

Originated & Adopted October 4 1978  
Incorporated November 20, 1978  
Amended May 2, 1979  
Amended June 14, 1989

Amended January 11 1995  
Amended October 9 1996  
Amended October 9, 2002  
Amended March 12, 2008

## **Wisconsin Vintners Association Incorporated**

### **CONSTITUTION**

#### **Article I Name and Objectives**

**Section 1.** The name of the organization shall be the Wisconsin Vintners Association Incorporated. For reference purposes the name may be abbreviated by the initials “WVA” and is referred to hereinafter and in the Bylaws as “the Association”.

**Section 2.** Its objective shall be to aid and encourage the legal production and use of wine in the home.

#### **Article II Membership**

**Section 1. Regular members.** Persons eligible for regular membership shall consist of those persons engaged in the legal production and/or use of wine in the home and, in addition, do not own or operate businesses which sell or produce wine, alcoholic beverages, winemaking supplies and/or equipment.

**Section 2. Associate members.** Persons who own or operate businesses that sell or produce wine, alcoholic beverages, winemaking supplies and/or equipment but who otherwise meet the requirements of regular membership may become associate members.

**Section 3. Charter members.** Persons who completed the UW Extension Vintage Arts Lecture Courses on or before October 10, 1970, and who paid their initial dues within 30 days of the date upon which the club dues were established are hereby designated charter members.

**Section 4. Honorary members.** Persons, who are not regular or associate members, and who, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, have made a distinct contribution to the objectives of this Association, and whose efforts deserve recognition, may be eligible to election as honorary members by the Board of Directors.

**Section 5. Life members.** Regular and associate members who have made exceptional contributions to the objectives of this Association may be eligible to election as life members by the Board of Directors.

**Section 6. Subscribing members.** Persons who desire to receive the regular mailings of the Association without attaining regular or associate membership may become subscribing members.

### **Article III Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Association shall consist of the (1) President, (2) Vice President, (3) Recording Secretary, (4) Treasurer and (5) Corresponding Secretary.

**Section 2. Selection.** Annually, the officers shall be elected for a term of one year by the regular and associate members in good standing who are in attendance at the membership meeting designated for elections.

### **Article IV Board of Directors**

**Section 1. Governing Body.** The governing body of the Association shall be the Board of Directors, which shall have the power to pass any resolution it may deem necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Association and which is not in conflict with any of the provisions of the Constitution or By-Laws.

**Section 2. Board of Directors.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers, immediate past president, two trustees, four members-at-large and one sergeant-at-arms. Members-at-large and the trustees shall be elected to serve a two-year term with the election of 50% of each category taking place in alternate years. The position of sergeant-at-arms is to serve a one-year term.

**Section 3. Vacancy.** Whenever a vacancy on the Board of Directors occurs, the President may appoint any regular member in good standing to fill said vacancy subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. When a vacancy occurs in the office of the President, the Vice President shall immediately succeed thereto and the Board of Directors shall appoint a regular member in good standing to fill the vacated position of Vice President. In the event of concurrent vacancies in both offices of President and Vice President, the Board of Directors shall appoint regular members in good standing to fill said vacancies.

**Section 4. Election Procedures.** Elections will take place at the membership meeting in May. Notice of all elections shall be mailed to the membership with the monthly newsletter at least seven days prior to the election date, stating the names of all nominees with their offices. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

**Section 5. Removal from office.** Officers shall be subject to removal from office by the Board of Directors for malfeasance or conduct detrimental to the purposes of this Association. Such action shall take place at a scheduled Board of Directors meeting after the officer or officers shall be given an opportunity to present testimony to the Board of Directors.

## **Article V Amendments**

The following procedure will be followed to secure amendments to this Constitution:

1. A copy of the proposed amendment must be submitted to the Board of Directors at least seven days prior to a scheduled membership meeting.
2. A vote for consideration of the proposed amendment will be called for at said membership meeting. If the motion for consideration is passed, the proposed amendment will be circulated to the membership before the next scheduled membership meeting
3. At the next scheduled membership meeting the amendment may be adopted by a simple majority vote of the eligible voting members present.

## **Article VI Dissolution**

The Association shall use its funds only to accomplish the objects and purposes specified, and, in the event of dissolution, no part of said funds shall inure or be distributed to the members of the Association. On dissolution, any funds remaining shall be distributed to one or more regularly organized and qualified charitable, educational, scientific or philanthropic organizations to be selected by the Board of Directors.