



FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL BOTTLE COLLECTORS
FOUNDED 1969

**Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors
Board of Directors Meeting (Zoom)
November 14, 2024, 7:00 pm CDT**

Present:

Michael Seeliger, President
Kathie Craig, Treasurer
Alice Seeliger, Secretary
Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager
Ferdinand Meyer V, Special Projects Director
Brian Bingham, Membership Director
John O'Neill, Director at Large
Richard Siri, Director at Large
Charlie Martin, Northeast District Director
Tom Lines, Southern District Director
Eric McGuire, Western District Director
Steve Jackson, Director at Large

Absent:

Craig Cassetta, Marketing Director
Henry Hecker, Midwest District Director

Recap

Topics covered included:

Insurance coverage for Masterpieces and Barber Bottles books
Ownership/Acceptance of Books
Review of Federation Financial Standing as of October 31, 2024
Update on outstanding accounts receivable and accounts payable for H24
Seed money request for Nashville 2027 Convention
FOHBC Graphics Standards for Publications/Printed merchandise
FOHBC Club Insurance Program cost

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Individual Membership cost review/tiered membership

Distribution of extra magazines to Board Members

Damaged magazines

Upcoming renewal numbers

November-December 2024 AB&GC magazine mailing schedule

Red Drake's Commemorative bottle for Reno 2025

Code of Ethics update

Insurance

Michael presented the costs that would be associated with insuring the approximately 2750 Houston 24 Exhibition books "Masterpieces" and "Barber Bottles" which are currently being stored in his warehouse in Brooklyn, Wisconsin. It is basically \$6.12/\$1,000/year of coverage. Full coverage for the dust jacket price of the books would be \$1,700/year; \$1,100/year for coverage up to \$175,000; and \$459/year for a nominal \$75,000 in coverage. Michael and Alice would ask for a Hold Harmless Agreement for any loss above and beyond the insurance coverage. Michael indicated Ferdinand had said he was ok with not having them insured.

Charlie made a motion that FOHBC secure \$75,000 in coverage at a cost of \$459/year. Steve seconded. Discussion followed. Steve said a Hold Harmless Agreement should be provided to Michael and Alice for any loss above the insured amount. Tom agreed that the Federation has not had any out-of-pocket cost for the books, so it makes sense to not insure and provide a Hold Harmless Agreement.

Michael described the storage facility as a metal building with a metal roof that is kept at a reasonable temperature. It is secure. With its location, the most likely damage potential would be from a roof collapse since Wisconsin doesn't get hurricanes and it's not in a flood plain. There has been no roof collapse in the 60+ year life of the building. However, there is a secondary metal structure above the books, they are protected by plastic, dehumidification is available if needed, and they are packaged in cardboard boxes wrapped in plastic on pallets. There are seven pallets of books measuring 4'x4'x5'. The building is just one mile away from the fire department on the same street.

Approximately 20 books were sold at H24 and another 100 in the three months after H24. This is without a robust marketing campaign in place which Ferdinand will be working on soon. John asked for a monthly report of the number of books sold.

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Ownership/Acceptance of Books

Alice questioned whether the Board had actually accepted the books. John said he understood that it was either Joel Bartsch gave the books to Ferdinand/Elizabeth/Peachridge Collections and they gave them to the Federation; or Joel gave them directly to the Federation. This needs to be firmly established before anything else can be done.

It was noted that there would be a tax deduction for Joel if he donated them to the Federation. Ferdinand indicated Joel did not want or need a tax deduction. It was also pointed out that since Ferdinand/Elizabeth/Peachridge did not pay anything for the books, they would not be able to take a tax deduction by donating them to the Federation.

At this point, Ferdinand asked that the motion and discussion be tabled for further review. Charlie moved to table the motion, Alice seconded. Motion tabled. Ferdinand requested that he and Michael, Elizabeth, Alice, and John meet again to further discuss this and come to an agreement to present to the board.

Financial Report

Michael presented the October 31, 2024 month end financial status. The Federation holds approximately \$150,000 in all funds including investments. October expenses were \$8,600 however, some of those expenses were out of period which inflated that month's expenses. The \$2,000 November payment due Ferdinand and \$700 November payment to Elizabeth were paid in October.

Houston 24 has accounts payable of approximately \$30,000 to Michael Seeliger for the Drake's bottles and a \$4,400 transfer from H24 to the Federation for tablecloth rental paid out of the incorrect account.

All of the money borrowed from the Federation to H24 has been repaid, however, most of that was used for overdue accounts payable to Modern Litho for AB&GC magazine issues. So the money withdrawn from investments for H24 was not redeposited to the investment account.

Ferdinand will be invoicing Joel for final expenses in an amount sufficient to pay the \$30,000 advanced by Michael Seeliger for the Drake's bottles.

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There are only two Drake's bottles remaining to be sold. Ferdinand has one left and Michael will be taking a returned one that has a potstone to a show so that a purchaser can see the actual bottle before purchase.

H24 continues to sell merchandise with funds being deposited to the H24 account.

Nashville 2027 Convention Seed Money Request

A request for \$1,200 has been made by the Nashville 2027 Convention Committee so that they can keep a sufficient balance in the bank account to not incur service fees. They have already spent about \$300 on posters and cards to advertise the show.

Michael made a motion to provide the seed money to Nashville 27, Charlie and Rich seconded the motion. There was discussion about providing \$1,000 instead of the full \$1,200 but it was agreed to provide the full amount requested. Unanimous voice vote in favor of granting the motion. Elizabeth should send the funds to the Nashville 27 committee.

Federation Graphics Standards Oversight

Ferdinand reminded the board that he has overseen the use of the Federation logo and graphics presentations since 2011 in order to maintain certain standards. He requested that all use of the logo, printed materials, and merchandise graphics be reviewed by him. He will offer suggestions and high-resolution graphics to ensure the best outcome. His suggestions will be presented to the President for review and approval.

Alice suggested that a formal document of the Graphics Standards should be prepared and published on the website and distributed to show committees and anyone who wants to produce items using the Federation logos or represent the Federation in print form. Ferdinand will work on putting this together.

Michael mentioned that the FOHBC (ACDC rendition) t-shirts were very well received at the Auburn Show. Seems everyone knows ACDC except Michael!

Club Insurance Coverage and Costs

Michael received an email from a non-member, club show attendee, who had a bottle stolen off of his table. He expected the FOHBC club insurance to cover the loss. There were some discrepancies in his description of where and when the bottle was stolen, but Michael

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explained that the show insurance provided by FOHBC to clubs does not cover individual losses like this. It is strictly a liability coverage policy to cover the club sponsoring the event.

Michael reminded everyone that clubs get insurance coverage included in their \$75 annual membership dues. About 45-50 of the 65 member clubs request insurance coverage. He feels that those who use the insurance benefit should pay enough to at least cover the cost of the Federation's premium which is \$2,267/year currently. It would cost much more for clubs to obtain their own insurance. Clubs renew as of April 30 so Elizabeth would like to get this instituted as soon as possible so that she can announce this in the renewal letters that begin going out in early December. The deadline for payment is April 30, late payments incur a \$25 reinstatement fee.

Rich thought \$50 additional to clubs would be acceptable to clubs. Charlie suggested \$75-\$80 would not be too much of an increase with \$50 more for clubs that will be requesting insurance. All agreed. Michael will work with Elizabeth to institute this change.

Individual Tiered Membership Program

Ferdinand reminded everyone that an individual membership proposal for a tiered membership program was presented in 2022. Michael agreed to set up a committee to review that proposal and bring it back to the board for approval as soon as possible.

Extra Magazines Distribution

Alice noted that she had surveyed board members by email regarding the number of extra magazines they want to use as marketing material. Except for Michael and Elizabeth, board members requesting extra copies will receive them as multiple individual magazines using the bulk mailing system at Modern Litho. Michael and Elizabeth will continue to receive their magazines boxed and sent by UPS. The purpose of this change is to reduce the cost of the boxed mailings going to board members. Quantities requested can be changed at any time and those who receive multiples are asked to let Alice know if there are any problems with this system.

Elizabeth noted that she received notice of at least 20 damaged magazines that she needed to resend at Media rate. There was a question if bagging the magazines would be prudent and cost effective. Elizabeth will keep track of how many magazines are damaged over the

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next couple of issues. Alice will ask Modern Litho what the cost of poly bagging each magazine would be.

Expired Memberships and Magazine Distribution

Michael asked if members who have not renewed get another magazine issue. Elizabeth sends one more after expiration and that usually brings the renewal in.

Michael noted there will be 144 renewals coming up next month and 258 in January. Elizabeth noted January and July are the highest expiration/renewal months.

Elizabeth noted that three people called and said they had not renewed because they had not gotten the “reminder” letter in the mail. We have been trying to transition to using email as much as possible. Some members do not use email, but that number is decreasing. Michael believes auto renewal will take care of this problem. Elizabeth recently mailed out 32 renewal letters. The new website should be incorporating auto renewal.

November-December AB&GC Mailing Delay

Charlie asked when the November-December issue would be mailed as he is getting asked about this. Ferdinand indicated the magazine is available for digital members on the website now and if anyone wants to access it before they get their magazine they can contact him for a passcode. The magazines are at the printer and should be ready for mailing by the end of the week. The magazine took extra time because it covers the Houston 24 event and many photographs needed to be received, reviewed and selected.

Drake’s Commemorative Bottle for Reno27

Michael displayed the RED Drake’s Reno27 Commemorative bottle. Ferdinand was concerned that it appeared quite amber on screen but Richard assured us that in person it is definitely red. It will again bear the seal of Michael Craig on the bottom so that it is obvious it is a reproduction.

Code of Ethics Update and Distribution

Elizabeth noted that she used to include the Code of Ethics on the back of the Member Welcome letter. The Code of Ethics needs to be reviewed and updated so that she can again include it. Michael will access the document from the website and review it and seek assistance to get it updated.

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Michael asked for any other items to address. There being none, Tom moved to adjourn the meeting. Charlie seconded. All approved. Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary
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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.
