

Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City



The meeting of the Fenton Finders of Greater Kansas City will be on **Thursday September 14TH, 2017** with early registration starting at 1:00 PM in front of the ball rooms in the Embassy Suites, 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, I-29, exit 10, Kansas City MO 64153-2304 and end Saturday, September 16th at ?

Thankfully we do not have any sad news to convey to our members in this newsletter, but we would like to take the time to convey our thoughts and prayers to our friends, family members, and fellow human beings in Texas who have suffered so greatly from the flooding and destruction caused by Hurricane Harvey. Our thoughts and prayers go to these brave people who are just beginning the long hard road to recovery.

Our meeting in August was a busy one with last minute details for the Gala being discussed and hopefully all the potential problems taken care of before the Gala starts. That said we know with new management at the hotel

that we may get some surprises, hopefully good ones. Our program for the August meeting was on glass Optics, sort of a rehearsal for our big display for the Gala. For pictures to see how it turned out along with pictures of show and tell please turn to page 4 and 5. We can only say if our program was a small example of the big display it will be awesome this year!

Most of you know Richard Speaight. He is a past president and has always arranged and set up the big display for the Gala. Many of you may not know it but he is also the person who has, almost from the beginning of the Gala, worked on getting glass from Fenton for the club. At the beginning of the Gala it was Jon Spencer with Richard Speaight and Steve Duncan who got our glass. In the last few years it has been mostly Richard who has, finagled with Fenton and Fenton artists, talked to and bargained with Fenton and Fenton artists, and taken responsibility for most of the glass we have had created and sold both for glass sales and our whimsy auctions. He not only arranges to have our special glass created he has traveled thousands of miles to pick the glass up and deliver it to us at no charge to the club. In the picture on page one he is holding a very large Fenton Burmese vase that was painted by Martha Reynolds, it is of course one of a kind. We just might be seeing it again at the Gala. We are sorry to say the picture does not do it justice. The members who attended our August meeting got to see quite a few of the special pieces of glass that Richard has had created for us and he has outdone his past efforts. We, as a club owe Richard and his better half, Sara, a lot of thanks for all the work that they have done for our club.

We are just now getting down to the nitty gritty of getting ready for the Gala. This newsletter will be the last you get before you leave for Kansas City so we will try to get in it everything that you need to know before attending the Gala.

First, and most important, do not forget to bring your goodies for the hospitality room. We all depend on the kindness of our members to make the room the best it can be. As a reminder, please, if possible use disposable or one use only containers, if not possible please mark somewhere on your container your name so that we can get it back to you. Please do not bring any serving utensils as we have more than we need and yours may well be lost in the confusion of clean up. We will be setting up Wednesday afternoon as soon as the hotel turns over the rooms to us, hopefully starting around 12 PM and anyone who wishes to help set the room up will be welcome. We will try to open on Thursday no later than 12PM but will open sooner if possible. Thank you.

Second, if you have auction glass please be sure the glass is clean and that the correct auction number is on the glass. Setting up for the auction is difficult and time consuming so if your number is not on your glass it makes it more difficult for our people to set the auction up. We believe the hotel will be letting us store our glass in the Kansas room this year instead of the Missouri room, it is next door to the Missouri room so it is easy to find. The room will be open on Wednesday so if you are able to bring in your glass you may store your glass at the hotel. Bernie Johnston has taken charge of the auction and he does a lot of work to make sure it goes as smoothly for all as possible. We have always set a time limit on when people can submit glass for the auction. May 1st has always been our cutoff date and the rule has always been first come first serve. We want no more than 250 pieces of Fenton glass for the auction. This year Bernie had to refuse many very nice pieces of glass because the auction was full early in the year and many people who send their list in late were caught by surprise and could not put glass in the auction. He already has glass set to go into the 2018 auction so if anyone thinks that they may have glass to put in the 2018 auction please get their list and pictures ready for him as soon as possible.

Big display glass. We have many people who have already volunteer to bring their glass for the big display, thank you very much, but if you have something that would be a great addition, something unusual like a Wedding Ring Optic, Wide Rib Optic, Buttons and Braids, Fenton's Drapery, Spiral Optic, Stars and Stripes, or any of the many other Optics that Fenton created or recreated but are not seen very often (and not listed in the newsletter) please bring your glass in so that we may add it to the big display. Richard and Dan will make room. As can be seen from the pictures on pages five and six the big display promises to be one that should not be missed and will not be repeated anywhere. When getting the glass ready, again, please make sure it is clean so it displays the best it can, even more important, please put your name on the bottom or somewhere on the glass so that if you miss picking it up when the display is being torn down we will be able to get it to you. Because we are so busy in the hospitality room our glass is often packed up by other members of the club (they like to eat). When we got home one year and unpacked the tubs of glass we found a beautiful Green Ming Pitcher and tumbler that was not ours and not marked on the bottom of the pitcher or tumbler. It took a while but we managed to find the owner and return the set to him. We are older now and greedier and may not look as hard, just kidding, please use a piece of masking tape or purchase one of those sticky (continued on page 6)



Opulent Optics





Show and Tell



price tags and place your name on your glass. Richard and Dan will be setting up the big display (Salon FGH) on Thursday morning so if you can, please bring your glass in Wednesday and store it in the Kansas room. Please mark your tubs big display glass to make it easy for them to find. If you are coming in Thursday please get your glass to the ball room as soon as possible so that it can be set up. This is a huge job and it takes a long time to do but we think it is worth the work. They will also need help taking down the big display, once all the glass is taken off the display racks the display racks will have to be torn down and Richard and Dan can use all the help that they can get to do this so please let them know if you can help.

Our fabulous treasurer along with her wonderful group of merry ladies will be set up in front of Salon FGH for early registration at 1:00PM Thursday afternoon. They will be handing out packets with all the information that you need to enjoy the Gala. If you decide that you want to order lunch or a banquet meal they will be glad to take care of that for you or if you wish to buy some of our glass they will take care of that. They will have the silent auction pieces set up for viewing and will be glad to help you with bidding on those pieces and to show you where the display case where some of our whimsy auction pieces are on display is located so that you can pick out your favorite piece.

Glass for sale will be set up close to the registration desk and Dan Madura will be setting out the glass for sale for viewing. There will be a lot of glass for sale so please hold on to your pocketbooks. Maybe we should say get out your charge cards as we will have some very nice pieces of Fenton glass for sale this year. Janet Wilke will have all the glass listed with prices. All have worked hard this year to bring you some very nice glass to take home as souvenirs of Gala 2017.



If there are any problems with the hotel please get with Jason Herman, our club's president, or Joy Livengood our club's vice president. They are working closely with the hotel to take care of any problems but we know with new owners/management there may be some. Joy plans on spending Wednesday night at the hotel so you may be able to find her

somewhere around the hotel ready to take care of any problems that may come up.

When you are packing for the Gala do not forget to pack glass for glass id. Anne and Max Blackmore, who will be our special guests this year, will also do glass id for us again this year. If you have a piece of glass that might be Fenton or might not please bring it in and the Blackmores may be able to confirm or deny that it is Fenton. They may also be able to tell you who did make the piece and when. If you have a rare or hard to find piece of Fenton please bring it in so that others may see this very special example of Fenton and be able to id the glass as Fenton if they are lucky enough to find one. Glass id is one of the most important ways that we learn about glass at the Gala so please bring in one or two (or more) pieces of glass for glass id Thursday night. Glass id is the official start of the Gala, after a full meal and happy hour.

That leaves the small display tables. Our favorite part of the Gala. Every year we see glass that we have never seen before and learn something about glass that we thought we knew something about only to find out we didn't. Please bring your glass and enjoy the oohs and ahs. If you have not signed up for a display table check with Janet Wilke and she will be able to tell you if there is a table open for you.

Just as a reminder the hotel is charging for overnight parking now but our contract with the hotel covers this and it should not be added to your bill. If it is, have them remove the charges from your bill.

At the time, this newsletter is being written we only have eleven more days to the Gala. Time that will rush by with all the work that needs to be done to get ready. So, please enjoy your Labor Day weekend and plan on joining us for three days of fun and ohs and ahs as we enjoy the big display of Opulent Optics and we get back with old friends and meet new friends. We are all looking forward to Anne and Max Blackmore's seminar on "Is It Fenton Or Is It Not". Something that is very hard for experts to determine at times. For those who join us only on Face book and you live in the Kansas City area please come over to the hotel and check us out. Rooms will be open with glass for sale. You might find something you like. Until September 14th take care and see you soon.

Jackie Oglesby
Secretary
fentonfinderskc.net

