



FEDERATION OF HISTORICAL BOTTLE COLLECTORS
FOUNDED 1969

Board of Directors Meeting
May 6, 2025, 7 pm CT, via Zoom

Attendance:

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

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

John O'Neill made a motion that we address an agenda item first, out of order. Charlie seconded. All voted in favor.

John made a motion that we address the agenda item as a personnel matter in Executive Session. Doug seconded. All voted in favor.

The Board moved into Executive Session.

Return to Open Session

The issue of the ownership of the Exhibition books has been settled with the donation letter from Joel Bartsch stating the books were donated solely to the Federation. A Merchandise Committee will determine pricing, marketing and distribution. The committee consists of Henry Hecker, Craig Cassetta, Steve Ketcham, and Michael Seeliger

Michael provided a financial overview of the Federation and the Virtual Museum. No report had been submitted for Houston 24.

The Federation's investment accounts have been reduced due to having to pay a number of past-due invoices, but its investments are doing well and Federation is in a good financial position. The Virtual Museum is very short on funds and will need an infusion of donations to continue to place spins into the Museum. Alan is exploring grants but has been hampered by health concerns.

Michael reported that the trip to Houston to retrieve all of the Federation merchandise and records was difficult but successful. Merchandise was shipped to Richard Siri for the Reno show, Charlie to distribute at shows he is attending, Seeligers for storage, and Craigs for financial records retention. The board authorized reimbursement for all expenses. The Craigs will be donating their airline transportation costs. The board thanked Michael and Alice and Kathie and Michael Craig for taking on this task.

Doug Simms, Special Projects Director, reported that he is working on the Herculean task of securing all domain names, and determining and separating accounts that are co-mingled with the Federation, FMG, and Peachridge Collections. It will take him about 5-7 more days to transfer the FOHBC.org site to his server and it has crashed several times during the transfer. He is getting technical support and software to allow the transfer to be completed. He will need a decision as to whether to incur a cost of \$1,000-\$2,000 to migrate and rebuild the current site or to begin a new website and put that money toward that.

He will get a proposal to the board within a week for developing a new website and will recuse himself from voting so as to not present a conflict of interest.

Doug is continuing to work with Miguel and Ferdinand to get the answers and permissions he needs but it is taking a great deal of time and repeated requests. He is frustrated at the lack of response and cooperation from Miguel and Ferdinand but is glad he is able to help the Federation with his professional expertise and services. It is something he has wanted to do for some time, although he didn't exactly know what he was getting himself in to. The board expressed their gratitude that he has taken on this task.

Doug is setting up metrics for tracking and reporting the activity on Federation websites. This is generally a standard thing on all websites and will help the Federation determine the value of the websites to its members.

Doug will evaluate and present options for Member Press implementation for membership management.

It will be easier to move the Virtual Museum to the high-speed server and maintenance costs should be completely, or greatly, reduced. There is a question as to what the quality of the photographs needs to be for the spins to look as good as they do to the observer. We may be able to reduce the quality and save a considerable amount of time and money.

For the Auction Price Report updates, Doug is working with Bill Meier, who prepared a brief presentation including a photo for each listing. He has contacted John Pastor regarding obtaining his auction results. He has made several attempts to contact Andy at Real Time Auctions who was previously hired at a cost of \$10,000 to transfer auction data to the APR. It is hoped that he would perform that service again without asking for more money since the original charge was much more than was considered appropriate. He has not received any return response from Andy but will keep trying. He is awaiting a call back from Jeff Wichmann.

Doug asked Miguel and Ferdinand for full access to all three sites but has only granted access to FOHBC.org so far. He continues to ask for their attention and cooperation.

Richrd gave a report on Reno. 77 tables have been sold. Craig reported that 111 room nights have been reserved. We need 200 room nights to avoid attrition. Everyone was encouraged to invite people to buy tables and attend the event and reserve rooms at the Silver Legacy. Craig will step up on-line marketing since the magazine will come out too late to be of any help for this show. He is attending several shows and will promote the event there.

Alice asked for some clarification on distributing minutes and holding Executive Session when dealing with personnel or sensitive issues. The board agreed that it is necessary to hold Executive Session and withhold those proceedings from publication until the issues are resolved or until such time as they will not have a negative impact on any of the involved parties.

Steve made a motion to adjourn. Charlie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice J. Seeliger, Secretary