

# Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

## FOHBC Board Meeting Minutes

### Board of Directors Conference Call / Zoom Meeting

7 February 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  
Kathie Craig, Treasurer  
John O'Neill, Director-at-Large  
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large (joined at 7:30)  
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager/Membership Director  
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director  
Richard Kramerich, Public Relations Director

**Absent:** Eric McGuire, Western Region Director

**Guests:** 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. No Guests were present that needed to be introduced.
3. **Treasurer's Report / Overview**
  - a. Michael briefly gave approximations of FOHBC funds.  
Investments of about \$128,000 are up from the end of the second quarter.  
Account balances are approximately \$200,000.  
The FOHBC is in excellent financial condition.
  - b. Membership increased by 32 members in January. Elizabeth is seeing that new members are citing the Auction Price Report, Website, and AB&GC magazine as their primary reasons for joining. Renewals that are not received in a timely manner receive up to three reminders, by email if we have that address, or else mail or phone call. These are mainly the members who came into FOHBC through previous subscriptions to AB&GC before FOHBC acquired the magazine.
4. **Advertising update on increased ad rates for auction houses in AB&GC magazine.**

Ferd reported that the last two issues were completely filled for ad space. He and Elizabeth are having no trouble filling the ad spaces. There has been some shifting as Heckler gave up the outside back cover space and retains the inside full page. Jeff Wichmann's American Bottle Auctions ad was renewed for the inside front cover. John Pastor, American Glass Gallery, gave up his inside back cover and opted for an inside page only. The inside back cover ad space has been filled. Jim Hagenbuch, Glass Works Auctions, maintained his inside full-page ad. Ferd and Elizabeth are contacting other auction houses to solicit ads. The magazine is so full that PSAs had to be limited in the last issue. The Classified/Want Ads took up two pages which provides minimal revenue. Ferd suggested that we transition to putting these ads on the website and include a notice to that effect in the magazine. This will encourage subscribers to go to the website for more up-to-date schedules and ads.



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5. **Board approval to hire assistant to Business Manager.**

Elizabeth and Ferd gave a brief overview of the increase in the amount of work since the membership has more than doubled since FOHBC acquired the subscribers to AB&GC. There is a backlog of work and the board discussed bringing in temporary help. After discussion, Alice made a motion that we authorize the hiring of two part-time assistants who have been working with Elizabeth (her daughter and granddaughter) on a temporary three months basis with a rate of \$15/hour and a \$1,000/month/\$3,000/three months limit to begin February 7 and end May 7, 2023 at which time the board will review the status of the backlog of work. Charlie Martin seconded the motion. Discussion confirmed this plan. Vote was conducted and was unanimous in the affirmative.

6. **New Board reorganization.**

- a. The Bylaws Committee is continuing work on revising the bylaws. They will be proposing that the Membership Director position be eliminated, and those duties be split up between the Business Manager and the Public Relations Director. This reallocation of duties is in process at this time noting that the Business Manager effectively handles the membership duties already.
- b. Richard Kramerich has agreed to temporarily fill the position of Southern Region Director until another person is assigned to this position. He adds this to his Public Relations Director duties. Several people were mentioned as possible candidates for the Southern Region Director including Doug Simms (who declined at this time), Rod Vining, and Tom Lines. Personal contacts need to be made.
- c. Craig Cassetta has agreed to move from Historian to Conventions Director. Michael will be accepting his request to resign from the Historian position and then he will appoint him to the Conventions Director position. The board agreed to this change.
- d. Ferd reiterated that we have a strong board now and it is appropriate to fill all 19 positions to carry us through the 2023-2024 term. He presented a very helpful chart of board positions that we could use to work on this project. It included a number of potential board candidates, and the board offered several names to add. Those that do not wish to hold board positions at this time would be great candidates for committee chairs.

Ferd will share the link to the Google document to each board member so that we can study it and come up with suggestions. It is a working document.

- e. Ferd also briefly showed the alphabetical list of projects to be done. He will also share that Google document with the board. It is important that we bring in more people to help with these projects.

7. **Virtual Museum.**

Michael would like to have those who have made in-kind contributions to the Virtual Museum recognized in the same manner as those who have made financial contributions. Board members agreed. The Virtual Museum members will present a proposal to the board to accomplish this.

8. **YouTube Project.**

Craig Cassetta reported he has interviewed Richard Siri and Lou Pelligrini and is now in the editing stage. He asked if board members could identify themes he could work around. It was suggested that a committee be put together including Gina Pelligrini-Ott and Brian Bingham if they are willing. Craig was requested to send a note to each regional director asking for them to propose people to be interviewed from each region.

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9. **Bi-Annual Board Meeting.**

Ferd reminded the board that in accordance with the bylaws, a bi-annual board meeting needs to be held in March. Plan for about four hours. This can be broken up into several on-line sessions. Michael will review previous bi-annual meetings to set up an agenda and date and time.

10. **Hall of Fame Nomination Status.**

Alice will have the booklet prepared by the end of the week to send to Elizabeth, Michael, and Ferd for review. Elizabeth will distribute the document and nomination criteria to each board member. After distribution, a board meeting will be convened for discussion after which Elizabeth will follow up with each board member personally to accept their votes. (The procedure is usually to have this happen when the nominator presents the nomination to the board, however, in this case, the documents had not yet been assembled.)

11. **Reno 2022 Grand Sierra Resort Invoice Issue.**

Michael noted that Steve Jackson has recommended we consider this issue closed.

12. **Adjournment.**

Charlie Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. Richard Siri seconded. Meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 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