



# FOHBC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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As you are reading this message, there is just about a month until our much anticipated FOHBC 2014 National Antique Bottle Show in Lexington, Kentucky. You will find a nice seven-page article, starting on page 26 within this issue, summarizing all of the great events and opportunities in Lexington. Our Federation web site is also packed with information too, so visit it frequently for show news and updates. Thanks to Tom Phillips (FOHBC Conventions Director), Sue and Randee Kaiser and Sheldon Baugh (Show-Co-Chairs) for their constant work. The details for pulling off an event of this size are staggering.

During this last period, between issues, I received four communications about bottle clubs and shows that I would like to share. The first I will mention is sad and was about the demise of the Minnesota's First Antique Bottle Club, which was dissolving after 47 years. Club and Federation member Steve Ketcham communicated in an e-mail, "Hi Ferdinand, I recall that you wrote a while back about the demise of some clubs. I also remember your commendation of Barb Robertus for her efforts to put out a newsletter. Just thought I would share this latest bit of news from Minnesota with you. The meeting was held at Barb's home last Friday. Just one club in Minnesota now."

The communication had a picture of the last members and a letter that started out as follows, "Minnesota's First Antique Bottle Club's membership is shrinking. Meeting attendance over the last few years has diminished with fewer than 8 members attending the average meeting. At its May 23, 2014, meeting, the 7 club members in attendance voted in the majority to end the club's existence. The final meeting will be held at Jax Café in Northeast Minneapolis next October 26 at noon." You can read the full letter and see the picture from Steve under Editors Picks on the front page of our web site FOHBC.org.

The second communication was from Federation member Ed LeTard, talking enthusiastically about the first ever Lake City Bottle Show in Florida. Ed communicated, "Hey... Just a few notes about the Lake City show this past May 17th: (1.) There were 85 tables available and all 85 sold. (2.) All 85 tables were paid for before the show date and there were no dealer no-shows. (3.) Over 300 folks passed through the front door on Friday (early buyers) and Saturday (public). (4.) There was a BBQ trailer (contracted) just outside the show providing delicious food all day Saturday. (5.) The show building was well air conditioned (real cool), well lighted and the aisles and table space were more than adequate. (6.) A few dealers waited too long to request a table and got shut out, but they vowed to take care of that much earlier next year. All in all, a real nice first-year show. Also, I saw quite a few teens (and younger) in attendance. Brian Hoblick, show chairman, and I already have the show flyers ready to go for next year's show: May 16, 2015. Happy collecting, Ed LeTard ("silent" co-show chairman)."

The third communication just stunned me as it does each year and was about the Sunshine Coast Antique and Collectables Club Show in Caloundra, Queensland. Federation member Greg Dean sent in the following communication, "Dear Ferd, Just a quick note and links that maybe of interest to FOHBC members. The Sunshine Coast club hosted our state's show over the weekend. Interestingly, not a lot different from hosting last year's bottle national. 3,500+ through the doors. 45k pulled from the ATM. Perfect weather, 100+ exhibitors and some amazing new displays. Greg Dean." You can see show pictures under Editors Picks on the front page of our web site FOHBC.org.

The fourth communication was from Federation member and Southeast Region Director Jack Hewitt, talking about a new club and show in Atlanta. Jack stated, "Ferd, We have some exciting news in the Southern Region. The Southeastern Antique Bottle Club in Atlanta was one of the charter member clubs from the early days of the Federation. A few years ago, the club lost its place to meet and unfortunately several of the "old timers," who had held the club together, passed away. We have been able to preserve the Atlanta Show and on June 14, 2014 we will have our 44th annual show, making it one of the longest running shows in the southeast, which we are very proud of. There has been a core group of collectors in the Atlanta area who do some shows together and keep in touch, but without a regular club meeting and a place to meet, something was missing. I have been able to secure a location to have monthly meetings and starting April 1, 2014, we resurrected the Southeastern Antique Bottle Club.

After our first meeting, we joined the Federation and we plan to bring back the old gang and hopefully introduce some new ones in the area to the world of bottle collecting. We will be meeting near downtown Lawrenceville at the Old City Hall building in what currently houses the city of Lawrenceville Gas Department. We will be meeting in the former city council meeting room affectionately known as the "gas chambers." The address is 18 S. Clayton St.

This is a big step in preparation for the Chattanooga National Show in 2015. I will keep you posted and appreciate any help you can give us getting the word out. If anyone has any questions or needs directions they can contact me at (770) 856-6062. Thanks again, and we appreciate all you do for the hobby. Jack Hewitt, Southern Region Director." Jack Hewitt and John Joiner are show hosts for the FOHBC 2015 National Antique Bottle Show in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Clubs closing down, new clubs and shows, and mega events like Caloundra, Baltimore and our National Shows parallel the movement of waves and sand on a beach. Things change as time goes by. I also know that the virtual bottle communities that I talk about so much are growing so rapidly that it is tough to keep up with all of the exciting bottles news, digs, finds and questions posed. The Bottle Collectors facebook page administered primarily by Rick DeMarsh, is at 2,665 members as of today with 40 new members this week. Amazing! Guess what? Rick DeMarsh is also a candidate for Public Relations Director for the Federation 2014 - 2016 term. You can read his biography on pages 62-64 in this issue where all candidates are profiled. Please make sure you vote! As a side note, my antique bottle and glass website, Peachridge Glass, raced past 1 million visits a few weeks back. Quite amazing, really.

See you in Lexington! It is not too late to make plans to attend or even to get a table or display. Can't wait!