P. Fuss and the David P. Wilber and Anthony Gugliotti Collections. There will be private tours of the Museum and Museum District, FOHBC Show & Sale, and Exhibits, board and membership meetings, and Peachridge Glass VIP Open House.

Dealer space will be limited so early reservations will be recommended.

Elizabeth and Ferd Meyer have formed Peachridge Collections LLC which will put on shows such as this and publish books. An outside party will be paying Ferd to act as consultant so he will be wearing two hats: Federation and Peachridge Collections, LLC. He will recuse himself from any votes put forth by the Federation. The Board saw no downsides in proceeding.

Ferd asked for approval to proceed. O'Neill made a motion to have the 2024 Houston Show under Ferd's direction. Michael Seeliger seconded. Motion carried unanimously by all board members present. Ferd recused himself from the vote.

Agenda K. Virtual Museum Update

Galleries are coming along, there are 600 spinners, the research section/Resource library is being worked on. (*Every Bottle Has a Story*) The Gift Shop will be updated to accept payments on line.

It was noted that the Virtual Museum is funded totally by donations and none of the Federation money has been or is used to fund the project. The Board previously approved continuing the VM as a member benefit with no paid admission so that it will be another reason to join the FOHBC.

L. Antique Bottle & Glass Collector Magazine

Ferd noted that the merger has been a great success and was completed in early 2022. Alice Seeliger joined the magazine as a volunteer proofreader. The magazine is self-funding based on advertising revenue. Ferd is currently paid \$1200 for each issue. It would cost a great deal more to outsource this. Ferd enjoys doing the magazine and plans to continue. He notes we are putting out a quality publication, appreciates Alice's expertise, and has received a lot of positive feedback. He is keeping a tight schedule and the only delays were caused by printer issues which are being resolved.

M. Web Site & Social Media

Ferd said it is a challenge to get the message of the VM out to people. It provides the most up-to-date listing of shows and bottle-related news. Chi-Chi, Jeff Wichmann's assistant will be helping to send out show packets to those who are placing ads which will help get FOHBC in front of them. We need a video and YouTube link to share our message. It was agreed that we should produce a two-page spread in the magazine explaining the web site and how to navigate through it. Miguel continues to work on setting up other ways to pay through the web site rather than have to call Elizabeth to finalize transactions.

N. Historical Documentation

Michael indicated he had pretty much covered this under other agenda items discussions.

O. Auction Price Report

The APR went live on Facebook yesterday! There was a surge from members to find their passwords or join FOHBC to gain access. Jeff Wichmann paid for Bill Meyer's consultation services. A budget will be

FOHBC Bi-annual Board Meeting Minutes
28 July 2022

set up for future activities of adding bottles. Jeff Wichmann will chair a committee with Miguel and Ferd as members and Bill Meyer as technical support.

Ferd noted Andy Kaufman is still running other auctions.

P. Regional Directors

O'Neill and M. Seeliger have reviewed the bylaws and recognize that the redistricting will require changes to the bylaws so this will be a part of that project.

Q. Hall of Fame and Honor Roll

No more than two people can be added each year. Willy Van den Bossche was added in 2020 and Ferd in 2021. This year Jerry McCann was nominated by Joe Colson but the process was stalled. We will need to go back to Joe and explain we are doing it a different way. Willy's and Ferd's awards will be displayed at Reno 2022.

Currently two plaques and books are prepared. As a result, there are boxes of the duplicate plaques currently being stored at Michael Seeliger's house. The awards were meant to be displayed at Federation shows but it is too cumbersome and costly to continue to hold them to ship to and display at shows. Jim Bender has a video that was produced of previous awards to show at FOHBC events and it needs to be updated. Discussion commenced about what to do with the stored duplicate plaques. Suggestions were to send them to the recipient, recipients' families, or recipients' clubs. No action taken at this time.

R. Work & Task Distribution

It is essential that we find people to do tasks. Ferd will work on defining what needs to be done including club assistance, member portal, show postings, archiving, ad sales.

The Board and Committees need to continue meeting through zoom calls and emails to accomplish tasks at hand and keep the Federation moving forward.

S. General Discussion

Ferd asked that we all title emails with the topic so that it is easier to search through.

There is a protocol for operating the Federation that has been set up through the Bylaws. Board members should familiarize themselves with procedures and follow them as closely as possible.

O'Neill closed the meeting at 12:00.

The foregoing conveys our understanding of items discussed and decisions reached during this meeting. The FOHBC will assume these notes correct and as a matter of record unless notice to the contrary is brought to our attention within one (1) week of the issue date of these meeting notes.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary