



President's Message

As we enter our fiftieth year of operation, it is with great sadness that we note the passing of Steve Seidel, one of the founders of the ECBA, and Herb Haydock, a long time ECBA member and by any measure one of the all-time great collectors of breweriana. Fortunately, Len Chylack conducted a video interview with Herb Haydock a couple years ago, and I conducted one with Steve Seidel last year. Their remembrances and commentary about their years of collecting are now part of history in the archives of the National Brewery Museum library, and are on line on the library website for the world to view. We are endeavoring to record living history pieces on more early collectors and movers and shakers in the hobby.

I'm writing this message from the ABA convention in Kansas City MO. Everyone here is as excited about the Reading convention as we are, and several have made arrangements to attend. A comment I have heard several times out here is that all conventions are fun in their own way, but the ECBA is as relaxing and welcoming as it gets. Live up to our advance press, and welcome any and all first timers to the fold!

We've been discussing some of the nuts and bolts of merging our organizations. Len Chylack is taking care of the legal aspects of "selling" the ECBA to the ABA. Our challenge over the next year will be to prepare for the next phase of our existence as a Division of the ABA. The ECBA Division will have three liaison officers with the board of the ABA. They will be appointed, at least for the term beginning 2020, by the current officers. The Division will function under a slightly modified version of the bylaws for ABA chapters. As such, there will continue to be a need for officers – President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Think about what role you could fulfill. We will be soliciting candidates over the forthcoming year, and by current thinking, have a side meeting at Mars 2020 for Division elections. The hope is that the ECBA Division will continue to hold regional shows, and maybe in years when the ABA convention is far away, like 2021 in Fort Collins CO, host an East Coast mini-convention (Spring Thaw on steroids in a better hotel!). The eastern convention could be any date, no longer tied to July. Some elements of the ECBA conventions are being eagerly embraced by the ABA. Having a two day trade floor and the micro tasting being two key items. Maybe they will even do an ice cream night.

The ECBA will have available to it four pages of the ABA Journal every two months. Available doesn't mean we are obligated, but the space is there for ECBA Division use. They are particularly eager to have continuations of articles on breweriana fakes, pictures articles such as the complete sets of trays that we have run, and a continuation of Beerhunter articles. Remember, we will all be ABA members, so anyone can submit articles for the ABA Journal – you're not restricted to our added pages. A big change from the ECBA Keg will be the need to get articles in months in advance of the issue rather than getting something to Larry on Monday to print Wednesday. The ABA journal is 48 pages going to 52, and requires a lot more forethought and planning. We'll talk at Reading, and much more to come this year.

As far as our own dear Keg, let us all prepare excellent articles this year on whatever your favorite topic may be, and please, please, share your remembrances of conventions, shows, or people past. It doesn't have to be an article. Send Larry a note about some fond (or not) thoughts about ECBA history.



Dale

