

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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We are off into the 2022-23 FOHBC year with a bang. The Reno 2022 National Antique Bottle Convention was spectacular and proved to be just what collectors had been waiting for. This issue of *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* covers the show beautifully and, in case you were unable to attend, highlights just what you missed.

This September there were shows galore and October's schedule ensures it will be a great month also. The bottle-collecting hobby is getting back on track after Covid wreaked havoc on everyone. From what I am seeing, there is a lot of enthusiasm! Make sure you read our expanded Regional News on page 9.

The Reno Convention was well-attended, and the displays were fantastic. The *S.S. Central America* exhibit brought in a lot of non-bottle collectors so we had a lot of "new" people milling about the show asking about the hobby. Richard Siri and his team did a fantastic job of organizing the show and Gina Pellegrini-Ott, our photographer, captured many wonderful moments throughout the weekend which you will see in this issue. There are many people to thank for the success of the show so take special note of those who are listed throughout the special Reno 2022 section. It almost goes without saying but, once again, Ferd Meyer unselfishly donated countless hours to the design and planning of every poster, ad, souvenir program; (sold out all ad space) and event coordination. I thank each and every one of you who helped in any way.

I am pleased to say we had a very good response to my request for volunteers and we have been able to get things moving on several fronts. We always welcome more help, input and ideas. We have set up a bylaws review committee chaired by Steve Jackson to look over our bylaws and suggest changes to get them to better reflect the needs of our hobby today. We also have a few new board members and we welcome Craig Cassetta, Charlie Martin Jr., and Richard Kramerich. You can read their bios on FOHBC.org, Meet Your Officers.

Getting the word out on the value of being a member of the FOHBC is still my main goal. I truly do not believe that our general membership knows everything FOHBC has to offer. Have you seen and navigated the Auction Price Report? I have found it to be a wealth of information on the value of some of the bottles I collect. Another benefit of membership is the Virtual Museum. The Board had originally decided to charge for admission but we realized what a value it was to FOHBC members. Charging admission would limit the number of people who would view this vast

collection—it needs to be available to all in our hobby. The Virtual Museum is supported completely through donations specified for the Museum. There is an ongoing contributions campaign and there are unbelievable things in the works which you won't want to miss. See Virtual Museum News on pages 10 & 11.

The Federation website is being added to continuously—back issues and articles from *Bottles and Extras* and *The Pontil* are already there for your perusal. Back issues of *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* are added weekly. A handy search engine locates information you may want on various topics. Search through it, you will be amazed at what you'll find. There are links to other bottle sites, books, and research sources. Although some of the links are outdated (we're working on that), many are still valid. The website is undergoing a software upgrade which will also streamline navigation. If you have expertise in writing posts for our website, we could put that to good use.

How do we reach the thousands of bottle collectors who attend bottle shows but are not members of FOHBC? I'd like to see a video of the benefits of Federation membership provided to shows around the country which would demonstrate how to navigate our three websites, FOHBC.org, Virtual Museum and Auction Price Report and explain all that FOHBC has to offer. We received a good number of new members through the magazines merger and new members are joining daily, such that we have not seen in many years. We need to show all these new members just what they received with their memberships. This project is being spearheaded by our new Public Relations Director, Richard Kramerich, with the goal of increasing the Federation's presence at shows. Offer to help if you can.

I continue to champion the idea that "every bottle has a story" and welcome photos and memories of past collecting, bottle club activities, and group photos. At this time I'm just in the gathering stage, but it will all come together in a way we can all enjoy. I have great enthusiasm for the future of FOHBC...with every new board member, we get new, innovative ideas. Offer to give them a hand and we'll get these initiatives going...and keep the ideas coming.

I plan to attend several upcoming shows. Please introduce yourself and feel free to bend my ear about topics of concern and interest to you and how we can add to our member benefits and advance this wonderful hobby.

Not to wish the days away, but I can hardly wait for Houston 2024! Exclusive access to a world-class museum and museum district, up close and personal viewing of spectacular private collections, another great bottle show and sale, and a celebration of FOHBC and its members. Of course, there are a "few" things to do to make that happen, so let's kick it in to gear! See pages 22 & 23 for our announcement spread.

