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Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

Board of Directors Conference Call / Zoom Meeting

6 June 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
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager/Membership Director
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director
Tom Lines, Southern Region Director
Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director
Craig Cassetta, Conventions Director
Stephen Jackson, Second Vice President

Absent: John O'Neill, Director-at-Large
Brian Bingham, Historian Director

Guests: None

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. There is a substantial balance in FOHBC funds available for member services. It is important to not just build up a "war chest" but to use the money to provide services to our members.

The Virtual Museum is spending slightly more than it is bringing in through donations, but it has sufficient funds on hand from previous donations to continue its projects.

Magazine ad revenue is substantially the same as before the price increase and there are still several spots available. There are several past-due invoices out. There are a number of auction houses that are potential advertisers and need to be contacted, for example, North American Glass, Holabird, Crocker Galleries (stoneware), Heritage (paper), beer-related auction houses, etc.

Show chairs are responsible for getting notices to Ferd to put in magazine and on website...we cannot chase them.

Jeff Wichmann will give a FOHBC membership to each successful bidder in his auctions.

Michael is close to having all the financial data to put a budget together. He concluded the review noting that the Federation finances are in very good shape.

4. Unfinished Business

Michael had questions about the fees Wells Fargo is charging us. Other than \$5 for a Canadian check and \$12 for any returned checks, we are not incurring any fees because Elizabeth is making sure the balance is sufficient to avoid fees.

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Kathie Craig confirmed that the accountant she has contacted is willing to do the tax return for a fee of \$875 which is the same as the previous accountant charged. The accountant will require that all data be presented in a certain format (in QuickBooks) which Kathie will be setting up in an older version of QuickBooks on a separate computer. Kathie will apply for an extension for the return.

The Sales and Marketing Director position needs to be filled to focus on selling ads for the magazine. The position description needs to be developed and reflected in the Bylaws revisions that are in the process of being updated.

Alice and Ferd have completed the Membership Benefits statement and it received board approval. It will be appearing in the July-August 2023 AB&GC and on the website.

Michael has sent the complete computer set up to Ellie at the National Bottle Museum and will follow up after they have received it.

Elizabeth reported that her helper is working more hours. She has not received an invoice for last month so she will check to see how much of the \$3000 allocated is still available. Elizabeth noted that they will be more diligent in getting invoices prepared within the monthly period it covers so it stays in period. Elizabeth is concentrating on membership renewal notices through email reminders and regular mail for those who do not have an email address so that members don't miss issues. This is a big job. Kathie wondered if another person could take over that task, however, this task is so intertwined with the Business Manager duties that it would be impossible to separate. Elizabeth will send the board members a copy of the renewal email/letter she sends out the next time she does so. Charlie moved that we allocate an additional \$3,000 towards Elizabeth's assistants to continue helping her get caught up. She should notify the board when she is nearing \$500 remaining in the funding. Alice seconded. Unanimous yes vote cast.

Ferd added that this issue could be easily solved if we filled the Membership Director position. Though Elizabeth should continue with the membership and renewals tasks, there are many other parts of the Membership Director duties that are not being done that could be handled by a separate Membership Director. Two important positions are not filled: Membership Director and Public Relations Director. The bylaws includes a list of duties for all positions. The definitions of these two positions are being reviewed and updated by the bylaws update committee.

Membership applications/renewals include an opportunity for applicants to indicate if they want to volunteer for board positions or committee work. Ferd keeps a file of this information that we need to mine. Ferd will send an example to board members. Ferd will put together a list of those that have come in the past month and send them to the board for review. He will figure out a way to get the responses to board members in the future so that we can begin contacting those who have indicated an interest in helping.

Michael is working on the Webmaster position with Ferd and will be presenting something soon.

Craig Cassetta gave an overview of his progress with the YouTube project. He has set up a YouTube account for FOHBC. Craig posted a high-resolution video that Michael and Ferd reviewed. He will continue to learn the program. Michael sent a video but it did not go through so Craig will help Michael figure out how to post it to iCloud so that he can access it. Michael is finding there is a lot of interest in this project.

Steve Ketchum has agreed to be on the Merchandise committee. He does not want to be the Director.

Steve Jackson reported that the bylaws revisions are nearing completion. They need to work on the position descriptions for several positions. Ferd will send his comments on the proposed bylaws changes to the committee. Particular attention will then be paid to position descriptions.

The annual board meetings and membership meeting have been scheduled. Board meetings: Friday, August 4, 7 -9 pm and Saturday, August 5, 10 am – noon. The membership meeting will be Saturday, August 12 at 10 am. All CDT. A notice has been included in the July-August AB&GC magazine alerting members to watch the FOHBC website for proposed bylaws updates. (As previously reported, a notice of the membership meeting will be sent to members through mass email and possibly a newsletter.)

No update on the membership survey.

Craig reported on the convention 2025 invitation. He has received one decline from the Rochester NY club because they could not find a facility and has not received any others. Deadline is June 30. Michael and Mike Craig are considering approaching the Corning Museum of Glass about hosting it and having Terry McMurray's museum as a tour and will continue to work on that. They will be contacting them shortly.

Ferd asked what the next approach is if the Northeast does not elect to host. Next approached would be Midwest, then South, and then back to the West, unless a rewrite of the bylaws allows going to the best place possible. Under the current schedule, Reno area would be on deck in 2028-2029.

Houston 2024 – no update.

Next Zoom educational seminar will be June 13. The speaker will be Eric McGuire on American bottles made overseas.

Steve advised that a Foundation be incorporated in Tennessee as a separate 501(c)3 with its own board. The Foundation becomes the fundraising arm of FOHBC. Once it is set up, we would identify possible donators and approach them. Probably need to secure an attorney in Tennessee to set this up. This may need to be a long-term goal. We need to have a list of advantages that a foundation would offer vs the cost of setting one up. Doug Simms offered to help us write grants and this is a topic at the next Virtual Museum board meeting.

Insurance Rider. We are still awaiting a list of bottles that will be at the 2024 Houston Show that will need to be covered, along with values.

Show Packets. Elizabeth sends them out when requested. The intention was to send out packets to all shows that we know about but that was put on the back burner when membership renewals increased substantially at this time of year. Ferd suggested Regional Directors monitor the shows to send out packets. Charlie mentioned that it is very frustrating that he has tried so many times to get show chairs to request a packet but they are slow in doing so.

Membership List. Link was sent out to Regional Directors by Elizabeth.

Awards Programs. Alice has gathered all the submittals and will begin working on this with the help of Ferd. This is one of the tasks that could be defined in the Membership Director position in the bylaws revision. Adrianna can do the plaques and awards online.

Several advertising exchange arrangements have been secured including Antiquebottles.net. We are now on their site. Corning Museum of Glass is on board and we will continue working this out. Ferd has worked out several advertising trades to cross market with other groups to expand all of our organizations' exposure.

Michael is setting up contacts with organizations/clubs in foreign countries to increase our global presence.

Auction Price Report. The rest of 2021 and all of 2022 need to be added as time is available.

5. New Business

List of FOHBC assets. On hold.

We are highlighting big names in other fields of collectors in AB&GC including Charlie Humber in Canada – cigar boxes and Bill Ayers – Mr. Pepsi.

Michael noted that Brian Bingham suggested a person for PR Director. He will follow up with this with Ferd.

Richard Siri wondered if the Grand Sierra would be a potential site for the next Western Region National show. Alice was not in favor of this. Michael suggested we look at other sites such as Las Vegas, but Richard noted that that has become a very expensive area and clubs are mostly antique related. Sacramento was a great show. Kathie suggested LA because there is a large club there with a lot of young people. Pomona was a great site also. Decisions must be made as to future convention schedules.

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Alice made a motion to adjourn and Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 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