



FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL BOTTLE COLLECTORS
FOUNDED 1969

FOHBC Annual Membership Meeting
August 1, 2025, 7:30 am, Reno, Nevada
FOHBC Reno 25 National Antique Bottle & Glass Convention
Silver Legacy Resort & Casino

Michael called the meeting to order and welcomed all members of FOHBC and guests to the Federation-sponsored breakfast meeting. He introduced members of the board of directors who were present and the Reno 25 committee members. He also explained that the breakfast is paid by the Federation for members, and non-members are invited to make a donation.

- An overview of the Annual Board of Directors meeting held the day before was given.
- In a brief presentation of the state of the Federation, Michael reported that the Federation is in good financial standing with approximately \$100,000 in reserves. Currently the position of Business Manager is vacant (previous cost \$700/month) and those duties have been taken on by several other board members in volunteer capacities. The only services costs are for the AB&GC Editor (\$2500/issue), and Webmaster (\$500/month). Operating costs are being reduced by eliminating some web-related add ons, moving websites to a high-speed server, and minimizing office supply expenditures.
- Potential income may be realized through commemorative Drake's bottle sales, and the FOHBC Houston 2024 Expo Exhibition books donated by Joel Bartsch. Though Houston 24 did not bring any money into the Federation, it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime event.
- It is anticipated that there will not be a 2026 FOHBC National Event as no one has come forward to host one with FOHBC. The next National Event will be hosted by the Tennessee Bottle Club in the Nashville area (Lebanon) July 29 – 31, 2027. Chairs are Greg and Elise Eaton.
- Currently the Federation has 154 Life Memberships, 1066 Regular Memberships, 48 Digital Memberships (8 Life Memberships included). 102 are up for renewal in the July/August period, there were 54 non-renewals in May, 80 non-renewals in March, 50 non-renewals in January and 290 non-renewals in 2024.
- Because of the delay in the past four issues of AB&GC, we have been sending complimentary issues of AB&GC to those who have not renewed in the period prior to the end of their renewal date. This was done for several issues this year as it is less expensive

to send a magazine by periodical mailings with the hope a renewal will be received than sending a magazine by First Class when a renewal is later processed (\$.72 vs \$4).

Membership expiration alert emails are sent for two months and postcards are sent to those who do not have email addresses (\$.56/card). Notes are included on the magazine mailing panel as appropriate: *Last Issue*; and *Complimentary Issue, Please Renew Now*.

The new website will automate this but President Seeliger will still send emails and postcards as a reminder and invitation to renew. If a renewal is not received, website access to the Member Portal and Auction Price Report will be removed.

– There are currently 66 clubs and of those only 12 do not opt for the liability insurance option. We anticipate renewals from another 15 clubs as shows are coming up and they will need liability insurance coverage. The renewal deadline is May 1 and renewals received after that date incur a \$25 late fee.

– Michael solicited Webinar topics and magazine articles, and photos.

– Future projects include possibly assisting the Corning Museum of Glass in enhancing their displays and building a Federation web-based reference library.

– Michael then introduced Special Projects Director, Doug Simms, who presented a demonstration of the soon-to-be launched new FOHBC.org website, Auction Price Report, and Virtual Museum. Everyone enjoyed and was awed by Doug's presentation and looks forward to seeing it live very soon.

– The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 am so that attendees could move on to the seminar presentations.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary
Federation of Historical Bottle Collectors