

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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We have assembled a great group of individuals to serve on our Board and have filled nearly every position (see the few remaining positions on the facing page). Working together, we will achieve our goals of making the Federation even more of a world-class organization. Let's welcome our newest members.

Steve Jackson joined the FOHBC Board as Second Vice President.

I have valued Steve's assistance in chairing the Bylaws Revision committee. Steve collects Warner Bottles and we have known each other for a long time. He is a practicing attorney and has added a lot of legal-type info to our group.

Kathie Craig, Treasurer, is from San Jose, California. She and her husband, Mike, also collect Warner bottles as well as inks, owl drug bottles, poisons, clay beers, cures, and Pitkin swirl flasks. Kathie and Mike own several businesses and she will be a great asset to FOHBC with her considerable knowledge of all aspects of business operation.

Craig Cassetta has moved from Historian to Conventions Director. He is already well into the job of helping to plan Houston 24 and is actively looking for venues for 2025 and 2026. Craig attended our Board of Directors meeting in Reno and quickly volunteered to help the FOHBC in any way possible. This will be a great fit for Craig and the Federation.

Brian Bingham will fill the Historian position. Brian was on the cover of the November-December 2022 issue of this magazine. Brian's drug store exhibit at Reno won the prized Most Educational ribbon. He has a keen interest in historical research, and is quite knowledgeable in using the internet for research. This expertise will really help the Federation.

Tom Lines has stepped into the Southern Director position. Tom is a long-time collector and Life Member of the Federation. I met Tom at the Chattanooga-North Georgia (Dalton, Ga.) show in March and we had similar opinions on where the Federation is and where it needs to be. Tom is eager to be a part of meeting our goals and we are lucky to have him.

Speaking of the Chattanooga-North Georgia show, I received a call from Buddy Lasater on the Thursday evening prior to the show with a personal invitation to attend the show on Saturday. He was so enthusiastic about it partly because of the overwhelming response they were getting from dealers which added up to almost 200 sales tables. He felt it would be a great opportunity for the Federation to have a presence for members as well as non-members. We had just

returned from our RV winter getaway trip and were pretty spent, but his enthusiasm led me to secure airline tickets for the following afternoon.

I arrived at about 12:30 am the day of the show. Buddy met me at the airport with a rental car. After a couple "no room at this inn" encounters, I found one at about 2 am and rested for four hours before preparing to attend the show. (Gone are the days of sleeping in the car to save money for bottle purchases!)

Buddy and Jason Herron, co-chairmen of the show, put together a fantastic advertising campaign...just like in the old days: TV, radio, newspapers, signs, etc. They shared their enthusiasm and it caught on big time. The show provided a complete range of bottle categories from which to choose and ACL sodas were in abundance. The show had great attendance from the opening bell until the 3 pm closing time. I was pleased to see all the young people interested in old bottles...just like back in the 1970s.

I set up a table to demonstrate what the Federation offers to its members...so much more than this first-class magazine. Current members and non-members alike got a guided tour of the Federation website, Virtual Museum and Auction Price Report. Most members knew about these benefits but had not actually tried to navigate through the website to peruse the wealth of information available. Some found the need for passwords a stumbling block (it doesn't need to be—and passwords protect the site from the evils of spam, ransomware and hacking) and others just hadn't taken the time yet. I showed them that obtaining a password is relatively easy and once in members will find amazing resources that have taken thousands of hours to assemble...there's nothing else like it! Members and prospective members shared what they wanted from the Federation and some even volunteered to help implement those ideas, so I believe we have some additional members to work on committees. We still need lots of help, so please step forward and we'll find the best spot for you.

One project that is quickly coming together is the monthly online Seminar Series...look to page 21 for the schedule announcement. Another will use the YouTube platform to present interviews with collectors to document collections both past and present. The goal of this project is to get this valuable information recorded before collections are disbursed and memories fade. There was lots of enthusiasm for these projects and the Federation as a whole. On my return flight, I began making plans to attend the GVBFA show in Rochester, NY to demonstrate all of these benefits but remembered my scheduled March 29 hip replacement procedure and my surgeon who put the kibash on this too-early trip, so I'll look toward Mansfield in May.

My thanks to all for making my first six months as president of this fine organization an exciting and fulfilling endeavor. I invite you to share your enthusiasm for the FOHBC...it's Contagious...in a good way!

