

MINUTES

Spokane Enological Society Board Meeting

May 8, 2023, 17:00 pm | Meeting called to order by President Kris Wedel (In Person and via Zoom)

In Attendance

Board attendees: Marlys Achey, Deb Austin, Matt Dolan, Terry Gross, Deby Hanson, Marty Hanson, Julie Happy, Claudia Hersey, Kevin Howell, Skip Leasure, Lyn Leininger, Marcia Plewman, Kris Wedel

Board absentees: Carly Cortright, David DeNio, Dionne DeNio, Kyle Goodwin, Ellen Hoffman

Appointee attendees: Mary Gross, Mona Henspeter, Robin Henspeter, Paul Hersey, CR Rimpila, Jeffery Snow

Appointee absentees: Eva Roberts

Quorum? Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Kris Wedel.

Since we had several new board members, each person introduced themselves and conveyed a few interesting facts about themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 10, 2023, annual board meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Carly Cortright

Treasurer's reports for the Basalt Cellars special event, the annual totals, and the anniversary dinner had been distributed to board members. Carly was not present, but had pointed out that the reports are a little off because we have been slow to receive invoices for the anniversary dinner, both from Vino and The Spokane Club. Matt explained the reason for the Vino delay and suggested a solution to pay up front and be reimbursed for unused bottles. We will not explore that avenue now, since the only problem is the treasurer's report, which appears skewed with the delayed payments.

The annual report shows a current balance of \$17,343.22.

Membership Report: Deb Austin

We currently have 216 members; one signed up at the anniversary dinner. There are 90 registered for the May 15 tasting. Deb will close the registration on Wednesday morning. So far, 28 have renewed their membership for next year.

June 30 is the renewal deadline. If members don't renew by July 31, they will be charged a new member fee.

Tasting Programs: Robin and Mona Henspeter

The program for next week includes 9 of the top 10 affordable wines in Wine Spectator. There will be a bubbly and three pours of two each after that. They are all rated at 90 points or better.

There are 23 bottles in inventory, and Robin had planned to give away two at the upcoming tasting, but the group prefers we give away three.

Earlier today, the committee tasted wines for the June program. The theme is summer/BBQ, and the wines will include three whites, three pinks, and two “stellar/renowned” bold reds. There will be optional spritzers. The logistics of doing spritzers was discussed (mixers, fruit, type of cup, etc.), and will be coordinated with the Food Committee. The cost of this tasting may be a little higher because of the two reds and extra spritzer ingredients, but should still be under \$40.

A sign-up sheet for pourers for the 15th was circulated.

Special Events

Eva was not in attendance, but she has confirmed the date for the Holiday dinner as December 11, 2023.

Extra Special Events: Deby Hanson

There were 21 attendees at the Clarkston field trip to Basalt Cellars. The winery did a good job with the tasting, the majority stayed for a dinner out, and several golfed on Sunday.

Deby and Paul are co-chairs now, and they have discussed doing a special event in the summer when we don't have other events going on, details TBD.

Food Committee: Mary Gross

The food has been planned for next Monday's tasting. Mary thanked all the “fabulous” people who stepped up to host and do the pairing after her illness forced a change in plans.

Glasses | Linens | Swag Bags, etc.: Claudia Hersey

Dionne has turned all the inventory over to Claudia, who will bring some items to the next tasting for sale. All

the items have our logo:

- 122 new glasses, \$8 each
- 41 old glasses, \$6 each
- 11 port glasses, \$5 each
- 4 trays, which perhaps could be given away in a drawing
- 62 carry bags

Claudia would like to jazz up the bags a little with personalized tags and new tissue paper.

Membership Recognition: Dionne DeNio

No report on membership recognition.

Education: Jeff Snow

So far, Jeff has written articles in the Wineminder on two grapes and wonders if the group is still interested in articles on more grapes. The group made suggestions on the types of varietals and indicated they would like him to continue with those articles. Jeff also has other ideas:

What's Happening in That Barrel?

How Much Skin Contact do you Need for Enjoyment?

He also brought up wine education for new members or those with limited wine knowledge. Do we need to have a class, and if so, should we organize a committee to plan it?

Mona's suggestion was to do a simple five-minute segment during the tastings which would specifically deal with a particular topic. It would be brief and tie into the theme for the tasting. Later she was asked if she was willing to present the five-minute session, and she agreed.

Matt feels that a Wine 101 style of class would be popular and attract new members. Kevin agrees a class as an extra special event would be popular. Marlys made a motion that we form a committee to look into a Wine 101 class for an educational component, and the motion passed. Kris asked for volunteers to form a committee to organize these educational opportunities, and the committee was formed of: Marly Achey, Matt Dolan, Kevin Howell, and Skip Leasure. They were asked to meet prior to our June meeting so the classes could possibly begin in September. The group agreed on Thursdays, and Marlys offered to organize the meeting.

A/V, Social Media, & ZOOM: Terry Gross

There was a recent glitch in the system which was ironed out. Terry is still planning to do some website training with Charlie.

Website Update: Charlie Rimpila

Charlie has been working with Claudia to keep things up to date. They are working on getting certain things posted on the website, such as meeting minutes. Adding documents and creating events are fairly easy tasks, but our registration issues take time, and his time is limited.

Deb Austin would like to see a tutorial in the next Wineminder on the process of registering for events and renewing memberships. She would like screen shots of the processes along with the instructions. Deb will get together with Charlie to work on this, and Terry will be included.

Wineminder: Claudia Hersey

June's Wineminder is half way complete. Please get any articles submitted by May 25, 2023.

The previously-discussed survey will also be distributed in June, separately from the Wineminder.

Upcoming Dates

The next tasting will be May 15, 2023, at Shriners.

The next board meeting will be June 12, 2023, via Zoom.

The June tasting will be June 19, 2023, at Shriners.

The annual board retreat is July 10, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Marcia Plewman, SES Secretary