



FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL BOTTLE COLLECTORS
FOUNDED 1969

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2025, 7pm CDT via Zoom

Attendance:

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

Absent: John O'Neill, Director at Large, Charlie Martin, Northeast Region Director

Michael called the meeting to order. There were no guests present.

Financial Report

Michael presented an overview of the financial status of the Federation noting that invoicing for advertising and membership is bringing in substantial income. Income and expenditures were reviewed and approved. Reno 25 funds and Nashville funds were reviewed and approved. The VM funds are extremely low and we have lost our major monthly contributor.

Kathie noted that all Federation accounts have been transferred out of Ferdinand and Elizabeth's names with the exception of the H24 accounts. Kathie now directly receives financial reports for all Federation checking and investment accounts.

Funds have been withdrawn by Peachridge Collections from the H24 account for Exposition book sales and Chair percentage of profits which are being disputed by the board. The board agreed on the need to prepare a statement addressing the unauthorized withdrawals for book sales, and 20% profit claim. Alice noted that accepting books as a donation while allowing an individual to take money from the sale of those books would violate nonprofit IRS regulations and potentially jeopardize the organization's 501(c)(3) non-profit status. Michael

was directed by the board to draft a comprehensive statement addressing these issues to be reviewed by the board. The approved statement will be reviewed by Steve and sent by Certified Letter, signature required to the Meyer's home address.

Membership Dues Structure

Alice did an evaluation of the current membership rate structure. Standard membership rates are ok but the First Class rate does not cover the costs we incur. Michael proposed to increase First Class from \$55 to \$65, with Associate \$70; for 3 years increase from \$125 to \$175, with Associate \$185. Doug moved to accept these changes. Steve seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Alice noted that our printer has suggested allowing only Digital Memberships for Canada and Foreign members due to poor delivery history, damage, and postal strikes and delays.

Special Projects Report – Doug Simms

The three Federation websites have been moved to a new server thus ending the use of the Fat Cow server resulting in improved performance. Doug and Kathie will work with Ferdinand to remove the Federation's credit card information from the Fat Cow server account before the end of June. Comparing the cost of the Fat Cow server at \$177/month with Doug's \$50/month reflects significant savings.

In transitioning oversight from Ferdinand, Doug is working to gain access to various support services and websites including Mailchimp, plugins, and frameworks, and is facing challenges getting full cooperation from Ferdinand and Miguel. Kathie mentioned specific services they have already transitioned, such as Ancestry.com and Member Press. Doug plans to evaluate which services and add ons are necessary and will build a functional requirements package for a new website, incorporating features like Member Press and the feasibility of integrating the Virtual Museum and the Auction Price Report.

Doug will review website content with board members to identify and update contacts and investigate options to set up notifications for website content changes.

The Virtual Museum and Auction Price Report are operating well on the new server. Doug will follow up with Ferd regarding pending virtual museum spins and content updates. He will also work with Bill Meyer to obtain and incorporate auction data from John Pastor, Jim Hagenbush, and Jeff Wickmann into the Auction Price Report. He has not been successful in getting Andy from Real Time Auctions to provide us with a proposal to move the data. He had charged \$10,000 to do this before and it is hopeful he would be cooperative.

Ethics Complaint Response

Doug asked about permissions on access to the websites. At this time Doug is Administrator and Ferdinand is Editor. Should this be changed. The response to the Ethics Complaint has been prepared but not yet sent to Ferdinand. This will be done now. It is dated May 13 and will be mailed Certified Mail to the street address by Kathie on June 4, 2025. It was agreed that the Editor permission should be stopped at this time.

AB&GC Magazine

Alice addressed delays in the magazine's publication and the challenges of managing advertising, including refunds and makeup ads. She has invoiced for about \$6,000 in outstanding advertising invoices. She started with about \$10,000 in accounts receivable. Article submissions are needed and there needs to be some consideration of who will take over magazine production if Ferdinand chooses not to enter into a new contract.

Administrative Duties

Michael continues to manage the membership duties. Alice has taken on many of the administrative tasks. These tasks will be sorted out and defined so that other volunteers can be brought into the processes. We do not anticipate filling the Business Manager position on the previously paid position basis at this time. Quicker response times provided by Michael and Alice as well as John O'Neill for Show Insurance are resulting in many positive comments from members and clubs.

Reno 25

Richard mentioned slow sales at the Reno event with 86 tables sold. He will redesign the Reno show floor layout to accommodate 86 tables rather than 192.

Craig noted 127 room nights have been sold. He will continue promoting the Reno show and managing room bookings.

Alice will contact Bev Siri for an inventory of FOHBC shirts and merchandise and send whatever is needed from the stored inventory.

Convention vs Exposition for Nashville 27

It was decided that either designation was acceptable.

Book Marketing/Sales/Distribution

Michael discussed plans to distribute books to clubs and museums, requesting reimbursement for postage and packaging. He will also list them on eBay with shipping costs being paid by the purchaser. Clubs may use them as fundraisers also.

Feel-Good Story

Alice described a story about a chestnut flask request from the family of a physically disabled young man who was researching about his local area and a partial flask that was unearthed. He had prepared a library display and his father was searching for a complete flask to include. Alice put out a call and Rick Ciralli ended up sending a beautiful flask to the young man during a time he was in the hospital undergoing a life-threatening surgery. A very nice write up with photos will be included in AB&GC.

Board Minutes

With the board having reached a decision about moving into executive session for personnel-related issues, Alice was directed to bring the minutes up to date for posting keeping that in mind.

There being no further business, Tom made a motion to adjourn, Richard seconded. The motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary