

# MINUTES

## Spokane Enological Society Annual Board Retreat

*July 10, 2023, 17:00 pm | Meeting called to order by President Kris Wedel*

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### **In Attendance**

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Board attendees: Marlys Achey, Deb Austin, David DeNio, Dionne DeNio, Matt Dolan, Kyle Goodwin, Terry Gross, Deby Hanson, Marty Hanson, Claudia Hersey, Lyn Leininger, Marcia Plewman, Kris Wedel

Board absentees: Carly Cortright, Ellen Hoffman, Kevin Howell, Skip Leisure

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

Appointee absentees: Eva Roberts

Quorum? Yes

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

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### **Approval of Minutes**

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The minutes from the June 12, 2023, annual board meeting were approved as written.

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### **Treasurer's Report: Carly Cortright**

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The treasurer's report was brief due to Carly's absence and a brewing thunderstorm. The report was distributed, and if anyone has any questions, they can be discussed at a later date.

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

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We currently have 189 members; two are new since the June tasting. We have had 148 renewals so far. Deb has been working on updating and cleaning up the roster.

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

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We currently have 31 bottles in inventory. Some future ideas being pursued involve Argentina, Chile, and Australia, as well as Antinori as a family.

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### **Special Events**

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Eva was not in attendance, but the date for the Holiday dinner is December 11, 2023. As mentioned in the survey results, there were good and bad comments about the Spokane Club. Many are unhappy with the venue or tired of it, with complaints involving cold food or high prices. (See survey attachments.) The group would like to explore whether there are any viable alternatives. Hopefully if we do decide on an alternate location, our December Spokane Club date is not set in stone.

There was a discussion about whether our monthly tasting proceeds subsidize lower prices for the special dinner events, and most feel that has happened only on rare occasions.

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

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Our field trip is scheduled for August 14 at Shannon Faye Winery in Colbert. The owner is thrilled to have us and is bending over backwards. The winery should be surrounded by a field of sunflowers at the time. The cost will be around \$16, and SES will provide some basic snacks.

Deby and Paul are working on a September idea as well.

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## **Food Committee: Mary Gross**

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The food served at the tastings got rave reviews in the survey. Mary reported that she currently has enough volunteers for the committee.

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

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No update this month.

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## **Membership Recognition: Dionne DeNio**

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There will be members to be recognized at the holiday dinner if they renew.

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

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This topic was also kept brief due to the weather conditions. Jeff is thinking of a September article called "Gimme Gamay," or Nebbiolo.

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## **Website Update/Social Media: Charlie Rimpila and Terry Gross**

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Terry has not been around lately to do much on the website. The photos have been updated. This is a two-person job because one person is not always available. Charlie has received numerous requests for changes to the website and would like a system to prioritize the email requests.

Kris would like to see the treasurer's report on the website along with the minutes.

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## **Wineminder: Claudia Hersey**

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Claudia will remind everyone in August about the deadlines for the September Wineminder.

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## **Other topics**

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Julie Happy is unable to serve the rest of her board term, so we need a new board member to serve the remainder of her time. Mary Gross accepted the nomination and was approved.

Kris distributed copies of the survey results and the comments. As discussed in other sections, the food at tastings received rave reviews and the Spokane Club received some reviews that were not as positive. The survey results will be available on the website along with the minutes and treasurer's report. Members commented about the price point vs. value debate for our wine tastings, with many different viewpoints. Hopefully members realize there are other costs involved (rent, food, permits, etc.), and this is one reason the treasurer's report should be available to members.

We have had some really great programs, and Kris is excited about what is to come.

She gave a shout out to Mary and Terry Gross for hosting our annual retreat and for cooking brisket.

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### **Upcoming Dates**

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The next board meeting will be September 11, 2023.

The next tasting will be September 18, 2023, at Shriners.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Marcia Plewman, SES Secretary