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Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

FOHBC Semi-Annual Board Meeting Minutes #3

Board of Directors Conference Call / Zoom Meeting

14 March 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
Richard Kramerich, Public Relations Director
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director (joined at 7:30 pm)
Stephen Jackson, Second Vice President
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director

Absent: Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director
John O'Neill, Director-at-Large
Craig Cassetta, Conventions Director
Kathie Craig, Treasurer
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager/Membership Director

Guests: Brian Bingham
Alan DeMaison was invited but was unable to attend.

1. Michael Seeliger welcomed those in attendance. Roll call was taken for board members. An agenda had been emailed to each board member.
2. Invited guest, Brian Bingham, was introduced. He is considering becoming the Historian Director and wanted to see how our board meetings are conducted.
3. **Education—Zoom Seminar Series**
Ferd stated that on-line seminars would fulfill the education element of our mission. He proposed that we set up a schedule beginning in mid-April covering one year of monthly presentation dates and announce this through mass emails, website and FaceBook sites. The presentations would be on an FOHBC YouTube channel. Members could attend free, there would be a fee for non-members. He has already secured Jeff Mahalik for the first one on “Tri-State Digging.” He will contact other possibilities and send a proposed schedule to Michael for approval.
4. **Virtual Museum**
 - Michael said he has found the **speed** has improved since Miguel corrected some issues.
 - **Imaging** is taking place this week by Alan of the Tod von Mechow collection of Philadelphia beers and sodas.
Gina Pellegrini-Ott has completed imaging her father’s collection.
Eric had his first imaging session today and will have another next week. He will continue imaging studies to determine the best bottle lighting.
 - Ferd stated the **Donor Wall** in the Virtual Museum is up to date and maintained by Ferd and Miguel. Ferd is working on an “in-kind” recognition to be added to the VM and will be presenting ideas to Michael for review. Currently the donor list appears in two places, FOHBC.org website and the VM website, requiring extra maintenance, so that will be updated to just one list.

- **Grants** will be pursued as soon as the website gets fast enough to support asking companies such as Corning Museum of Glass, etc.
- Ferd is currently sending out the **email notices of additions** to the VM to a limited number of people. He will be adding thousands more in the near future.

Henry asked how much **global interest** there is in the VM. Ferd will research this.

- The **Research Library** needs attention. In a previous meeting, purchasing a **scanner** to speed up the process of putting books into the library was discussed. Ferd is getting documents and information from people on their histories to be archived. Ferd and Michael will continue researching scanning options.

Brian Bingham has been invited to be on the board as Historian and is interested in what the board decides this position would entail. He asked where the scanner would reside. Michael has a simple one he could lend to FOHBC but a more sophisticated one will be needed for books and documents that could not be separated. Brian has one that works very well if documents/books can be taken apart.

Brian brought up the issue that a Google search for **“bottle identification”** takes the searcher to the BLM (Bureau of Land Management) site and feels that FOHBC’s site should be first and foremost. There was some discussion on the differing views of the BLM on digging with the feeling that bringing the focus through the BLM to our site might raise concerns about bottle digging.

Brian asked if there was a “timeline” on the FOHBC.org website and a separate dedicated VM timeline on the VM website. Ferd demonstrated what is on the FOHBC website to add to Brian’s discussion. Brian will do a thorough review of the website to get familiar with it.

- Steve Jackson presented an idea to bring in donations through setting up a **Foundation**. It is a pass-through entity, but often people feel better about donating to a Foundation. Steve will research how this might help the Federation.
- Michael questioned what **insurance** coverage the Federation (and its members) have for those handling bottles, etc. during the imaging process. Ferd and Elizabeth have been discussing this with the insurance agent to see what is covered under our current policy or if a rider is necessary.
- Future **imaging trips** were outlined in the Virtual Museum minutes recently.

5. **Website/Security**

Ferd noted that all sites are backed up on the cloud daily. The password program is being worked on to ensure maximum security against ransomware and hacking. Though it may make it a little more difficult for members to access the sites, it is absolutely necessary that it be tough enough to avoid problems.

6. **Public Relations**

Richard K noted that the promo cards have been received by Elizabeth. She had sent each Regional Director a supply the previous week. She is also including the cards in the show packets that she sends out. The cards are being very well-received by members and prospective members. Show dealers have been very willing to have a supply on their sales tables. Richard K has been contacting show chairs at least one month ahead of the shows to make sure they have what they need.

Unfortunately, a packet Elizabeth sent out to a show chair in North Carolina was delayed in shipment and did not reach the show in time. It is very important to have as much advance notice as possible and regional directors should stress this with the clubs in their regions.

Richard also asked if Regional Directors could have access to the **membership list** so that they can see who is and isn’t a member in their regions to help in new member recruitment and encourage involvement by current members. Elizabeth will send an email with the password to each Regional Director.

7. Competitions—Club and Individual

Because of Covid, we have fallen behind on this. Ferd has sent some competition entries to Alice to review so that we can develop a plan to resurrect this. Should the 2022 entries be judged separately, or should 2022 and 2023 entries be combined?

The Hall of Fame submittal for Jerry McCann has been distributed to board members. Elizabeth will conduct a confidential vote collection from each board member.

There is another submittal (confidential) on hold until the McCann HOF process has been completed.

There is also a member of a New England club, Dr. Curtis Morse, who should be considered for this honor. He has the feature article and cover of the May-June issue of AB&GC. The potential application is with the club at this point.

8. Other Business

Michael asked how the voting on bylaw changes would be conducted. The current bylaws states that a membership meeting is to be held every year during the last week of July/first week of August. Since there will be no physical convention/membership meeting this year, voting on any issues to come before the membership will need to take place through a Zoom meeting. An email notice to all members will be sent to inform them of the meeting with instructions on how to access the meeting and an Agenda would be included in the email. Ferd and Michael will be researching how this can be done with the potential of hundreds of attendees.

9. Adjournment

Richard K moved for adjournment, Steve seconded, all agreed, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary