



## **FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONFRERIES BACHIQUES (F.I.C.B.)**

**Association régie par la loi du 1er juillet 1901**

Siège social : c/o Musée du Vin de Paris – 5, Square Charles Dickens, 75016- Paris, France

[www.winebrotherhoods.org](http://www.winebrotherhoods.org)

[info@winebrotherhoods.org](mailto:info@winebrotherhoods.org)

### **F.I.C.B. GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015**

#### **PRESIDENT's REPORT**

2014 was the year of the 50th anniversary of the Federation. It was well celebrated on the occasion of the F.I.C.B. Congress successfully organized by the Conseil des Echantons de France in Reims and the Champagne region.. This was also a year of transition, with my taking of office as President on 15 June and the appointment of Laurence GUILLON as secretary general, replacing Claude RUFINI.

We have pursued the implementation of the action plan we adopted at the 2013 General Assembly. Following the revision of our statutes and interules of procedure which became effective that year, we have revised the specification for the organization of our international F.I.C.B. Congresses, which is in force as of the 2016 Congress in California.

We have continued to develop our website so that if not onbly becomes the site for the promotion and contacts of our wine brotherhoods, but also a portal on the art of wine tasting and knowledge on wine. We have created a newsletter which will be published every 3 to 4 months.

We have registered two new memberships, but also three resignations.

Our challenges for 2015 are:

- To attract new active, associate and sponsor members, in the countries where we already have members, but also in other wine producing countries around the world
- To this effect, promote the F.I.C.B. "international charter of wine brotherhoods" which, I hope, you will endorse at this meeting
- Develop the content of our website and promote it as the spearhead of our communication, by encouraging our members to use for their own promotion

and contacts between them, and making it more attractive for a wider audience

- Increase the visibility of our Federation in the events organized by our members and, beyond, in international events to which it might be associated

Financially, while 2014 was largely positive thanks to the royalties from the Reims Congress, our situation remains fragile and we must foster the means to improve it so that the balance of our accounts be less dependent on the income from congress royalties.

The adoption of our international charter will enable to better communicate on what are, or should be, the wine brotherhoods in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in order to increase the outreach of our wine brotherhoods, as the expertise in wine growing and conviviality in tasting of quality wines, which are our “raison d’être”, attract increasingly connoisseurs and professionals around the world.

Alan BRYDEN

President of F.I.C.B.