

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I just returned from a fantastic week spent traveling to Ohio, New York, and Pennsylvania attending bottle shows, viewing collections, and visiting friends. After talking for years about how wonderful the Mansfield Bottle show was, I finally got Mike Craig from San Jose, California, to join me in a whirlwind tour of the area. I picked up Mike at O'Hare Airport in Chicago and we immediately traveled to Man-

sfield, Ohio to be there for early admission. Just waiting to get in, we were pleased to sit and talk to so many friends and collectors. The enthusiasm was contagious. By the time the doors opened, it was electric as we moved around while bottles were being set up. For those of you who haven't been to Mansfield, it is one of the best shows in the Midwest. As always, the Ohio Bottle Club does a wonderful job putting on this show. Matt and Elizabeth Lacy were there to greet everyone, along with Louis and Lindsey Fifer and club president, Ron Hands.

I got the pleasure of meeting so many great collectors and old friends at the show. I won't try to mention them all for fear of leaving some out. The bottle stories, again, were fantastic. That evening we had dinner with Jim and Janice Hagenbuch and were invited to their house in the Philadelphia area later that week to view his collection.

We left the show on Saturday and traveled to Pittsburgh, where again, we were pleased to see Chip Cable's collection of bottles. It is always a pleasure to view collections and hear the stories of how certain bottles were found and acquired. Each bottle has a unique background.

From Pittsburgh, we traveled to Rochester, N.Y., to visit and see the original Warner Building, home of H. H. Warner and his Safe Cure business. Mike had never seen the building, but I had several times. It was a pleasure to see someone enjoy seeing where Warner's medicines were manufactured. For those of you who do not know Mike and Kathie Craig, they have the most complete collection of Warner bottles and go-withs in the world.

We left for a trip to the Corning Museum of Glass. Mike is a glass blower, and his instructor has contacts with the people in charge of the glass blowing at the museum. This allowed us a behind-the-scenes tour through the museum. What a thrill! It also allowed us to see some of the items they have in storage. There were two cabin Tippecanoe bottles on display at the time and many rare flasks. We also contacted the archives director, and I believe we have set in motion the ability to have them reference our Virtual Museum as a source of information for Museum visitors. They were over-

whelmed upon visiting our Virtual Museum through a website tour. We spent two days at the museum and then off to visit Terry McMurray and his historical drug store museum in Binghamton, N.Y. For those of you who have not had a chance to see it, try to pay a visit. It is like stepping back in time into a real live drugstore stocked with all the medicines and drugstore signs and displays. Terry is also a Warner collector, so many stories were exchanged.

From Binghamton, we visited Jim and Janice Hagenbuch and saw his impressive collection of bottles and early glass. We also saw the "pig pen," where over 70 advertising and commemorative stoneware pigs were on display. Again, it made me realize that behind each bottle is a truly exciting and interesting story. Bottle collectors have so much history right at their fingertips, waiting to be shared.

Our next stop was with an old friend Will Fluman and a stay in his 1805 historic house he had restored. We then attended the Shupp's Grove bottle show and again had the opportunity to buy some much-needed bottles.

The next stop was Fallingwater, a Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house near Washington, Pennsylvania. Since we were in Washington, Pa., we attended the bottle show there and again had some great experiences with collectors. Everyone was enthusiastic about the Federation, the Virtual Museum and Auction Price Report.

We met some great collectors on this 10-day whirlwind trip and when we got back to O'Hare Airport in Chicago, we were tired but extremely satisfied with how the trip went and all the great collectors and collections we saw. I encourage everyone to set up trips like this and take time to visit bottle collections on the way. Remember, there is an interesting story behind every bottle.

On a different note, have you had a chance to see the opportunity for the Northeast Region to host the FOHBC 2025 Convention? We have had some great shows in the past from that region, and I'm sure 2025 can be just as spectacular. Manchester, Springfield, Syracuse, and York all had great FOHBC events in the past. The Northeast Region goes all the way down through Virginia. The West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey area is a hotbed for great shows in addition to the New England states. Hopefully, we will have some great proposals from this region, forcing us to choose the best one. Get your clubs or form a group to start looking into hosting this convention in 2025. See FOHBC.org for full details on what you need to do to begin the process, or contact your Regional Director, Charlie Martin, or our Conventions Director, Craig Cassetta.

The FOHBC online Zoom seminars have started. Have you attended any? If you missed them, they are available on the website in the members portal. Look at the ones scheduled down the road and make sure not to miss the ones that interest you.

