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Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

FOHBC Semi-Annual Board Meeting Minutes #2

Board of Directors Conference Call / Zoom Meeting

9 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
Craig Cassetta, Conventions Director
Kathie Craig, Treasurer
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager/Membership Director
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

Absent: Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director
John O'Neill, Director-at-Large

Guests: None. Michael had extended an invitation to Brian Bingham who is considering becoming the Historian Director, however he was not able 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. An email vote of all board members had been conducted to accept Michael's appointment of Steve Jackson as Second Vice President. Michael requested that this unanimous vote be ratified at this meeting. All in attendance were in agreement.
3. No non-Board members were present.
4. **Audit Committee Consideration**

Michael requested board agreement to set up a committee from current board members. Kathy made the motion and Richard Kramerich seconded it. It passed unanimously. Michael will contact several board members to put on the committee.

5. **Tax Preparer Selection**

Kathie will check to see if she can prepare the return or will contact her company's usual tax preparation company. Secondly, Michael will contact his business tax preparer to see what they would charge to do this.

6. **Bylaw Committee Revision Discussion**

The marked-up bylaws had been distributed to all board members by email previous to the meeting. Michael and Steve went over the proposed changes and requested input from the board. Steve said he primarily cleaned up duplicate or confusing language. Michael pointed out the only change to the Board of Director positions was eliminating the Membership Director and Merchandise Director. The duties of those two positions have been redirected to the Business Manager and Public Relations Director.

There is a question as to whether the Magazine Editor is a voting member of the Board. Ferd and Michael will do some research on this and bring this back to the board.

Ferd stated that we really need to add a Marketing Director position.

Board members were asked to review the revisions for additional discussion at a future meeting.

Ferd showed the proposed regional maps presented on the New FOHBC proposal. The various redistricting maps were shown. Richard Siri suggested that districts be set up according to what is generally collected in the areas. Ferd asked all board members to review the regions and offer suggestions. Ferd will also put together another suggestion based on this discussion.

7. Membership

- a. **Status of Membership Tiers.** Ferd brought up the proposed tiers in the New FOHBC proposal. The proposal is based on tiers of membership and more specific membership benefits in order to grow the FOHBC and to make membership more relevant to a new generation of antique bottle and glass collectors. Our current membership structure is antiquated and based on a magazine subscription. The FOHBC offers so much more. The proposal included adding a Junior Membership which includes a digital magazine, not a printed version. Regarding membership rates, Michael stated that the current rate of \$40/member is sufficient to cover operating expenses at this point. Raising the rate to \$50 or \$55 should be considered as long it doesn't discourage membership renewals or new subscriptions. After more discussion Michael asked board members to review the proposal so that a final proposal can be prepared and presented for a vote at the annual Membership meeting tentatively planned for the first week of August.
- b. **Membership Survey.** Michael is still thinking about how this can be done using a survey service like SurveyMonkey or a traditional poll of the members via mail and email.
- c. **Annual Membership Meeting.** This is traditionally held in the last week of July or the first week of August during the FOHBC Convention. Since there will not be a convention this year, this would need to be held in the form of a Zoom meeting. This needs to be figured out very soon.

As Conventions Chair, Craig Cassetta will be working on a proposal for frequency and locations of annual meetings – once a year, every two years, every four years? After the 2024 Convention in Houston, nothing else is presently in the works. Ferd and Richard K. offered to help with this.

8. Website Committee

Ferd stated that we really need a Webmaster. There are many areas of the website that need attention. He pointed out that the membership list and links pages are quite outdated. Ferd has been handling these tasks since 2011 and it is time that these tasks be handed off to someone else. He will put together a list of tasks so that we will be able to choose which task we can work on. Committee members will consist of those who agree to take on one of the tasks.

9. Houston 2024 Update

Ferd reported that the Convention committee had an organizational meeting with representatives from the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) who will be involved in various aspects of the convention. Ferd, Craig, Alan deMaison, Gina Pelegrini-Ott and Michael are planning to view the museum and hotel venues in July.

10. Adjournment

Steve moved to adjourn the meeting. Richard Siri seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 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