

Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

FOHBC Board Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Conference Call / Zoom Meeting

13 December 2022 7:00 pm CST

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

Present: Michael Seeliger, President
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager/Membership Director.
Alice Seeliger, Secretary
Ferdinand Meyer V, Director-at-Large
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director
John O'Neill, Director-at-Large
Richard Kramerich, Public Relations Director
Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director
Craig Cassetta, Historian
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large

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

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 requested if there were any non-Board FOHBC members in good standing present. There were none.
3. Treasurer's Report—Michael showed a recap as of November 30, 2022. There are some figures that are still unclear so the budget is still a work in progress.
4. Unfinished Business

National Bottle Museum—Michael has not had any further contact with them so this is still pending

Magazine rate increase suggestions progress—Ferd presented an extensive analysis of comparable advertising rates and AB&GC rate increase recommendations which he sent to board members to review before the meeting. John O'Neill questioned if the proposed increases are still too low. Elizabeth questioned if we should be reducing the discount for club ads to 25% rather than 50%. Alice asked if these rates would mean the magazine ads would cover the cost of the magazine. Unfortunately, with the increases in paper, printing, and mailing over the last couple of years, advertising cannot fully cover the production and mailing costs. However, with the increase for the four large auction houses, advertising should cover about half of the cost. Michael suggested that we send a letter to all life members telling them that we will be changing to digital memberships for them unless they contact us and request to continue to get the magazine. In this manner we will find out who really wants a magazine and who does not. John O'Neill moved to adopt Ferd's proposed rate increase to the four auction houses. Charlie Martin seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion passed. Ferd will put together individual letters to each Auction house outlining the updated rates and seek renewals for space for the next six issues under the new rates. This would begin with the March-April 2023 issue and continue through the January-February 2024 issue.

Audit Report/Tax Report—Michael reported that the accountant had been working on preparing the tax return for FOHBC, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. An audit had never been part of the project. He finally received a copy of the return from the



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accountant and noted many inaccuracies, including a list of board members from at least five years ago. The board has never reviewed a tax return to anyone's knowledge and this one was apparently submitted without review by anyone other than the previous treasurer. Michael questioned the accuracy of the financial report and was told all figures were provided by the former treasurer. Michael will seek advice as to whether an amended return should be submitted. The accountant said she would go through the document with him. It was noted the fee for the return preparation was \$775 which was considered to be quite high. He is continuing to seek a qualified member to take over the treasurer position and has requested the Jim return all documents to him as soon as possible.

Additional Discussions—

Richard Kramerich will be sending out membership applications whenever he sends materials to show chairs. He said a person from Pensacola would like to meet with him about the bottle hobby and the FOHBC website. He noted Life Member Bill (wife Ann) Thompson from Troy, Alabama had passed away. Elizabeth will check to see status of magazine subscription.

Ferd suggested the Auction Price Report marketing material should be send to all clubs requesting that they include it in their club newsletters.

5. Michael requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Kramerich so moved, Alice seconded. All board members were in agreement. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:05 pm.

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