

WISCONSIN VINTNERS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the March 3, 2010 Board of Directors Meeting

President Howard Hasselkus called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM at the home of Dave Brandt, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Roll Call

Board Members in Attendance: Mike Bell, Don Betlej, Dave Brandt, Tom Courtney, Howard Hasselkus, Erv Herman, Mary Howell, Rick Markham, Len Montalbano, George Scovronski, Mike Szabo, Jerry Wanty and Joanne Ziarek.

Guests in Attendance: Lou Benedetto, Jerry Horzewski, Chuck Howell, Jo Markham, Jim Remus, and Mary Scovronski.

Minutes of January 27, 2010 meeting: Approved as distributed by email.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Bell distributed statements dated January 31, 2010, and February 28, 2010, the latter showing a balance of all funds at \$18,923.77. He also distributed a financial summary of revenue and expenses due to the 2010 Dinner-Dance. (Copies of all three reports are attached to the official copy of the minutes.) Mike explained that the cost of wine for future use is included in the dinner-dance summary, valued between \$1400 and \$1500.

Vice President's Report: Tom Courtney announced that the March membership meeting would be a commercial wine critical tasting and evaluation, originally scheduled for the December meeting which was cancelled because of a snowstorm. Tom also revealed his plans for the Food and Wine Match program at the Norwegian Club in May. Discussion resulted in reaching a consensus over the charges for the event: \$20 each for members and \$25 for non-members.

Corresponding Secretary's Report: Don reported that, in memory of Mary Uthemann who passed away recently, he sent a card of condolence and, as a memorial, a \$30 personal check made out to the American Cancer Society. It was pointed out that a Policy was established in October, 2007, to send only a sympathy card for deceased members.

He also reported receiving an email from the president of the Wisconsin Winery Association, the organization embracing Wisconsin's commercial wineries, asking if the WVA would be interested in doing a judging of Wisconsin's commercial wines. The subsequent discussion included consideration of adding the commercial wines to the State Fair Judging of amateur wines or to simply do it separately, not under State Fair auspices. Don will discuss this idea with State Fair officials.

Committee Reports

Dinner Dance: Joanne Ziarek provided a report on the recent dinner dance: She said there was a suggestion to produce the fish bowl wines from wine kits so that party goers could drink their prizes at the D/D. She also suggested that opportunities to taste wines on the "Tasting Table" should be sold for \$5.00. Because it had been pointed out that a strict accounting of game revenues was impossible

when one person sells tickets for multiple games, the practice of doing so would have to be revised. During the discussion, it was agreed that the most highly-valued prize should be the first one awarded. Joanne commended the operators of the Silent Auction for conducting a trouble-free game, with all items donated. She commended Jim Remus for getting unexpectedly high bids in the Live Auction. As a follow-up, Joanne sent thank-you letters to all donors and workers. Don Betlej distributed copies of the survey results. Some of the results were to “change bands” and “don’t put the band in the corner”.

Nominations: Joanne is the Chair. Nominations are to ready in April, followed by election in May.

Status Reports

WVA Clothing: Mary reported that there have been no changes; she will continue to set out the display at membership meetings.

Winemaking Videos: Tom reported that the videos have been well-received and are still in use.

Website: No further developments

Club Judging: March 14th at Clifford’s, lower level.

New Business

Dinner-Dance 2011: Howard reported that reservations at the Radisson have been tentatively renewed at the same rental charges as this year. The hotel did say that confetti must be avoided next year. A **motion** to have the D/D at the Radisson next year was made by Len Montalbano and seconded by Lou Benedetto; approved.

Dinner-Dance Invitation mailings should go only to members, in Howard’s opinion. Mailing costs are increasing, so invitations should be distributed at the Harvest Dinner and Membership Meetings.

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

April 7 – Board Meeting: at Howard and Sally Hasselkus’s home.

April 14 - Membership Meeting: “Fruit Acids in Winemaking”

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Brandt, Recording Secretary