

# MINUTES

## Spokane Enological Society Board Meeting Shriners Event Center

*September 11, 2023, 7:00 p.m. Meeting called to order by President Kris Wedel*

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### **In Attendance**

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Board attendees: Marlys Achey, Deb Austin, Kyle Goodwin, Mary Gross, Terry Gross, Deby Hanson, Marty Hanson, Claudia Hersey, Skip Leasure, Lyn Leininger, Marcia Plewman, Kris Wedel

Board absentees: Carly Cortright (attended via phone for treasure's report), David DeNio, Dionne DeNio, Matt Dolan, Ellen Hoffman, Kevin Howell

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

Appointee absentees: Charlie Rimpila

Quorum? Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Kris Wedel.

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### **Approval of Minutes**

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The minutes from the July 10, 2023, annual board retreat were approved as written.

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

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Carly was not in attendance, but did connect with Kris via speaker phone for the treasurer's report. She is a little concerned about the lower membership numbers this year and how it may affect our bottom line. We have 177 members, whereas this time last year we had around 213. We have a strong bank balance and should be okay as long as our membership can bring in enough administrative revenue to keep up with increasing expenses.

We may look into some incentives for bringing in new members.

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

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Deb has been working on archiving members who did not renew and cleaning up the roster. We currently have 177 members; nine are new since June.

There are around 102 signed up for next Monday's tasting; seven of the new members are attending, along with eight guests. Deb will cut off the registration tomorrow.

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

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The registration numbers are looking good for next Monday's tasting of Antinori wines. They are a dynasty with wineries all over the world. Robin is arranging the transport of the wine with Vino. We will begin with sparkling wines and end with wines in the \$150 range. There is a change in the presenter; she seems to be very credentialed.

There are 32 bottles in stock, and four or five will be given away at the tasting.

The committee is looking at wines of Uruguay for October, another family-owned dynasty. They may work with a wholesaler as it could save some dollars. They are still discussing a program for November.

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### **Special Events: Eva Roberts**

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Looking at alternatives to the Spokane Club for our special events had been discussed at the July retreat based on some comments received in the survey. No committee had been formed to research the possibility. Eva explained that the prices at the Spokane Club are not outrageous because there are gratuities, taxes, corkage, etc. to be considered. She works with many facilities and there are really no viable alternatives who will provide this type of menu and not charge fees for corkage. The food can be hit and miss, and hot food should be hot.

It was also discussed that the SES committee and the chef should be a little more involved in choosing the wines at the special events.

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

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Our field trip in August to Shannon Faye was very hot, but well attended and fun. The next event will be a walk-around to three wineries downtown on Thursday, October 26 around 4:00 p.m. It will be like a pub crawl and involve Cougar Crest, Helix, and Venetta wineries. The event will be limited to about 35 people, and everyone will go together to each winery. There will be no food involved, so groups could plan to go to dinner afterward. Be aware at least one of the wineries involves stairs and is not ADA compliant. It will run around \$25 for nine tastings, three at each location.

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

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The committee met last night to plan next week's tasting. The committee came up with great ideas, including pear tartlets, stuffed mushrooms, sweet pepper poppers, and truffles for the more expensive wines.

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### **Shriners Contract: Kris Wedel**

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The Shriners board is meeting this week to discuss the upcoming year. They are updating their kitchen and contracting with a caterer. It might be possible to do a dinner here in the future, but there are a lot of questions to be answered about that. They are aware we bring in our own alcohol and food, but we will confirm that is still the case. We are under contract with Shriners only until November, and there is always the possibility that the prices could increase.

The new manager has been communicative. They will require insurance, which should not be a problem. They require that a certain number of our pourers have a MAST certificate from the WSLCB. These can be obtained on line. There was a motion to pay for MAST training for the program director, assistant program director, and one new board member per year, which passed. We are also required to have a certain number of members with food handler permits. We will discuss paying for those in a future meeting.

The director of the South Side Community Center has been let go. There was mention of returning there for our tastings, but it is not a serious discussion at this time. Their bingo nights on Monday appear to be popular.

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

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We have 35 glasses with the old logo, 127 with the new logo, and 64 swag bags. We will give away the four trays we still have in inventory.

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## **Membership Recognition: Dionne DeNio**

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No report.

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

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Marlys reported the Wine 101 committee has met a number of times and will meet again tomorrow. The first class is scheduled for October 4 at Vino, and each committee member will do a portion of the presentation. The price will be \$15 for wine and materials. Only four have registered so far, so we hope that number increases. The next class will hopefully be November 1.

Jeff has coordinated two successful field trips to Richland to the WSU Wine Science Center. Those who enjoyed the outing should spread the word and we will determine if there is a demand to return. He inquired about the effectiveness of the editorials and received positive responses. He again mentioned future topics of "Gimme Gamay" or Nebbiolo.

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## **Website Update/Social Media: Terry Gross**

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Terry has been teaching himself how to use the website app and doing his best. Claudia is still struggling with connecting with Charlie for help. Mary Ann Goodwin said she has a lot of website experience and could be called upon to help in this area.

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## **Wineminder: Claudia Hersey**

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Deadline for submissions for next month's Wineminder is September 25.

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## **Other topics**

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Lyn Leininger volunteered to take minutes at the October board meeting for Marcia.

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## **Upcoming Dates**

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

The first Wine 101 class will be October 4, 2023.

The next board meeting will be October 9, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Marcia Plewman, SES Secretary