

# MINUTES

## Spokane Enological Society Board Meeting

*March 11, 2024, 7:00 p.m. Meeting called to order by President Kris Wedel via Zoom*

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### In Attendance

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Board attendees: Marlys Achey, Deb Austin, Carly Cortright, Kyle Goodwin, Mary Gross, Terry Gross, Deby Hanson, Marty Hanson, Claudia Hersey, Ellen Hoffman, Kevin Howell, Skip Leasure, Lyn Leininger, Marcia Plewman, Julie Snow, Kris Wedel

Board absentees: David DeNio, Dionne DeNio

Appointee attendees: Mona Henspeter, Robin Henspeter, Paul Hersey, Jeffery Snow

Appointee absentees: Charlie Rimpila, Eva Roberts

Quorum? Yes

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

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### Approval of Minutes

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The February minutes were approved as written. There was a question about the additional \$20 fee for guests at special dinners, and it was determined that was voted on and approved during the November 2023 meeting.

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### Treasurer's Report: Carly Cortright

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The February Argentina wine tasting made \$634, a 15.5 percent profit. This was in part due to the Food Committee's work in coming in under budget. We sold several glasses (since several forgot to bring them). The February Wine 101 class lost \$41, an 8 percent loss. We need to make sure we are taking all the costs into account when deciding what to charge for the course. The annual totals report shows a balance of \$11,142.08, with only one month remaining in our fiscal year. We have paid ahead through May for Shriners and we have paid ahead on our liquor license.

Our administrative costs are currently higher than our revenue. Last year our membership numbers were at 212 when we decided to raise the membership fee. Our numbers are currently around 180-190, so Carly recommended the annual fee go to \$35. She has no recommendation on the cost per tasting as that is a responsibility of the Program Committee. It is felt that charging an extra \$10 for monthly tastings incentivizes guests to join, as well as the extra \$20 for special dinners. Jeff had a concern that raising the annual membership fee would further deter members from renewing.

We were reminded that our bylaws suggest guests attend no more than two tastings before being asked to join. We don't prorate our annual fees; however, if joining after the anniversary dinner, the two months remaining are at no charge and the fee will apply to the upcoming year.

#### Potential Changes in Tasting Amounts

Kris asked if there is any data showing why our numbers went down. Was it the \$5 increase in dues, the drive to Shriners, too much wine/dumping, or because older members are no longer drinking wine? There was a

discussion about reducing the number of wines offered vs. reducing the amount of the pours, vs. continuing as we have been. If we change, we could do six 2-ounce pours or stick with eight wines and 1.5-ounce pours. It was decided to survey the membership about this question. A motion was made and seconded that Skip Leasure will explain the situation to the membership in attendance at the March tasting. He will survey the group regarding the number of wines and size of pours with a show of hands. The motion passed.

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### **Membership Report: Deb Austin**

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We currently have 189 members, including three who joined this month. There are 95 registered as of this afternoon for the tasting next Monday. Deb will shut off registration Wednesday morning.

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### **Tasting Programs: Robin Henspeter**

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Next week's tasting will involve ten Wine Spectator wines of value and should be a great tasting. In future months they hope to feature Chelan wines and Australian wines. The members seem to want the Chelan tasting, but the cost may be a little higher. It was suggested to combine the themes in case some don't like Chelan or Australian wines, but it was pointed out that a lot of legwork has gone into working with the Chelan wineries. Several members attended the Chelan event held recently at The Davenport and spent a lot of time getting them interested in attending our event at a reasonable price point. It wouldn't be feasible to combine this with other themes. Every tasting won't appeal to every member.

We have 36 bottles in inventory. An email will be sent requesting pourers for next Monday.

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### **Special Events: Deb Austin**

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The annual board meeting will be held Monday, April 8, at the Spokane Club. The cost is \$43.86 per person. Please bring cash or check to the Spokane Club meeting. Bring a significant other if desired, and a bottle of wine per person. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m.

There is a lot of business to take care of. During the meeting we will hold elections, and the new board members will vote on executive officers. Everyone who has been on the board for at least a year is eligible to be an officer. Deb will send out an invitation and a request for RSVP's.

The anniversary dinner will be April 19, with a French theme called "Lost Dinner of 2020." No price has been set yet.

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### **Extra Special Events: Deby Hanson and Paul Hersey**

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Paul and Deby have been in discussions regarding a Reidel wine glass tasting, but have run into some roadblocks. This has been put off until fall, and if it happens, the cost for the glasses is \$50, plus wine, rent, and other costs will probably put it around \$80 per person.

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### **Food Committee: Mary Gross**

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The Food Committee's tasting went well last night, and they came up with eight items for eight wines, new items that we haven't had before.

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

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- 8 old logo glasses
- 101 new logo glasses
- 42 swag bags

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## **Education: Jeff Snow and Wine 101 Committee**

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Marlys reported the second Wine 101 course was successful. They have heard there is an interest in a class on sparkling wine. The date is set for May 14, and the committee has had a planning meeting. Alex Barber will join the committee in Matt's place. They need a place to meet and a place to source wine. In the fall, they plan to redo the first two Wine 101 courses. She would like to advertise in the WineMinder. Someone suggested St. Stephen's church on 57<sup>th</sup>, and Skip said his real estate office in Kendall Yards could be a good venue, and free. There would be some hoops to jump through (permits, etc.), but this could work out well.

Jeff got positive feedback on this month's article, "The Great White Way." He is considering an article on vineyard pests, leaf curl, mildew, rattlesnakes, wild boar, etc.

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## **AV/Social Media: Terry Gross**

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No new report from this committee, other than a question as to whether or not the Spokane Club has a microphone for our annual meeting. Deb will confirm.

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## **Website/WineMinder: Claudia Hersey**

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Charlie has been relatively responsive to Claudia. She would like to start highlighting bios of board members in the May WineMinder, 2 or 3 at a time. Please submit a bio and photo to Claudia. Outgoing board members don't need to complete this assignment.

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## **Questionnaire**

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Kris is working on a member questionnaire regarding meeting location and optional tasting dates to see what kind of tally we get. We could reconsider the Southside Senior Center, but that might have to be on another day of the week. The Montvale was suggested, which could be a good location except for the parking.

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## **Upcoming Dates**

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The next tasting will be March 18, 2024, at Shriners.

The annual board meeting will be April 8, 2024, at the Spokane Club Library.

The anniversary dinner will be Friday, April 19, 2024, in the Spokane Club Georgian Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Marcia Plewman, SES Secretary