

MINUTES

Spokane Enological Society Board Meetings

June 13, 2022 | 7:00 pm | Meeting called to order by Claudia Hersey

In Attendance

Board attendees: Carly Cortwright, David DeNio, Dionne DeNio, Mary Gross, Marty Hanson, Mona Henspeter, Robin Henspeter, Paul Hersey, Claudia Hersey, Barb Kogler, Dave Madison, Marcia Plewman, Rebecca Sputhe, Kris Wedel, Jody Wende

Board absentees: Marlys Achey, Julie Happy, Ellen Hoffman

Appointee attendees: Deb Austin, Deby Hanson, Charlie Rimpila, Jeffrey Snow

Appointee absentees: Kyle Goodwin, Terry Gross, Eva Roberts

Quorum? Yes

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the May 9, 2022, meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report: Carly Cortwright

Carly gave her treasurer's report from afar in NOLA. She reported we came out ahead in our May tasting, approximately \$460. She has made a few minor changes to the way her report is set up. The SES is doing well financially, with a current balance of \$9,471.80. There was a question about the charge for the Southside Senior Center. Two items were listed on the report, an administrative fee of \$200 and the tasting cost of \$280, which includes janitorial services and tax, plus our April board meeting. Paul will adjust his estimated cost closer to \$280. The center did not charge us in May when we exceeded our allotted time.

Carly is still working on the Affinipay, which Deb Austin will help her with, and she set-up ACH payment with Wild Apricot so Dave Whipple no longer has to charge the fee to his charge card.

Membership Report: Deb Austin

We currently have 199 members, which includes four new since the last meeting. There are 83 signed up for next week's tasting, which includes two speakers and five guests. This brings us close to the limit, so registration will be closed off, and those wishing to register can be put on a waiting list.

Membership Fees

Deb is working on cleaning up the Wild Apricot database so as to not get charged for too many members. So far 115 have renewed their membership for next year. The board members were reminded to renew. If Claudia wants to know who has not renewed, she can search that information in the database.

An email had been sent to board members regarding the renewal fees for singles vs. couples. A participant had questioned the reason for the higher price for singles. This was historically how it has been done, and may have originally been designed to encourage couples to join. There was no requirement as to what makes a couple, although one theory was it saved on copies and postage when a mailing goes to one household. We no longer send mailings, and many felt that an industry standard was not a good reason for charging singles more than doubles. If we do make a change, it will be next year and may happen at the same time as a hike in membership fees, when we could go to a single level fee, if that is what the group decides to do. After some discussion, this discussion item was put on hold until the July board retreat.

Tasting Programs Support: Paul Hersey | Robin Henspeter

Paul sent out an analysis sheet which compared wine costs for various tastings. The bottom of the chart shows the net profit or loss, which normally depends on how many people are in attendance. The majority of the expense is in the wine cost, which varies month to month. There are 38 bottles in inventory, of which three or five will be given away at the next tasting.

Robin and Paul will get together prior to the board retreat to do some planning on next year. The programs will focus less on individual local wineries than they did over the past year. Their plans for Fall programs will be reported during the retreat.

Several members volunteered to pour at next week's tasting.

May's Fiesta Tasting

The event was a little more raucous than past events and felt a little out of control. Conditions that may have contributed and helpful suggestions were discussed. There were eight to a table, the tables seemed a little close, and the pourers had difficulty maneuvering between tables. There was a lot of conversation during the speakers, which made it hard to hear. Switching to tables of six was discussed, which only increases our tablecloth cost by about a dollar each. We may be able to spread the tables a little further apart. Those bringing guests could try to give etiquette rules. Claudia will try to make sure she has everyone's attention early on and make clear our goal of learning from the speakers.

Special Events: Eva Roberts

No report.

Extra Special Events: Deby Hanson

Terra Blanca had been discussed last month, but that venue will have to wait until fall. Claudia was contacted by Two Winey Bitches, so three WB's (Claudia, Kris, and Deby) went and checked out their tasting room. They serve fruit wines and have room for up to 40 people. This had been discussed as a "girls' night out," but in the spirit of nondiscrimination, it will be open to men as well. July 18 is the potential date, and the cost for wine and food will be around \$22.

Food Committee: Mary Gross

This month's food presentation will be a little different—individual charcuterie cups, with no dips, no bread, and no clean-up. The individual servings are expected to have a lot of food in them.

The committee is looking for new members. It should be included in the Wineminder that everyone is welcome on the Food Committee, and no one should feel that it is an exclusive group.

Discussion Item: Board Retreat

The retreat is scheduled for July 11 in the back yard of the Gross residence. There will be an email sent to board members with food information, an RSVP request, and a sign-up sheet. The invitation will include some who routinely volunteer for events but are not board members, especially Food Committee members. Feel free to bring a guest.

Claudia volunteered to take minutes at the board retreat since our secretary cannot attend.

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

A purchase was made in 2019, but we don't have an exact count of our numbers. Last month white linens were not available because of many events going on, but they hopefully will this month.

Membership Recognition: Dionne DeNio

Some archived documents listing board members were shared by John Allen and emailed out. It was noted that there weren't many names on those lists who are still members.

Education Director: Dr. Jeffrey Snow

The information given by our presenters is educational, but also could be called marketing. Most of our education is currently done in the Wineminder. Jeff's next topic will be port, and it was requested that someone add a segment on the connection between cigars and port.

AV & ZOOM: Terry Gross

Terry now has access to Zoom, thanks to Dave. A motion was made to renew our D&O insurance with Travelers, and the motion passed.

Website: Charlie Rimpila

Send any articles you may have to Charlie. Deb Austin advised him she has heard of trouble logging on. He said usually the problem is the browser needs to be refreshed. They should close the browser and reopen it. If there is a persistent issue with one or more people, he will take a look at it.

Wineminder: Claudia Hersey

August 26 will be the cutoff date for the next issue of the Wineminder.

Other Business

Please remind members and guests to bring wine glasses to the tastings. Many forgot last month. Perhaps we should have the number of glasses required on the registration form.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the board retreat on July 11, 2022.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted, Marcia Plewman, SES Secretary