

# MINUTES

## Spokane Enological Society Board Meetings

*February 13, 2023, 17:00 pm | Meeting called to order by Claudia Hersey (Zoom Only)*

---

### In Attendance

**Board attendees:** Carly Cortright, Mary Gross, Terry Gross, Marty Hanson, Julie Happy, Mona Henspeter, Robin Henspeter, Claudia Hersey, Paul Hersey, Kris Wedel

**Board absentees:** Marlys Achey, David DeNio, Ellen Hoffman, Barb Kogler, Marcia Plewman, Jody Wende, Dionne DeNio

**Appointee attendees:** Deb Austin, Kyle Goodwin, Deby Hanson, Charlie Rimpila, Eva Roberts, Jeffery Snow

**Appointee absentees:** None

Quorum? Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Hersey via Zoom.

---

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January 9, 2023, meeting were approved as written.

---

### Treasurer's Report: Carly Cortright

We paid the Spokane Club invoice in January so it is now accounted for in the financial reports.

The January Paso Robles tasting had a ~\$500 gain. The ending bank balance on January 31, 2023 was \$8,495.90 and year-end bank balance the same. Carly added a new category for Revenue from sales of wine glasses and other items that would fall into that category.

Carly presented her financial analysis of projected costs and income and recommended new annual membership fees. After review it was agreed the recommended new member price of \$40 per person, and the recommended renewing member price of \$30 per person would be appropriate. A motion was made to approve the new membership rates, seconded, and approved.

The new rates will be effective March 1, 2023. Claudia will revise the New Member/Renewing Member Application Form with the new member/renewing member price, and we will announce the new fees in the March WineMinder. Charlie Rimpila will update the website registration page with the new price structure to go live on March 1, 2023. Until that time we will continue to enroll new members at the current price structure, and as before, we will continue the practice of not prorating new member dues.

Per Bylaw 3.2.2 the Standing Rules will reflect the approved dues change.

---

### Membership Report: Deb Austin

We currently have 213 members, including four new members since last month. There are currently 106 people registered for the next tasting, including 9 guests. There are a couple of board members who are still planning to register, and a few more members with guests wanting to attend, so we agreed to extend the registration maximum to 120 (10 bottles).

---

### Tasting Programs: Paul Hersey and Robin Henspeter

Our next tasting is February 20<sup>th</sup> titled THE SIDEWAYS EFFECT, A World of Pinot Noirs, at \$32 for members and \$38 for guests. The proposed wine list changed because the August Kessler (Germany) Pinot was not available – the tasting committee decided the Forge Cellars Fingerlakes, NY Pinot was a noteworthy substitute so will be part of the tasting.

A sign-up sheet for pourers was passed around. Paul will recruit more if not enough have signed up to pour. The March tasting will feature Winescapes wines; hosted by Winescapes and presented by the Butterfield team. Their theme is VINE TO TABLE.

Our current inventory is 29 bottles. The recommended giveaway for the February tasting is five bottles.

The current Program Committee Co-Chairs were asked to recommend possible new Program Co-Chairs. Named was Robin Henspeter (to continue as Co-Chair), Mona Henspeter, and Julie Happy. Paul Hersey said he would support the Program Co-Chairs on an as needed basis. All nominated Board Directors agreed they would serve if appointed.

---

### **Special Events**

---

The SES Annual Board Meeting and Dinner will be held Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Room at the Spokane Club. Attendees may bring a guest and the cost of the dinner buffet is still to be determined but generally is in the \$40 per person price range. Attendees should also bring a bottle or two of wine to share with the group.

The SES Anniversary Dinner will be held Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Spokane Club. Chef Eric is working on the dinner menu. Eva Roberts will manage the event but will not be available to attend. In her absence Deb Austin will manage the table seating assignments.

The SES Holiday Dinner will either be December 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> in the Georgian Ballroom at the Spokane Club. Eva will communicate with Jackie at the Spokane Club to confirm the date. The 11<sup>th</sup> is the preferred date.

---

### **Extra Special Events**

---

Deby Hanson reported she had contacted Rick at Basalt Cellars in Clarkston, WA to arrange for a group "extra special event" there on April 15<sup>th</sup> – the maximum number they can host is 60 people. The cost of the 8 wine tasting (including light snacks) is \$25 per person. Basalt Cellars will also offer club member pricing to anyone wanting to purchase wine that day. They also offered a special group rate at the nearby Holiday Inn for attendees wanting to stay overnight. Claudia will draft a sample invitation to advertise the event and Deby will confirm the details with Basalt Cellars before distributing the event information to the membership.

Jeffery Snow provided an update on the WSU Educational Tour and Wine Tasting event scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> – 37 people are registered leaving room for 8 more registrations. Registration fee is \$10 per person which covers the cost of lunch. Julie Snow will manage the lunch order for the group through Fat Olives in Richland and the SES will reimburse Julie when she turns in her receipt for the lunch.

Jeffery will remind attendees of the day's itinerary at the February tasting and invite 8 more people to attend.

---

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

---

Mary thanked Robin Henspeter for picking up and delivering the Food Committee's allotment of tasting wines before the committee meeting on Saturday. The prepared foods will include appetizers (some with a French theme) and three different kinds of spreads.

Mary proposed that Terry Gross be named the Food Committee Co-Chair as he basically helps her in that capacity anyways. The board agreed Terry should continue to serve in that capacity. Mary confirmed the 10 people on the Food Committee was sufficient to support the food preparation needs for the tastings.

Marty Hanson suggested we provide plastic or paper cups at the tables for water – Mary agreed to include water cups in their table settings going forward.

---

### **Glassware | Linens & Promo Items Committee**

---

Dionne did not attend or provide an updated inventory count of old glasses, new glasses, and carry bags at the meeting. Claudia has requested Dionne provide that at her earliest convenience.

We will continue to sell the old logo wine glasses for \$6.00 each until the supply is gone. The new logo wine glasses are also available to purchase at \$8.00 each (approximately 36 glasses have been set aside for that purpose). We may need to order more carrybags before the end of the year – waiting to learn inventory before deciding to place that order.

---

### **Membership Recognition**

---

Jeffery Snow will share a brief remembrance for Joseph Kaley, past SES President, who passed away on January 24<sup>th</sup> at the February tasting.

---

### **Education: Jeff Snow**

---

Jeffery discussed that he had been thinking about the wine education needs of our membership (newer members and those who have been members for a long time); Jeffery offered to conduct “Wine 101” small group wine education classes. Mona Henspeter thought that was a great idea and offered to assist Jeffery in developing a program and teaching those classes. Several other board members might also want to participate.

It was agreed to include questions about wine education needs of our members in the planned 2023 membership survey. Claudia will also draft an article on the subject to include in the March WineMinder.

---

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

---

Terry and Charlie Rimpila will get together to bring Terry up to speed as backup for Charlie’s webmaster responsibilities.

Charlie and Deb Austin would schedule time to review the problems Deb encounters with the current registration process, and how she would like to see the reporting data appear. It was agreed however that with the new one price structure that would make accounting for event registrations much easier.

Charlie had updated the SES website with a few new pictures and current articles and minutes and had re-organized the documents by category and date so they are much easier to navigate.

Claudia will send Charlie the updated information related to the new price structure for the registration page and also would send Charlie updated information for the ABOUT US pages as well as remove any reference to location of our tastings being at the Southside Community Center.

Terry also noted he had added some articles of interest to the SES Facebook pages and that at the February tasting he would play music from Deron Bell who he featured in his YOU HEARD IT HERE February article. Paul Hersey requested Terry get up to speed on the powerpoint presentation capabilities in the Fireside Room at Shriners as Winescapes will want to show a presentation at the March tasting.

---

## **Other Business: Claudia Hersey**

---

**Elections Process:** Claudia asked the Nominating Committee (Deb Austin, Kris Wedel, Marcia Plewman and Deby Hanson) to present their list of nominated new Board Directors. They are: Deb Austin, Lyn Leininger, Matt Dolan, Donovan "Skip" Leasure, Kevin Howell and Kyle Goodwin. Resumes for Matt, Skip and Kevin were provided.

President Hersey will announce the 6 new Board nominees at the February tasting. We are also required to ask if there are any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none then we will announce that an election process will not be required and all nominees will be considered elected to the Board of Directors and will be installed at the Annual Board Meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Hearing another one nomination or more from the floor (and those are seconded) then we will announce that an election by ballot will be required.

Claudia asked the current appointees if they would be willing to serve again in their current capacity, if appointed by the newly elected President. All current appointees agreed to serve except Paul Hersey, who as the current Program Co-Chair, was stepping down, however, he also said he would assist as needed during the transition to the new Program Co-Chairs.

Claudia asked the current executive officers (currently serving as Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President), that if elected by the new board of directors, are willing to serve in that capacity for another year. All current officers agreed to serve except Claudia Hersey, who although eligible to serve one more year if elected, wanted to give someone else the opportunity to serve as President.

**Annual Survey:** Claudia suggested we conduct a yearly survey of our membership. The last survey was done in 2018. Claudia provided a sample survey with questions. Will also include questions about wine education classes. The survey will be distributed by email to the membership on or about June 1st and results of the survey will be presented at the Board Retreat on or about July 10, 2023.

**Potential Consequences of SB5002:** Claudia reviewed the discussion items she presented related to the potential consequences of the proposed SB5002 bill that if passed into law would make Washington the 2<sup>nd</sup> state in the country to lower the legal limit for driver's blood alcohol content from 0.08% to 0.05%. The Board agreed there would be added concern over potential risks if imposed but would help manage the potential risks by managing responsible consumption, encouraging attendees to eat plenty of food and drink more water provided during the tastings, and reminding attendees the Board will assist with arranging for a safe ride home if needed.

---

## **Important Dates**

---

- The next tasting is February 20<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup> at Shriners.
- The next Board meeting is March 13<sup>th</sup> (via Zoom) – Kris Wedel will conduct this meeting as Claudia is on vacation and not able to join by Zoom
- The Annual Board Meeting and Dinner is April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Spokane Club.
- The Anniversary Dinner is April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Spokane Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Claudia Hersey, acting SES Secretary for Marcia Plewman