



FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL BOTTLE COLLECTORS
FOUNDED 1969

Board of Directors Meeting November 4, 2025, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attendance: Michael Seeliger, President
Alice Seeliger, Secretary
Craig Cassetta, Marketing Director
Doug Simms, Special Projects Director/Webmaster
John O'Neill, Director at Large
Richard Siri, Director at Large
Henry Hecker, Midwest Region Director
Tom Lines, Southern Region Director
Eric McGuire, Western Region Director
Kathie Craig, Treasurer
Steve Jackson, Director at Large

Absent: Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director

President Seeliger called the meeting to order at 7 pm CT. He introduced Michael George, our new Graphic Designer/Layout Artist for AB&GC who will be working with Alice Seeliger, Editor. Michael is a long-time bottle collector and former art director from New Hampshire who now owns a motel. He recently retired and responded to our request for a bottle enthusiast with design skills to fill this position.

Financial Review, Expenses and Donations

Michael reported that investments had increased to \$117,118, including a \$5,000 anonymous donation. There has been a credit of approximately \$8,000 from Reno, which was transferred to the Federation account to be used for bills. Michael noted that expenses were lower than usual, particularly for the Virtual Museum, bringing the total funds to about \$138,000, up by \$9,000 from the previous month. Income is still being received from the sale of Reno Red Commemorative bottles. Richard has approximately 40 bottles remaining.

Virtual Museum Finances

There is a matching grant of \$5,000 available. It is anticipated that the stipend Richard Siri receives from the Reno 25 Event will be donated by him to the Virtual Museum and that will secure the matching funds. There are very minimal costs associated with the VM now as there are no longer any paid positions. This is saving \$1,000 to \$4,000/month.

Houston 24 Financial Discrepancy & Property Return

Michael and Steve have received advice from several attorneys that a letter be sent noting the threat to the Federation's non-profit status and the need to exercise the Board's

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fiduciary responsibility in requesting reimbursement for funds expended that have not been reimbursed. In addition, we will request the return of the two 5TB hard drives that are being held beyond a reasonable time. Federation documents were to be transferred to those drives and then provided to us. It is well beyond the end of the contract period (September 21, 2025) and this has not been accomplished. At this point, we just want the drives back, even if they are still blank. A 30-day deadline from the date of the letter for a response will be stated. Unless this is adhered to, any association with the Federation will be denied.

The draft letter was reviewed, a few clarifications were made, and a motion was made by Doug Simms, seconded by Craig Cassetta. Passed unanimously.

AB&GC Magazine Status

Michael George has agreed to take over producing the November-December 2025 magazine from Martin Van Zant who was experiencing severe computer problems. This issue is already significantly delayed due to the transition but Alice and Michael plan to have it to the printer on Monday, November 10, with delivery expected before December 1.

Exhibition Book Distribution

A fundraising program for clubs was proposed where they could sell books for \$40 and keep half of that and return the other half to the Federation. Anyone who wants to take books to shows or clubs, please request them from Michael. Michael has given some to a number of historical societies and museums.

Membership Update on Website and Membership Promotion

Doug reported that the main website was launched in early September. He imported 1,100 members. Since then, 65% of renewals have opted for the standard \$40 annual membership.

Richard Siri distributes promotional cards at his new Antique store in Virginia city.

Virtual Museum Additions Progress

It is time to start getting items added to the Virtual Museum since nothing has been added for well over a year, though the cost of maintenance before Doug took over completely depleted the VM funds. Doug proposed reaching out to bottle owners for the text to accompany the bottles. Doug will contact Alan De Maison for a list of the owners of the bottles that have already been photographed for the Museum. Doug is working with a volunteer, Lisa Conners, to prepare the spins and add the descriptions. Doug has some ideas to improve the VM website for easier maintenance. He noted that over 3,000 people visited the Museum in the past 30 days. Gina Pellegrini is also interested in participating in this project. Joe Gourd, who reviewed VM listings in the past, is still willing to help.

Auction Price Report

Doug is working on updating the Auction Price Report. It was discussed whether to begin charging for access, but that was decided against. Access to the APR is only available to paid up members, however, and that will continue. There may be a program established for auction houses to pay for visibility on the Home Page of FOHBC.org. Doug is reaching out to

all of the auction houses to gain cooperation in including their auction data in the APR. Heckler is already on board. There are challenges to obtaining and updating auction data, including a high cost from a third-party provider (Andy Kaufman – Real Time Auctions) who was paid a substantial amount at the beginning of the APR data collection. A consistent format will be needed from each auction house to be able to import their data. Bill Meier is willing to continue to work on this, also. Alice said Connor Rush expressed interest in working on getting the Evans Auctions into the site, so she will put Doug in contact with Connor.

Fundraising Ideas

Michael suggested the production of a white Drake's commemorative bottle for 2026 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and the 50th anniversary of the first FOHBC National Event in St. Louis in 1976. This would complete a red, white, and blue series. Michael Craig and Treg Silkwood have agreed to do this project again. The number produced would be determined by advance sales.

Auction House Advertising on the FOHBC.org Home Page

Doug is exploring ideas about putting auction houses as advertising widgets on the home page.

Tax Returns and 1099s

Kathie requested approval to pay the \$1,295 invoice for preparation of the 2024-25 annual tax returns and 1099s. Alice made motion to pay that. Michael seconded. Motion passed.

Federation Representation at Shows

Michael mentioned several shows where he represented the Federation including on a Northeast coast trip he and Alice made with Mike and Kathie Craig. They were also pleased to visit Tom Paskiewicz, the owner of the destroyed Wanalancet bitters bottle. He was very pleased that we took the time to visit him and is a strong supporter of the Federation.

Michael encouraged others to represent the Federation at whatever shows they can with the added benefit that it allows for early admission and generally free table space. Marketing materials can be obtained from Michael and Alice.

PR

Kathie mentioned that she and Michael and Michael and Alice visited Tom Paskiewicz on our East Coast trip, which he was thrilled about. Before we left, he gave the Federation a donation. She also mentioned that all of the clubs whose shows we attended as FOHBC representatives were very grateful to have an FOHBC presence there. This was the first for many of the clubs.

Action Items

- [Alice: Prepare the final letter regarding H24 funds and Intellectual Property, and send them by email and priority mail with tracking to home address](#)
- [Doug: Send email request for return of the two hard drives without copying files](#)

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- [Michael: Contact the VM matching donation person to confirm time frame and restrictions for the Virtual Museum donation match](#)
- [Kathie: Pay Richard for shipping charges from Reno account until the account is closed, then bill Federation directly](#)
- [Richard: Total post office receipts for mailing bottles and provide to Kathie](#)
- [Richard: Work with Deanna to finalize Reno profit and loss statement](#)
- [Doug: Submit invoice to Kathie for October, November, December server fees](#)
- [Doug: Call Alan DeMason to get list of bottle owners for the 700 spins that need stories](#)
- [Doug: Email bottle owners asking them to pick 3-5 bottles to write stories about within the next month or two](#)
- [Doug: Work with Lisa Connor on creating spins using the new plugin system](#)
- [Alice: Put interested Virtual Museum volunteer in contact with Doug](#)
- [Doug: Contact Connor Rush about working with the Auction Price Report](#)
- [Doug: Reach out to Andrew from Golden Gate Auctions](#)
- [Doug: Contact Greg Spurgeon about contributing to auction price report](#)
- [Doug: Decide placement for Glassworks Auctions ad on website homepage](#)
- [Doug: Email Ferdinand about Grammarly subscription stating Federation is paid up and he should transfer it to Peach Ridge Collections going forward](#)
- [Alice: Send extra magazines from last issue to board members who need them for distribution](#)
- [Alice and Michael: Get magazine to printer by Monday or sometime next week](#)
- [Alice: Begin setting up an Editorial Board. Henry Hecker has already joined.](#)
- [Alice, Michael, Doug: Post magazine on website immediately when ready to print](#)
- [Michael: Send boxes of Exhibition books to Tom Lines for distribution to clubs](#)
- [Alice: Provide marketing materials to board members who want to represent Federation at shows](#)

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Tom Lines and Richard seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm CT.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary