

MINUTES

Spokane Enological Society Board Meetings

February 12, 2024, 17:00 pm | Meeting called to order by Kris Wedel (Zoom)

In Attendance

Board attendees: Marlys Achey, Deb Austin, Carly Cortright, David DeNio, Kyle Goodwin, Mary Gross, Terry Gross, Claudia Hersey, Ellen Hoffman, Kevin Howell, Skip Leasure, Lyn Leininger, Kris Wedel

Board absentees: Dionne DeNio, Deby Hanson, Marty Hanson, Marcia Plewman

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.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 8, 2024 board meeting were reviewed. **ACTION ITEM:** Members noted one small change was needed to the spelling of Eva Roberts' name. Deb Austin made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, and Lyn Leininger seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the minutes as corrected.

Treasurer's Report: Carly Cortright

Carly provided commentary on the reported financial results (attached) for the December 2023 Holiday dinner, the January 2024 Costco Tasting and the 2023/2024 Annual results. After finally receiving the Spokane Club invoice, the outcome of the Holiday dinner was that we lost ~\$425 (4%) which is about average expectation. The January tasting made ~\$550 profit (16%) partially attributed to the fact there were a higher number of guest attendees (at the higher guest rate) than expected - which helped offset the Holiday dinner loss. Carly said overall she was "feeling good" in terms of our event costs vs revenue which is averaging a 1.5% loss for the year, but good overall. Carly also noted the admin costs are somewhat of a concern to her coming in at ~\$7,000 offset by revenue coming at ~\$5,500 - she thinks in part due to lower membership rate under budgeted rate (which impacts budgeted revenue). Carly suggested the Board consider increasing the tasting fees and/or increasing the membership renewal / new member fee to balance out the costs associated with higher administrative costs. Skip Leasure suggested a review of D&O insurance costs to which Terry Gross explained had been conducted 2 years ago and found the best case scenario with our current provider - unfortunately the SES organization's purpose (with wine) is not the type of organization insurance companies like to provide liability insurance.

ACTION ITEM - The Board discussed a proposal to increase the GUEST registration fee to \$10 more than member fee, and to increase the membership renewal fee and the new member fee by \$10.00, effective June 1, 2024. Carly requested no motion to approve until she can prepare an analysis of the proposed increases potential effect on revenue, to be discussed at the March 11th Board Meeting.

Membership Report: Deb Austin

Deb reported we have one new member after the last tasting for a total of 186 members. Registrations for the February tasting are 76 attendees. Deb requested Claudia send another reminder to unregistered members to register. The Board discussed potential reasons why attendance at tastings was lower than expected. Maybe related to the location of Shriners Event Center, maybe related to the costs of tastings – one member suggested conducting a survey of current/past members to learn more about level of satisfaction with SES venue/tastings – no one was requested or offered to take this on as an ACTION item.

Tasting Programs: Robin Henspeter

Robin Henspeter reported there are 30 bottles of wine in inventory; 3 bottles would be given away at the February tasting event.

Robin said the pre-tasting for the March program is February 21st at 6 p.m. with Matt Dolan (either at Robin's house or at Vino), which would include a combination of Wine Enthusiasts Top 10 Value Wines for 2023 with their Top 100 Wines for 2023 – in order to obtain enough inventory to supply the quantities needed for the tasting.

Robin and other board members discussed the potential to change the number of wines to be offered at the monthly tastings from the current practice of 9 or 8 two oz. pours down to 7 or 6 two oz. pours (as was historically common); to which most members agreed. Members also discussed other possible program concessions to keep costs down – which included the idea to change event venue location – perhaps back to Southside Community Center (which would only be viable if the membership would agree to hold tastings on a night other than Monday nights).

The Program Committee is working on ideas for the May tasting.

Special Events: Eva Roberts

Kris Wedel announced that Eva Roberts no longer wished to be Special Events Chairperson. Deb Austin volunteered to take over the duties of the appointed position in the interim.

Deb confirmed the SES annual Meeting will be held on Monday, April 8th at the Spokane Club in the Library Room. Cost for the dinner will be announced to attendees once finalized. Board members/appointed members and guest are invited to attend. Each person should bring a bottle of wine to share and a check or cash to pay for their dinners that evening.

The 2024 Anniversary Dinner will be held Friday, April 19th at the Spokane Club in the Georgian Ballroom. Deb is working with the event manager and chef for the menu and with Vino! A Wine Shop for the wine program. No theme or cost has been established yet.

A reminder the Board previously agreed the GUEST charge for special dinners will be \$20 more than what we charge members.

Extra Special Events: Deby Hanson and Paul Hersey

Paul Hersey reported he and Deby Hanson were planning a RIEDEL glass wine tasting in May, but their representative was not available to present until June 5th. Paul noted the rules of a Riedel tasting dictate the venue and wine quality – so if we held the Riedel tasting at Shriners that puts ~\$14.00 per person onto the cost of the tasting. The cost of the Riedel glass kit (4 glasses) is \$53.00 per person – so the cost of the tasting for members would be ~\$75-\$80 per person. Guests would be welcome to attend as we need minimum of 40 people

to attend. Event is booked through Vehrs Distributing and VINO will be the wine retailer. The last time we held a Riedel tasting was in 2019. At that time SES subsidized a portion of the registration fee. It was agreed the SES would not subsidize a portion of the fee for the June event.

Food Committee: Mary Gross

Mary reported there is a new member of the Food Committee: Donovan – and Mary was excited to report how great the committee is and their ideas for food pairings are good (and that Donovan likes to “smoke” meats)!

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

Claudia reported there are 12 old logo glasses, 102 new logo glasses, and 42 swag bags in inventory.

Membership Recognition: Dionne DeNio

David DeNio reported on Dionne’s behalf that Dionne is working on a potential list of award recipients for the April Anniversary Dinner.

Education: Jeff Snow and Wine 101 Committee

Jeffery Snow reported the Wine 101 attendees (20 PPL) were delighted with training session #2 and were looking forward to training session #3. Jeffery said the attendees expressed interest in learning more about wine glasses so the Riedel tasting in June would be great.

The Wine 101 committee will meet February 29th to review attendee feedback and plan their next Wine 101 session. The consensus was the Wine 101 session is a “great opportunity for focused learning and a really fun event!”

Jeff’s next *Snow on Wine* topic will be on aging wine.

Website Update/Social Media: Terry Gross

Claudia suggested that if interested in learning more about the Wild Apricot application we use for management of the organization, that Terry Gross and Mary Ann Goodwin contact Charlie Rimpila to discuss potential learning sessions going forward. Claudia noted that if we lose Charlie in his role as WEBMASTER it would be a major risk to the SES.

Wineminder: Claudia Hersey

Claudia will continue to work with contributors for the creation & distribution of the WineMinder. Jack Leininger (as reported by Lyn Leininger) suggested a good way for SES members to “get to know their board” would be to include Board member BIOS and PICTURES in the May WineMinder. By then we would know the newly elected Board members/Committee chairs and could introduce them to the organization via the WineMinder. **ACTION ITEM: All Board Directors and Committee Chairs should submit a short BIO (as to why they joined SES, what was catalyst to join as Board member, etc. and headshot picture of themselves to Claudia for inclusion in the WineMinder on or before April 19, 2024.**

President’s Report: Kris Wedel

Kris reported the Nomination Committee (Deb Austin, Lyn Leininger, Deby Hanson) had a list of six Board nominees willing to serve on the Board of Directors beginning April 8, 2024, for the 3 year term. A total of 18 Board Directors must be maintained.

The six (6) Board Directors who completed their 3-year term and therefore stepping down are:

1. Marlys Achey
2. Carly Cortright (Treasurer)
3. David DeNio
4. Dionne DeNio
5. Ellen Hoffman
6. Marcia Plewman (Secretary)

Remaining Board Directors (who eligible to be nominated as an Executive Officer (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President) at the April 8th Annual Board Meeting are (*as well as #15 and #16 below*):

1. Deb Austin
2. ~~Matt Dolan~~ * INTERIM TBA
3. Kyle Goodwin
4. Terry Gross
5. Mary Gross
6. Deby Hanson
7. Marty Hanson
8. Claudia Hersey **
9. Kevin Howell
10. Skip Leasure
11. Lyn Leininger
12. Kris Wedel **

Note * At the February 12, 2024 Board Meeting Kris Wedel reported that Matt Dolan notified her he was stepping down from the Board of Directors due to conflict of time. An interim Board Director will be elected by the Board per SES Bylaw 4.9: *In the event a vacancy occurs in any office, the Board shall elect a replacement as soon as practicable.* **Julie Snow volunteered to serve the interim position for the remainder of the term (through 2026)**

Note ** To resolve a board director term error that occurred in 2020 (during COVID); the Board voted to maintain a one year term for this Director through 2025.

The six (6) nominees for Board Director are:

13. Alexandra Bridenbaugh
14. Marlys Busch
15. Mary Ann Goodwin (*because Mary Ann previously served as a Board Director she is eligible to be elected an Executive Officer*) s/b/ *MaryAnn*
16. Mona Henspeter (*because Mona previously served as a Board Director she is eligible to be elected an Executive Officer*)
17. Nick Salzwedel
18. Ashley Salzwedel

Upcoming Dates

The February Tasting Program is February 19, 2024 at Shriners – Board members arrive at 6:00 pm

The March Board Meeting is March 11, 2024

The March Tasting Program is March 18, 2024

The April Annual Board Meeting is April 8, 2024

April Anniversary Dinner is April 19, 2024

ADJOURN: Kris Wedel requested a motion to end the meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The meeting concluded at 8:17 pm.

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