

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As I write this, I am crisscrossing the country with Michael Craig attending bottle shows and seeing some magnificent personal bottle collections. I'm sure many of you have met me at shows where I'm displaying the Federation banner and encouraging membership and renewals. It is my great pleasure to get the word out about the Federation and meet so many interesting bottle and glass collectors.

After many years of service to the Federation as board members and business manager, Ferdinand and Elizabeth Meyer have retired from their board positions. Ferdinand will continue with his contract with Peachridge Collections as *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* magazine editor, webmaster, and social media coordinator. He will also stay active with the Virtual Museum project. Elizabeth is taking a well-deserved rest from her many responsibilities as business manager to concentrate on her health. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth have been instrumental in making the Federation what it is today. His years of service as President brought the Federation to new heights in the bottle-collecting world. As editor of the *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector* magazine, he continually puts out an outstanding publication. As a creator of the Virtual Museum, he has led it to be the gold standard in the collecting world. Though he will be stepping away from the Auction Price Report, he leaves his mark on this much-appreciated collection of auction sales.

Elizabeth has worked tirelessly at keeping the day-to-day operations of the Federation in order and has been Ferdinand's right hand. Her many duties are being taken on by several others and there will certainly be an adjustment period, but she is graciously helping in the transition. She will be impossible to replace, but we appreciate others who are willing to step in to help.

Ferdinand and Elizabeth, their daughter, granddaughters, and grandson, through Peachridge Collections, produced the never-to-be-repeated Houston 24 National Antique Bottle & Glass Exposition which will go down in history as the bottle event of the century. As you can imagine, the monumental effort left them exhausted and in need of some respite from Federation management. I know you will all join me in expressing our gratitude for their tremendous contributions to the Federation.

To carry on the mission of the Federation, I have appointed myself Interim Membership Director (a position I will gladly turn over to someone else when anyone steps forward). John O'Neill will

coordinate the Associate Club Federation insurance coverage and will submit applications from clubs to our insurance carrier. Clubs should request an application form from John, complete it, and send it back to him with the facility agreement for their show or other event. A Certificate of Insurance will be sent to clubs very quickly but a month to two-month notice is recommended. Note that club dues including insurance have been increased to \$130 (\$80 without insurance) and it remains a significant benefit of club membership.

Alice Seeliger, Federation Secretary, has taken on the task of Advertising Coordinator and is learning the ropes with this issue of AB&GC. She is also the liaison for Associate Clubs and will be keeping track of renewals and insurance coverage. She has been overseeing many of the Federal, State, and postal registrations and taxation and reporting requirements and will continue to do so. Kathie Craig has taken on additional responsibilities complementary to the treasurer position and will handle all income, payments, record keeping, and tax preparation oversight. We are streamlining bank deposits, payments, and record-keeping to make it a more efficient system.

Newly appointed, Doug Simms has agreed to assume the Special Projects Director position. Doug has vast knowledge and experience in website development and design and will be a great asset as we continue to update the Auction Price Report (photos are on the horizon) as well as our Federation website. He is excited to get started so please welcome him to the Federation board.

On the Associate Club front, I attended one of the zoom meetings of the Ohio Bottle Club. What a great activity...it is nice to get together every month or so. Everyone in attendance was pleased to learn that a generous donation was given in the name of recently passed, long-time member Adam Koch. Adam was a great contributor to the hobby and is greatly missed.

With Spring on its way, I am getting a bit nostalgic about past digs, sleeping in the back of the truck to be first at an outdoor event, that great Federation convention in St. Louis '76—complete with dancing on the paddle boat and sliding down the escalators; and meeting other bottle collectors from around the country at so many Federation shows throughout the years. I hope you made some great new memories at Houston 24 that you'll look back on years from now—especially you young collectors. I've been taking note at shows that there are increasing numbers of younger collectors... and that's a really good thing for our hobby! I challenge you to introduce a young person you know to the wonderful world of bottle collecting where there's something for everyone. Until next time, Happy Collecting!

Please take note of changes of responsibilities and mailing addresses throughout the magazine and website. Federation mail should no longer be sent to the Post Office Box in Brookshire, Texas.

