



**Alice J. Seeliger**  
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## Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors

### Board of Directors Meeting Conference Call

February 6, 2024, 7:00 pm Central

President Michael Seeliger called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm.

- Present:** Michael Seeliger, President  
Alice Seeliger, Secretary  
Ferdinand Meyer V, Director-at-Large  
Kathie Craig, Treasurer  
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director  
Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director  
Steve Jackson, Second Vice President  
Richard Siri, Director-at-Large  
Craig Cassetta, Conventions Director
- Absent:** Tom Lines, Southern Region Director  
Brian Bingham, Historian Director  
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director  
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager/Membership Director  
John O'Neill, Director-at-Large

**Guests:** None

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

Michael did not have all of the financial data to prepare a complete financial report. He will send one to board members when he receives the data.

Kathie reported that the accountant has completed the necessary 1099s and sent them to the 5 recipients. The reports have been submitted electronically on Form W3.

4. **Webinars**

The January 9 webinar on John Wolf and his collection was very well-attended. The February 13 webinar will feature Ferd highlighting the rocks, minerals, and bottles to be featured at Houston 24. March 12 is Promising Cures with Andy Rapoza, April 9 will feature Jerry Phelps' Museum, and May 14 Brandon DeWolfe will do Digging Galveston.

Michael is always looking for more collectors and collections to feature.

5. **FOHBC 2025 National Convention**

Craig Cassetta reviewed the status of the 2025 National Convention proposals. The only one received was from Richard Siri for Reno at the Grand Sierra Casino, the site of the 2012 and 2022 Conventions.

Craig solicited commitments from Lake Tahoe and Carson City but did not receive any proposals. He also had a meeting with Henry Hecker regarding a Midwest location, but Henry felt they could not gather the necessary people and resources to host the convention in 2025.

Charlie made a motion to accept the proposal from Craig Cassetta and Richard Siri to have the FOHBC 2025 National Convention at the Grand Sierra in Reno, Nevada. Kathie Craig seconded.

Discussion followed expressing concern about the 2022 Reno Convention and the problems encountered at the Grand Sierra including incorrect breakfast order, long check-in times, not having a bartender available for the cocktail party, unacceptable meals served at the banquet, smoky atmosphere from the Casino air handling system, and an overall mismanagement of our needs by the hotel staff. In addition, there were complaints about the Grand Sierra being in the middle of nowhere and anyone not staying at the hotel, or anyone wanting to do any other activities, would need a car to get around.

Richard assured the board that the people in charge during that event are no longer with the Grand Sierra, they were operating on a greatly reduced staff due to Covid-19, and he has met with the staff at the Grand Sierra over the last year and feel their services would be back to the quality we experienced at the 2012 Convention.

Richard explained that the room used for our Convention would be on the lower level and we would have up to 40,000 square feet available that could be configured in many ways with the sliding wall systems. Loading and unloading would be easy as vehicles can be backed right up to the entrance to the convention space.

He suggested if we are concerned about an attrition issue, we could reserve a smaller number of rooms and increase as we see the need. However, the hotel would not be obligated to maintain the guaranteed rate after a certain date. Only 109 room nights were used in 2022.

Hot August Nights is scheduled for the days immediately following the end of our Convention so there should be lots of staff getting ready for that and available if we need them.

No one else has stepped forward to host the convention, so if we are going to have a convention in 2025, Reno is our best option at this point.

Richard said he would help Craig co-chair the convention, and he said Deanna, who was the treasurer for the 2022 Convention, has agreed to perform that function again with Richard.

Michael asked that a voice vote be taken. All present voted yes except Steve Jackson who voted no. Alice and Erik voted yes with reservations. Motion carried.

Craig noted that Nashville is very excited about hosting the Convention in 2026. The board agreed that Craig should meet with Tom Lines to involve him in the process of soliciting proposals from the Nashville area clubs/organizations/consortiums to host the 2026 Convention.

Ferd cautioned that the 2025 Convention should not be promoted until close to the Houston 24 Convention to avoid diluting the interest in Houston 24. However, planning needs to begin soon.

**6. Adjournment**

Charlie moved to adjourn; Eric seconded. With a unanimous vote to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8 p m.

*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