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Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom

November 7, 2023, 7:00 pm Central

President Michael Seeliger called the video conference call to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

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
John O'Neill, Director-at-Large
Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director
Craig Cassetta, Conventions Director
Steve Jackson, Second Vice President

Absent: Tom Lines, Southern Region Director
Brian Bingham, Historian Director
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director

Guests: None

1. Michael welcomed those board members present.
2. No other FOHBC members were in attendance.
3. **Treasurer's Report**

Michael displayed a recap of the FOHBC account standings. It was accepted by the board as presented.

Elizabeth reviewed the expenses projected for November and there is sufficient cash flow to cover those. However, she will only be able to move \$5,000 of the \$10,000 approved for Houston 24 until funds are replenished by membership dues.

Kathie needs a letter from President Seeliger to set up a brokerage account to consolidate the investments accounts and facilitate one monthly statement. She is in the process of changing previous treasurers on the accounts into her name as Treasurer. The information has been outdated for some time.

Elizabeth stated that she is still using part-time help but it has been reduced and she feels good about the status of the workload.

Kathie indicated the annual tax report has been filed and she was able to reconcile everything. She needed to file a more extensive return in order to correct all of the officer names.

4. **Annual Meeting Report**

Michael tried to produce a web-based presentation that would also be placed on the FOHBC.org website, but he found it too cumbersome. In discussion with Ferd, it was decided to forego the presentation, since no membership voting was required, and he has been describing the activities and accomplishments of the Federation through his President's letters. Voting for bylaws changes and Board of Director members for the 2024-2026 term will take place at the Houston 2024 Membership Meeting. The proposed slate of officers will be published in the January-February 2024 AB&GC with an invitation for additional nominees. The proposed bylaws revisions are to be published soon after the first of the year (2024).

5. Election for 2024-2026 Term

Eric McGuire contacted current board members and received confirmation that each current officeholder would like to continue in their respective positions. Brian Bingham noted that he would suggest, due to health issues, that we begin the search for a person to take over as Historian but he will continue as Historian until we find someone to take over the duties.

Michael noted that there are still some open positions, and some positions are still being defined in the bylaws revision process.

6. Webinars Report

Michael noted the next webinar, on trade cards, is next Tuesday, November 14. He has some ideas for other seminars also. The webinars have about 10 attendees and many more are viewing the recorded presentation on our website.

7. Bylaws Committee Progress

Steve Jackson said he has completed the proposed bylaws incorporating Ferd's latest suggestions. Michael indicated another meeting will be held for review. Steve will send his current version to the committee members. Again, the goal is to get the proposed revisions published in AB&GC as soon after the first of the year as possible and also on the website.

8. Awards Status Report

Ferd noted the Awards Program must be announced in the January-February 2024 AB&GC which has a submittal deadline of November 25. The magazine is full already, so Ferd will need to be creative to fit in the announcement. We would like to continue the Awards Program for Houston 24. Michael and Ferd will work on getting this announcement ready for the magazine.

Michael and Ferd realized that many of the Awards recipients for whom we are holding the extra plaques and booklets have passed away. They developed an email/letter to the recipients' clubs to see if they will accept the award items. Michael will also take the appropriate plaques and booklets to shows to distribute if possible.

9. Website Update Progress

Ferd and Miguel have put together a shell of the new website and will continue adding to it. It will be a work-in-progress website for a while.

10. Show Federation Tables—Nashville and beyond

Michael was given great table space for Federation materials at the Nashville show. Some photos have already been posted. He, Henry Hecker and Tom Lines wore the "three blue bottles" marketing shirt and were easily recognized. They talked to many dealers and attendees about membership and Houston 24. They were very well-received, and excitement is building. Michael said it is easy to sell FOHBC because we have so much to offer, including a top-notch magazine.

Michael also attended the Chicago show and though he did not have a table and did not stay very long, he was able to talk to lots of people about Houston 24.

Any board member going to future shows is encouraged to arrange to get marketing materials from Elizabeth, including posters where possible, and represent the Federation at the show.

11. Houston 24 Progress Report

Ferd continues to work through all the details with Hotel Zaza and the Houston Museum of Natural Science. It's a full-time job! He's getting ads for the souvenir program already. There are too many details to go through at this meeting, but the Houston 24 committee is working well to put all the pieces together.

12. Proposed 2025 Convention Report

Craig Cassetta said he has not received any proposals from the Midwest Region though he understands the Milwaukee club is pursuing hosting this. Michael had time to talk extensively to Henry when they drove to the Nashville show and Henry said they are actively working on this. They have visited the proposed venue and other than having six-foot tables rather than eight foot, they can accommodate our needs. They would like to bring in other collector groups such as Breweriana which is big in Milwaukee. Craig reminded everyone the deadline to submit a proposal is December 1.

13. Additional Comments

Foundation--Steve will pursue finding a lawyer in Tennessee, the state of the incorporation for FOHBC, to get a bid for setting up the foundation. He will need the incorporation papers which Elizabeth will send him.

Hall of Fame Plaques—Michael will continue working on getting those to the proper people/clubs. It is a slow process.

Scanning—Since Brian was not in attendance, we did not get an update on the scanning project. We are hoping this is going well. Michael will check in with Brian.

14. Adjournment

Steve Jackson moved for adjournment; Alice seconded. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 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