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## Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

### Board of Directors Conference Call / Zoom Meeting

4 April 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  
Kathie Craig, Treasurer (partial)  
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager/Membership Director  
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director  
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large  
John O'Neill, Director-at-Large (joined at 8 pm)  
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director  
Tim Lines, Southern Region Director  
Brian Bingham, Historian

**Absent:** Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director  
Stephen Jackson, Second Vice President  
Craig Cassetta, Conventions Director

**Guests:** None.

111. 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 non-Board members were present.

#### 3. Treasurer's Report

Michael reviewed the report of all FOHBC funds previously emailed to board members. Investments have increased by \$3,000 over the last month. The overall funds from end of February to end of March is plus \$300. Elizabeth noted that membership is about 1800. Michael concluded the review noting that the Federation finances are in very good shape.

#### 4. Board Position Changes

Michael requested and received confirmation of the appointment of Brian Bingham as Historian. An email vote of board members had been conducted and there was a unanimous yes vote.

Michael requested and received confirmation of the appointment of Tom Lines as Southern Region Director. An email vote of board members had been conducted and there was a unanimous yes vote.

Michael requested confirmation of the acceptance of Richard Kramerich's resignation due to personal time constraints. The board reluctantly accepted Richard's resignation and thanked him for his enthusiasm and participation, especially in bringing the promotional card into fruition. They hoped he would be able to continue working on some projects while not making the full commitment of holding a board position.

#### 5. Unfinished Business

Elizabeth feels it is best to keep the bank account under the current fee structure. She believed the fees per transaction occurred because the balance was lower than required while deposits from the previous bank were in transition. She will keep the minimum balance to avoid per-item charges.

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Kathie requested that the 2022 tax return be sent to her so she can get a quote from her accountant for preparing returns. Michael agreed to do so.

Michael still needs to check with the State of Tennessee to see if updated/corrected forms need to be filed before the next annual report is due.

An audit committee has been set up which includes John O'Neill, Steve Jackson and Henry Hecker, They will work with Elizabeth and Kathie to review the financial records of the organization.

Michael brought up the issue of a marketing/merchandise director. Kathie suggested the duties of the position be spelled out so candidates would know what would be required of them. Elizabeth handles merchandise at the national shows. A merchandise director could operate the on-line gift shop, inventory merchandise, and then oversee the selection of promotional items to offer at shows and on line. The on-line gift shop needs work. Chi-Chi has all of the t shirts and can process orders at Elizabeth's request.

A bylaws change would be required if it is decided to add a Marketing Director position to the Board.

Alice and Ferd are working on updating the membership application and member benefits sections in the magazine. They will be ready for the July-August 2023 edition. "How did you hear about FOHBC?" is to be added to the membership application.

Until we have an advertising sales assistant for Ferd to solicit ads for the magazine and shows, Regional Directors can be helping by reviewing the online show schedule and contacting clubs six months before the shows reminding them they need to get ads in to appear in the magazine before deadlines. Deadlines are published in the magazine. If anyone can recommend someone for the sales assistant position, please let Ferd or Michael know.

Michael said he would email current show chairmen with a reminder to get ads in and request a show packet from Elizabeth, and an application for insurance coverage through FOHBC for their show.

Richard Kramerich had sent a cut sheet reviewing scanners to Michael. Michael had not reviewed it but he was wondering who had volunteered to use their scanner. Michael will review the information Richard provided.

No report on Phase II of APR.

Elizabeth reported on the progress of the help from her assistant. We are two months into the three-month trial period. Currently the assistant is working two days a week for about six hours. Elizabeth has trained her on a number of things that she now does on her own. Her duties include: pick up mail from PO box, record checks, prepare and make deposits, mail packets, send out notices for renewals and make calls to those for whom we don't have an email address. Since Elizabeth was unable to work for much of the month of March due to an injury, it was very helpful to have the assistant helping to stay current, but there hasn't been much progress on clearing up backlogs. Elizabeth will continue to keep a log of time and activities to report back to the board in May.

Votes for the Hall of Fame candidate, Jerry McCann, are due tomorrow. Votes from four board members have not yet been received and Elizabeth reminded everyone to get their votes in if they have not done so already. Michael reiterated that not voting constitutes a "No" vote.

Michael solicited help for work on the website, YouTube project, and website merchandise system update. Ferd had prepared and sent Michael a list of all of the tasks he could use help on. Michael will review.

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Steve Jackson will be setting up the next bylaws revision committee meeting. Ferd has been added to the committee.

Current regions were discussed and Ferd summarized this for Tom Lines and he will also send the document of the 12 Step Program presented several years ago in which a proposal was made to change from four to five or seven regions. Current Regional Directors were asked to review the proposal and offer suggestions. However, this is not a top priority at this time.

Membership dues change. Tabled.

The semi-annual board meeting, consisting of approximately four hours was tentatively set for Tuesday, August 1, as a Zoom meeting. The general membership will be notified by email that they are invited to attend.

A follow-up general membership meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 5. This should last from 30 minutes to one hour. Proposed bylaws changes will be presented for a vote.

Michael had distributed a rough membership survey he put together for the board to review. Brian sent him another example. Ferd suggested watching a tutorial or Survey Monkey guideline to continue developing the survey. Henry Hecker had suggested an incentive of some kind of prize, etc. be included.

Craig Cassetta and the Conventions Committee will be looking at the suggested convention rotation through the four districts and present a proposal for soliciting club sponsorship of conventions for 2025 and 2026.

Webmaster position discussion tabled.

Houston 2024 progress report tabled.

Ferd reviewed the on-line Zoom educational seminar series kickoff in May. Ferd is publishing the schedule in the May-June AB&GC magazine. He will send out the announcement to all board members. Ferd will also be sending out announcements through Facebook, etc. Seminars will be once a month. The first one is Jeff Mihalik on Three-State Digging. Ferd and Michael will do a short intro, turn over to Jeff for a 40-minute presentation, and then have time for questions from participants. FOHBC members attend free, non-members will be charged \$15. A separate email address has been set up for Elizabeth to coordinate registration and payment.

VM donor wall project report tabled.

VM grant progress report tabled.

Global interest progress report tabled.

Foundation set up report tabled.

Ferd and Elizabeth are working on the insurance rider with the agent. They need to put together a list and value of all of the bottles that will be in the Houston 2024 displays.

Distribution of show packets was previously discussed. See above.

Michael has had a request from a FOHBC member for a membership list. Ferd and Elizabeth noted that members can access the list online of those who approved being included in an on-line list. Elizabeth maintains a complete membership list which is not to be distributed. She can provide a link to this list for board members, but reminded board members that it is a confidential list not to be shared. Regional Directors could use this membership list to determine who in their district is already a member, and others who could be encouraged to join.

**6. New Business**

List of assets held by the Federation tabled.

Classified ads on FOHBC website. Ferd has set up samples for the board to review.

Michael asked if it was appropriate for him to contact the Smithsonian Institute, the Bottle Museum and Corning Museum of Glass to forge stronger relationships with FOHBC through online presence on their websites.

Ferd noted that Bill Ayers “Mr. Pepsi” will have a future book report when his new book is finished.

FOHBC will be able to use Michael’s business Zoom account for the educational seminar series. If any other board member wants to set up a Zoom meeting, just contact Michael and he will set it up.

Michael suggested a feature on Jim Hagenbuch since he has been so instrumental in the Federation and the bottle collecting world for so long. Ferd thought it a good idea to showcase people who have furthered the hobby and suggested several people to be included. Perhaps this can be an ongoing feature in the magazine and on the website.

7. Michael called for the meeting to end and thanked everyone for their attention and participation. Tom Lines made a motion, John O’Neill seconded and there was a unanimous vote to call the meeting to a close at approximately 8:30 pm.

*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