

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I hope you enjoyed reading the November-December issue of *Antique Bottle & Glass Collector*, even after seeing me on the front cover! Reading the after-Expo comments, Andy Rapoza's recap, and Ferd's pictorial, it felt like I was right back at the big event. I am glad so many of you joined your fellow bottle enthusiasts in Houston. Those of you who did not attend can get a good flavor of the event just reading about it and

seeing all the photos—in the magazine and on the website—and no doubt you have heard from others who attended how great it was.

If you would like a memento from the event, we have some fantastic H24 shirts (see ad after show listings at the back of this issue), FOHBC denim shirts and other memorabilia, let Elizabeth know. And if you have not yet purchased the two exhibition books: *American Antique Glass Masterpieces*, and the *Wilber and Gugliotti Barber Bottle Collections*, they are specially priced for FOHBC members and make great gifts.

Our next national event, Reno 25, is just around the corner and there are many things planned to make it worth setting up your plans to attend. Just getting together with old and new friends to talk bottles and glass is a real pleasure and well worth the trip. But, of course, there will be many bottles to see and events to attend. The venue, The Silver Legacy Resort, is an upscale casino with great meeting and convention accommodations. Please make your reservations now to ensure we meet the minimum nights requirement. Info on FOHBC.org.

We are still looking for a host, preferably in the East, for a 2026 convention. This is a region that has had some fantastic conventions in the past and some of my most enjoyable. We would really like to get the Federation event back in that part of the country, so if you have any leads on a potential host, rattle their cage and let us know.

The 2027 Convention, hosted by the Tennessee Area Bottle Collectors/Nashville club, at a great big exhibition space in Lebanon, Tennessee, is on the tracks and gaining steam. The folks down there are so excited to be hosting a national convention. They have so many ideas including having a major liquor distiller as a sponsor. We have foregone the Sunday component of the show and sale, but events will still start on Wednesday and include all Federation activities such as the membership meeting and awards banquet. We will have an event on Saturday evening so you will be ready on Sunday for the world's longest garage sale that continues through the week, covering hundreds of miles. Event information and contacts will be available on FOHBC.org soon.

Post H24 has included instituting changes that have been in the works for quite some time. We are operating under an updated set of Bylaws approved by the membership at H24 which includes a revised Board of Directors with duties much more clearly delineated. (See Bylaws and Organizational Chart on FOHBC.org). We have increased the compensation for the Editor of AB&GC and set up compensation for the webmaster and social media positions (Peachridge Collections/Ferdinand Meyer V). We are getting the Auction Price Report updated including some preliminary photo entries. This was one of the most-requested items from Federation members and we put it high up on the "to-do" list. Very exciting for 2025 will be a new website to include automatic renewals, easier merchandise sales, advertising widgets, links to seminars and conventions, archived magazines, and, of course, the Virtual Museum, on an overall cleaner, more efficient platform.

Our Awards Banquet in Houston was a remarkable success. It was a pleasure to honor the creativity of members and associates in seven distinct categories. We are changing the entry process so nominations can be submitted by anyone as well as maintaining the self-nomination component. Many very worthy entries were missed because the creators felt uncomfortable nominating themselves (or did not know that process). (I often wondered why my many articles never received any recognition...only to find out I should have been submitting them for consideration myself.) Now, members, the Awards Committee, and the Board of Directors have been asked to nominate articles, show posters, websites, and social media sites throughout the year (June 2024 to June 1, 2025) to be considered before the June 1 deadline. So anytime you come across something you think should be considered, let the Awards Committee know so that we can consider it for the Reno 25 awards contest. (See Awards Contest promotion on page 31 of this issue for details.)

January 2025 brings us to Seminar #18. If you have been able to join us for the seminars series showcasing members' collections, you probably realize that I am making good on my first "big idea" that got me involved on the Board—archiving some of the great collectors and their collections. Please help me by encouraging others to participate in a future presentation, live if possible. If you know of a collector and collection that deserves to be remembered, let me know and we will do the rest. Each presentation is archived on our website and available at any time. Check them out, I think you will find them very enjoyable.

A late development is that Brian Bingham, our Membership Director, has had to resign his position. So, we are looking for someone to fill this position on the Board of Directors. Please let me know if you are at all interested and I can explain what this would entail. We would love to have you on board. It's a really exciting time for the Federation and I am pleased to continue leading this great organization. Alice and I especially want to thank the Board for the recognition they gave us during the Awards Banquet at Houston 24.

