

MINUTES

Spokane Enological Society Board Meeting

June 12, 2023, 17:00 pm | Meeting called to order by President Kris Wedel via Zoom

In Attendance

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

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

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

Appointee absentees: Paul Hersey, Eva Roberts

Quorum? Yes

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 8, 2023, annual board meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Carly Cortright

A report from this spring's anniversary dinner was included, since the bills and payments were a little delayed. The report shows a loss, which is fairly normal. We didn't want to increase the price from \$105, but that didn't quite cover the expenses and there was loss of \$459.52, which our budget can handle. The May tasting, however, came out ahead with a \$343.85 gain. This month had a few annual administrative expenses: insurance and Wild Apricot, which showed up this month. Shriners has been paid through June, and we expect to receive a bill from them soon for the second half of the year, \$528 per event for five events (\$2,640).

The annual report shows a current balance of \$8,751.11.

Membership Report: Deb Austin

We currently have 211 members; one new one this month. There are 85 registered for the June 19 tasting. Deb will close the registration on Wednesday morning, and Robin hopes more will sign up before then to make the program more viable. So far, 119 have renewed their membership for next year.

Deb was asked what the club does to welcome new members. She sends welcome information to new members about the organization, they receive glasses, name badges, and carry bags, plus she welcomes them at the door. Claudia has a draft of a president's welcome letter to new members, which she will forward to Kris and Deb.

Tasting Programs: Robin Henspeter

The program for next week includes three pinks, three whites, and two special reds. There will be spritzer ingredients provided for one of the whites and one of the pinks, if people choose to make a spritzer. The reds

to be served are really outstanding with price tags around \$100. Claudia will point this out in her tasting reminder email. Robin was a little concerned that one of the reds is a Woodward Canyon, which we served in April, but this one is different and even better. The food committee was provided the wines for their meeting, and they are also planning for the spritzer ingredients.

There are 29 bottles in inventory, and he and Marty discussed giving away five bottles at the tasting, since we are going into summer with a fairly large inventory. Robin will get the wine transported to the tasting.

Special Events

Eva was not in attendance, but the date for the Holiday dinner is December 11, 2023.

Extra Special Events: Deby Hanson

Deby and Paul are discussing an event in August, "something fun" TBD.

Food Committee: Mary Gross

Mary feels the spritzers will be a hit; they will include frozen fruit and soda, which can't be poured too far in advance. Patrons can use the ingredients to make spritzers if they wish. The first wines served don't pair well with the food, but they pair with the fruit. The food will be picnic style with gingham, etc. to match the theme, and the supplies added a little extra expense. They will need to coordinate with Shriners for some extra tables in the kitchen, etc. They tasted the fancy reds and felt they were exceptional.

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

Inventory includes:

- 138 new logo glasses
- 41 old logo glasses
- 6 port glasses (to be raffled)
- 65 +/- carry bags

Claudia purchased new table number cards, bigger bag tags, and calligraphy pens.

Membership Recognition: Dionne DeNio

No report on membership recognition.

Education: Jeff Snow and Wine 101 Committee

Jeff discussed his Snow on Wine articles and the Wine 101 committee, which had a very enthusiastic meeting since our last board meeting and will be discussed later. He will continue writing about grapes we are not very familiar with, the next one likely to be Nebbiolo. He may write a future article about Angels' Share and things going on in wine barrels. There were suggestions of backyard grapes, which doesn't interest Jeff much, and at-home wine kits, which could be handled by the Wine 101 committee.

Marlys gave a synopsis of what was discussed at the Wine 101 committee meeting.

- Skip would like to give a brief presentation about the committee and their plans at the June tasting.
- The plan is to meet monthly for a one-hour presentation and 30-minute question-and-answer session.

- This would hopefully be held at a zero-cost location beginning in September on the first Wednesday of each month. The first two dates would be September 6 and October 4. Dates could be changed based on the group's needs.
- Information on the classes would be included in the monthly Wineminder.
- The cost of the sessions would be determined by the expenses, hopefully around \$10.
- They will begin with some basic ways to approach and taste wine, then cover the basic components of wine. The group has a list of potential topics.
- Certificates of completion will be presented.

The target audience will be SES members. Skip feels not everyone at our tastings is at the same level in their wine knowledge, and some might need more introductory knowledge than others. Kevin feels we don't want to get through the information too fast and overwhelm participants.

Jeff warned about giving too much information at a tasting because people want to drink wine and talk to their friends, the reason he switched to Snow on Wine. The mention of the class will be a teaser on what is planned and will hopefully be entertaining and stimulate curiosity.

Kris gave kudos for a great job by the committee and to new members presenting new ideas with enthusiasm! Claudia is looking forward to including this information in the Wineminder.

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

Group members met recently, and Charlie showed Terry some of the ropes.

Website Update: Charlie Rimpila

Claudia expressed frustration with recent website issues and not being able to find any technical assistance. One example would be links that connect to old information or incorrect information. She would like her web presence in the future to be limited to the Wineminder. Charlie apologized for not getting to the glitches in a timely manner. Terry would like to also try to learn more about dealing with the website. Kris and Terry will get some instruction from Charlie on web functions.

Deb is still asking for some instruction materials to help members with registration and renewals. She gets multiple calls asking for help, and many members have resorted to mailing checks. She wants two minutes at the tasting to instruct people on using the website for these two tasks.

The annual survey has gone out, and Kris has received 15 or so responses. Charlie mentioned that Wild Apricot has a polling system that could have been used for the survey, rather than a manual survey. We may have used this had we known about it, but the survey has been discussed for several months and is already distributed, so it is not appropriate to change at this point. Claudia volunteered to print some extra copies of the survey to have on hand at Monday's tasting.

Matt's impression of the survey is that it is an opportunity to complain, and asked what the goal is. The survey is intended to take the temperature of the group, and Kris said she has received positive comments along with negative ones, plus some great suggestions.

Wineminder: Claudia Hersey

The next Wineminder will come out in August prior to September's tasting. Claudia will send reminders about articles.

Upcoming Dates

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

The annual board retreat is July 10, 2023, at the Gross residence. A “chunk o meat” will be provided, and the group made a motion (passed) for the SES to cover the cost of the meat. Board members will bring pot luck items, coordinated by Mary.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Marcia Plewman, SES Secretary