

# MINUTES

## Spokane Enological Society Board Meetings

*January 10, 2022 | 7:00 pm | Meeting called to order by Claudia Hersey*

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### In Attendance

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**List attendees:** M. Achey, C. Cortright, David DeNio, K. Goodwin, MA Goodwin, T. Gross, M. Gross, D. Hanson, M. Henspeter, R. Henspeter, P. Hersey, C. Hersey, E. Hoffman, B. Kogler, K. Wedel, J. Wende

**Absent:** Dionne DeNio, M. Plewman

**Non-Voting:** D. Austin, E. Roberts, D. Whipple

**Absent:**, C. Rimpila, J. Snow,

**Quorum?** Yes

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### Approval of Minutes

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- December 6, 2021, minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried and minutes approved.

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### Discussion Item: SES Board Elections for 2022-2023

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- President Hersey reviewed the elections process. Board members K. Goodwin, M.A. Goodwin, Deby Hanson and T. Gross are rotating off the Board (having served their 3-year term) and per our Bylaws will need to be replaced by 4 new board members (typically there are 6 board members stepping down each year, however because Shelly and Mike Boyle stepped down in July 2021, prior to fulfilling their 3 year terms, and were replaced at that time, there are only 4 open board positions to fill in 2022.
- The Nominating Committee will formally submit their list of proposed candidates at the February Board Meeting (see attached list), and with agreement by the Board will be announced at the February 21<sup>st</sup> tasting.

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### Discussion Item: Wine Bottle Giveaway Discussion

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**Wine Give Away Policy:** Each board member was offered an opportunity to share their thoughts about giving away bottles of wine at special events and monthly Tastings, which included:

- Offer any bottles on-hand at the special events—give them all away regardless of how many are available. Can purchase an extra bottle of each wine tasted to give away at tastings.
- Put the bottles in brown paper bags and make the give-away as a surprise. This process removes the “it’s not fair” issue that some members have expressed when they didn’t get to pick a “good” wine.
- Only use left-over wines from events. Do not buy extra bottles.
- Do a table marker (e.g., put a number under chairs or under plates, etc.) Post the numbers at end of the dinner and let the winners pick a bottle hidden inside a bag.
- Guests should not get free bottles of wine at events. Give numbered tickets to members when they check into an event.
- Give away one bottle per table by using questions, e.g., the winner is the person with a birthday closest to . . .
- Use extra bottles to host Board Meetings—give a reward to board members who receive little in return for their contributions to the club.
- Give some away at tastings and dinners. Do it anonymously by placing wine in plain brown bags.

- Brown bags okay—concern about how to call numbers or otherwise announce the winners though as it seems to distract from the event.
- Find a fun way to announce winners.
- Never buy extra bottles. New paradigm—return unused bottles when possible. Promote the idea that a give-away is not going to be 100%.
- It is occasionally beneficial to buy full cases even when we don't need 12 bottles for a tasting because we pay a reduced price per bottle that pays for the extras.
- Keep the give-away tradition but keep the actual practice concise and not drawn out thorough the entire dinner.
- Only schedule giveaways at dinner events, with a maximum of 30-50 bottles. The downside of this approach is that members who attend monthly events and pay for the extra bottles via their tasting fees would not have an opportunity to obtain a give-away bottle.
- Give-away a token number of bottles at each event / dinner.

**Motion:** Mona Henspeter moved that we give away 1-2 bottles being tasted, if applicable, at each tasting event and save any extra bottles from events for special dinners. Use a raffle ticket to give bagged bottles of wine away at both events and dinners.

Carly Cortright seconded the motion.

During the discussion, Ellen Hoffman offered an amendment to the motion that only a limited number of bottles be given away at dinner and that the number of bottles offered at each dinner will be determined by the Program Directors / Board before each dinner. Ms. Cortright accepted the amendment to the motion.

The vote was called and was approved unanimously.

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#### Treasurer's Report: Kyle Goodwin

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- The 2021 Holiday Dinner was financially successful. A large cash balance accrued from the pre-payment of Holiday Dinner reservations allowed the club to pay all Holiday Dinner expenses prior to the end of December. The month end balance was ~ \$8,000.
- The Zoom license was paid for 2022.
- Ms. Roberts asked about the credit card fee as she wants to build the cost into the price set for Special Event Dinners. Mr. Goodwin indicated that adding 3.8% - 4.0% to the cost of dinners will cover the cost of using credit cards. He indicated that he was able to reduce the cost of using credit cards over the past year by eliminating un-used services.
- Mr. Goodwin needs to file SES's annual report with the State of Washington. The state requires the report to be submitted on paper, with required fees paid for with a paper check.
- The year-end budget shows that the club had less than \$50,000 in revenue in 2021.
- The SES USPS Mailbox rent is due in January.
- Mr. Goodwin reported that new member fees do not cover the cost of swag offered like name badges, glasses, etc. Mr. Goodwin says that as current new member supplies are used up, and the club needs to order more items, the board needs to determine if the club is going to subsidize the new member welcome kit or increase new member fees to cover them.

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#### Membership Report: Deb Austin

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- Two new members have joined in the past month. SES now has 182 members.
- 62 members have registered for the January tasting.

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## Tasting Programs Support: Paul Hersey | Dave Whipple

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- January tasting: Mr. Hersey is picking up wine for the tasting from Liberty Lake Cellars. Due to a problem with wine bottle labeling, there is some uncertainty about whether or not the tasting will include Sangiovese or Tempranillo.
- 56 bottles in inventory after the Holiday dinner give away.
- Mr. Hersey called for volunteers to pour wine at the January tasting.
- February tasting: Mr. Whipple suggested that we continue the local winery theme. Arbor Crest is interested but has not been booked. Mike Scott and John Allen are being consulted for additional ideas.

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## Special Events: Eve Roberts

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- April 11, 2022 – ANNUAL SES BOARD MEETING AND DINNER (Spokane Club or Southside?)
- April 22, 2022 – ANNUAL SES ANNIVERSARY DINNER (Spokane Club)

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## Extra Special Events: Deby Hanson

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- Barrister Winery is available for an Extra Special event on Mondays in February or March. The winery allows groups to bring in food. Given the ongoing Covid-19/Omicron situation, the board felt scheduling the event in March be appropriate. The Board plans to revisit the idea at the February 2022 meeting, with a tentative plan to consider scheduling the event on March 7 or March 28.

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## Food Committee: Barb Kogler | Jody Wende

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- The Food Committee promised to provide great food pairings for the Liberty Lake Cellars tasting in January. They plan to return to using the communal black trays to serve food rather than plating items individually.

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## Glasses | Linens | Swag Bags, etc.: Dionne DeNio

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- No report

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## Membership Recognition: Dionne DeNio

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- No report

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## Education Director: Dr. Jeffrey Snow

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- No report

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## AV & ZOOM: Terry Gross

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- Mr. Gross plans to bring audio equipment to the Anniversary dinner scheduled at the Spokane Club as the Club's equipment was not robust enough to ensure all attendees could hear the program announcements.

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## Vice President Report: Kris Wedel

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- No Report

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Website: Charlie Rimpila

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- No Report

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Wineminder: Claudia Hersey

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- Will advise contributors of story deadlines for the February WineMinder

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Other Business

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- Mr. Goodwin and Mr. Gross (as Internal Auditor) will schedule a time to review the financials in January and report back in February.

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Next Meeting

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- February 14, 2022 | 7:00 p.m. | Zoom or Southside Center
- Motion to adjourn was made at 8:25 p.m. and was passed unanimously.
  
- Minutes Respectfully submitted, Mary Ann Lund Goodwin, SES Secretary