

Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

FOHBC Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Conference Call / Zoom Meeting

10 January, 2023, 7:00 pm CST

President Michael Seeliger called the video conference call to order at approximately 7:00 pm CT.

Present: Michael Seeliger, President
Alice Seeliger, Secretary
Ferdinand Meyer V, Director-at-Large
Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director
Craig Cassetta, Historian
John O'Neill, Director-at-Large
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager/Membership Director

Absent: Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director
Jake Smith, Southern Region Director
Jeff Wichmann, First Vice President
Richard Kramerich, Public Relations Director
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director

Guest: None

1. Michael Seeliger welcomed those in attendance. Roll call was taken for board members. An agenda had been emailed to each board member.
2. Michael Seeliger nominated Kathie Craig for Treasurer. Charlie Martin seconded. Information about Kathie's qualifications had been distributed to board members. Unanimous vote to accept Kathie as Treasurer for the 2022-2024 term.
3. Michael made a motion that the current checking and savings accounts be closed and new accounts opened at Wells Fargo bank by Elizabeth Meyer with authorized signers to be Kathie Craig, Treasurer; Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager; Michael Seeliger, President. Motion seconded by John O'Neill, all voted in favor. Elizabeth will take care of getting proper paperwork to Wells Fargo to open the accounts. Elizabeth indicated she added John O'Neill to the investment accounts in place of Jim Berry.
4. Jake Smith, Southern Region Director, for time commitment reasons; and Jeff Wichmann, First Vice President, for health reasons, have tendered their resignations from the board. The board accepted these resignations with thanks for their contributions. Michael has already sent a thank you letter to Jake and he will do so for Jeff. Jeff plans to continue operating "behind the scenes" to advance the goals of FOHBC especially increasing membership. Ferd recommended consideration of Brian Bingham and Doug Simms as potential candidates for Southern District Director.
5. Ferd reported that, as a result of the price increases for auction house ads, there have been several changes including John Pastor, American Glass Gallery, moving from the inside back to cover to an inside page. The inside back cover space has already been selected by another advertiser. We have not heard from all of the auction houses. Ferd and Elizabeth will be contacting other auction houses to fill the ad space. They do not foresee any reduction in commitment for ad space and will be working on shuffling around the ads. Ferd cautioned against placing too many ads in the magazine to change the focus from educational articles.



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6. Michael stated that he and Alice met with Elizabeth and Ferd earlier today to discuss the overall operation of FOHBC. The membership now stands at over 1800, up from 800 before the merger. This has resulted in an increased workload for both Elizabeth and Ferd to keep membership information up to date and accurate on the website and magazine subscriptions. The website member information is especially out of date and needs to be addressed. Michael suggested that the board authorize a part-time, temporary assistant for Elizabeth. Charlie suggested setting an hourly wage and time expectation for a person to work directly with Elizabeth to complete some of these tasks. Charlie moved that we put this on the agenda for the next board meeting. Michael seconded. Michael has set a personal goal of having 2000 members by the end of the year. Alice suggested a catchy goal would be 2024 by 2024.
7. Ferd will be putting together a list of projects to be done. The board will review these and consider how to shift positions and match projects with the appropriate board members while we are in the process of filling the open board positions.
8. Richard Siri was not able to meet with anyone at Grand Sierra Resort when he went there a few weeks ago. We will continue to consider the invoice from them closed as indicated in FOHBC's letter to them.
9. Charlie Martin is pleased with how the "dealer" cards are being picked up at shows by attendees. Michael has paid for printing and mailing of the original quantity of cards and will be suggesting the board approve additional printing costs as these are proving to be an excellent marketing tool for bringing in new members.
10. Ferd is trying to get more activity on the FOHBC website and is posting on Facebook pages as well as directing readers of AB&GC to the website to see additional photos and information about articles. Charlie said he has suggested to show chairs that they assign someone to be a show photographer and submit photos to Ferd for the website. Ferd reminded that photos should be accompanied by captions including names of those pictured.
11. Ferd has received a printing contract proposal from Modern Litho, the current magazine printer. He will be soliciting competitive bids from at least two other printers. Printing of the magazine will be done by Modern Litho on an issue-to-issue basis until these bids are reviewed by the board.
12. Richard Siri moved to adjourn the meeting, Charlie seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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 week of the issue date of these meeting notes.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary