



FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL BOTTLE COLLECTORS

FOUNDED 1969

Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors (FOHBC)

Board of Directors Meeting

January 7, 2025, 7 pm CT

Present:

Michael Seeliger, President

Kathie Craig, Treasurer

Alice Seeliger, Secretary

Elizabeth Meyer, Business Manager

Ferdinand Meyer V, Special Projects Director

Richard Siri, Director at Large

Charlie Martin, Northeast District Director

Tom Lines, Southern District Director

Steve Jackson, Director at Large

Craig Cassetta, Marketing Director

Absent:

Eric McGuire, Western District Director

John O'Neill, Director at Large

Henry Hecker, Midwest District Director

Quick recap

The board members discussed various financial matters, including the settlement of auction accounts, the exchange of several returned Drake's bottles, and the payment of travel expenses. They also reviewed the Federation's financial situation, discussed the production of Drake's bottles for Reno 25, and approved a contract with Peachridge Collections for magazine production, Website Management, and Social Media Management. They approved entering into a Hold Harmless Agreement with the Seeligers for storage of the Houston 24 Exhibition books. They approved increases for Canadian and Foreign postage costs and authorized a review of the membership dues structure and Code of Ethics. They were informed of the tragic loss of the Wannalancet

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Bitters bottle, and the efforts to determine the value, obtain insurance coverage payment of \$10,000, and reach a settlement with the owner, Tom Paskiewicz, for the broken bottle.

- Update the membership dues structure to incorporate an increase in postage costs for Canada to \$85 and foreign countries to \$120.
- The new postage rates for Canada and foreign countries will be published in the magazine and on the website.
- Michael to present a proposed updated membership dues structure at a future meeting for further discussion and approval.
- Michael to include an explanation of the membership dues changes in his President's message in the magazine after board approval is obtained.
- Michael to continue discussions with Tom regarding settlement for the lost Wannalancet Indian Bitters bottle.
- Board members to provide input to Michael on their thoughts regarding the settlement offer for Tom.
- Michael to seek a new membership director.
- Michael to draft and circulate proposed updates to the Federation's ethics guidelines.
- Ferdinand to begin uploading pictures for Heckler items to the Auction Price Report in the next month.
- Richard and Craig to finalize selection of banquet speaker for Reno event.
- Mike Craig to provide pictures of the three bottles he is making for Reno 25.
- Ferdinand to promote Reno event on website and social media.
- All board members to encourage Federation members to book room nights early for Reno 25 to meet attrition requirements.
- Michael to write about Reno room night bookings in his President's message.
- Richard to arrange a raffle of one special color Drake's bottle and auctioning the second at the Reno Awards Banquet.
- Richard to check if a license is required in Nevada to conduct an auction.
- Kathie to follow up with Michael on Monday regarding the Drake's Agreement.
- Elizabeth to continue monitoring and addressing issues with magazine delivery to international members.

Summary

Financial Matters and Auction Updates

The group reviewed the December financial statement. Michael provided an update on various financial matters. The Houston 24 auction accounts have been settled, except for one remaining payment due to Ferdinand. A couple of returned Drake's pieces need to be sold. Michael will take these to upcoming shows so people can see what they are purchasing. The Virtual Museum travel expenses for Alan DeMaison to attend Houston 24 to photograph the exhibits and member bottles were a significant PayPal expenditure. A large printing bill from Modern Litho was also paid in December.

Federation's Financials and Project Approval

Michael discussed the Federation's financial situation, noting a decrease in investments and assets. He mentioned a large transfer from PayPal to the Federation's checkbook, which was used for operating expenses highlighting a significant payment to Modern Litho. Kathie raised concerns about out-of-period expenses being submitted for reimbursement by Ferdinand and Elizabeth. Ferdinand clarified reimbursements were requested upon contract renewals at which time payment terms are transferred directly to the Federation. Michael mentioned a potential project with Richard Carney to make a special piece (probably window) using the broken/defective Drake's commemorative bottles. Board approval will be required for this project, and Michael will bring Richard's proposal to the board. Richard will donate his time, the Federation will cover shipping costs, and the item will be sold or auctioned with proceeds to benefit the Federation. Richard estimated the sale value to be around \$1,200.

Federation's Financial Situation and Website

Michael discussed the Federation's decrease in assets from \$160,000 in 2022 to \$146,000 at the end of December 2024. He attributed this to Virtual Museum costs and Houston 24, and the fluctuation of stock market investments. Michael noted that the Virtual Museum operates on donations designated for that purpose, but that money is co-mingled with the Federation accounts, though a separate accounting is also maintained. Kathie asked for the name of the payee of a \$970 check from Wells Fargo, which Elizabeth agreed to investigate and provide.

Drake's Bottle Production Agreement

Michael discussed the production of the Drake's commemorative bottles, specifically the cobalt blue one for Houston 24 and the ruby red ones for Reno 25. He clarified that Mike Craig, the owner of the mold, had agreed to produce these bottles for the Federation, but not for general sale. The Agreement, which Michael presented for review by the board, also states that Mike would not reproduce these colors unless the Federation requested more. Michael also mentioned that Mike has made 37 of the requested 150 ruby red bottles for Reno 25. Ferdinand expressed concern about the rarity of certain colors and the potential for upset among collectors if other bottles are produced in similar colors. Michael reassured the board that Mike had no plans to reproduce odd colors for sale. The board also discussed the importance of Mike's stamp on the bottom of the bottles, and a requirement for that will be included in the agreement. The Board authorized the acceptance of the Agreement with the stipulation added regarding the requirement for the stamp on the bottom of each bottle.

Hold Harmless Agreement for Books Storage

Michael presented a Hold Harmless Agreement which he requested from Peachridge Collections and FOHBC releasing him and associated entities from liability for any damage or loss of approximately 2,800 Houston 24 Exhibition books which are being stored in his warehouse in Brooklyn, Wisconsin. Michael noted the warehouse is secure, has a good roof, is heated (but not air-conditioned) and has the ability of dehumidification if necessary. The board agreed to authorize John O'Neill to sign on

behalf of the board for the Federation, and Ferdinand and Elizabeth will accept on their behalf and Peachridge Collections.

FOHBC Contract Approval for Services

The contract between the Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors and Peachridge Collections for the editorial production of six magazines a year, website management, and social media management was presented and reviewed. The contract specifies a payment of \$2,000 per month, with \$1,250 for the editor position, \$500 for the webmaster position, and \$250 for social media position. The contract also specifies exclusions such as advertising, shipping, and technical services. The contract was approved with a 90-day notice of termination clause by either parties instead of the initially proposed 60 days.

Increasing Membership Dues to Cover Postal Costs to Canada and Foreign Countries

The board decided to increase the membership dues for Canada and foreign countries to better cover the higher postal costs for sending the magazine. For Canadian members, the dues will be raised to \$85. For foreign countries, the dues will be set at \$120. Alice made a motion to accept these changes, which was seconded by Charlie and approved by the board. Alice suggested publishing the new rates in the magazine and on the website to inform members. Ferdinand recommended Michael announce the change in his President's message, explaining the rate increases are due to rising postal costs to ensure timely magazine delivery.

Loss of Wannalancet Bitters Bottle

The board was informed of the tragic loss of a Wannalancet Bitters Bottle offered for display at Houston 24 by Tom Paskiewicz, a Federation member. Ferdinand explained the circumstances leading to the loss including having to move the bottle in his home from the main level to a more secure area due to impending storms and possible flooding. Subsequently, the bottle was inadvertently placed on a brush and box burn pile and discovered destroyed sometime later.

Ferdinand explained the efforts to determine the value and reach a settlement for Tom's broken bottle. Multiple appraisals were obtained. The board recommended offering the anticipated \$10,000 insurance payout plus additional Federation funds. The board will await receipt of the \$10,000 insurance payout before taking any further action.

Membership, Auctions, and Reno Event Updates

Michael emphasized the need for a membership director to handle renewals and roster management. He also stressed the importance of updating the Auction Price Report

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and the addition of pictures to enhance its value. Richard and Craig shared updates on the Reno event, including the need for more room night reservations and the potential for a banquet speaker, possibly from the Carson City Museum. The board also discussed the challenges and potential benefits of hosting an auction at the Reno event. Richard is currently not in favor of having an auction, though he likes the idea of auctioning a commemorative Drake's at the Awards Banquet. He is concerned that a license is required for an auction in Nevada.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary
Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors