

WISCONSIN VINTNERS ASSOCIATION

February 1, 2006 BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

President Joanne Ziarek called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm at the home of Dave and Lois Brandt.

Members in attendance: Don & Barb Betlej, Dave & Lois Brandt, Tom Courtney, Jerry Horzewski, Howard Hasselkus, Erv Herman, Chuck & Mary Howell, Tim Larsen, Len Montalbano, John Rauenbuehler, Jim Remus, George & Mary Scovronski, Bob Wilson, Joanne Ziarek

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes of the previous meeting (January) were read and approved with changes.

Financial Report: The financial report dated January 31, 2006 was accepted and filed for audit. Dues was received for one new member this past month.

January Membership Meeting Attendance: 52

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Correspondence: \$105.00 was donated to the University of Wisconsin Neurological Oncology Fund in memory of Bob Wollersheim, including \$30.00 from the club and \$75.00 from individual members.

An offer was made by the Wollersheim Winery to hold one of the club's monthly membership meetings at their winery location in Prairie du Sac, WI. This will be considered when determining next year's meeting program schedule.

Due to the significant increase in the fishing charge (now \$90.00 per person), it was the opinion of the board to not sponsor a Lake Michigan fishing event this year. A final decision would be made after investigating the cost of chartering a boat out of the Racine harbor instead of the usual Port Washington.

Historian: Old menus from past dinner dances will be displayed for membership viewing at the March membership meeting. Research has begun to identify past club Board of Directors resolutions in order to identify the significantly important ones and possibly formally add them to the WVA Bylaws.

Club Judging Committee: Don Betlej confirmed that the upstairs hall at Clifford's will be used for the club judging event on Sunday, March 26 due to a scheduling conflict. Using the upstairs would insure that enough time would be available for the judging to be completed. A new judging sheet was proposed by the committee and comments were solicited. *The motion to approve the proposed judging form for use at the 2006 club judging was made by Chuck Howell, and seconded by Jerry Horzewski. The motion passed unanimously.* The committee's next meeting will concentrate on finalizing the rules and guidelines that will be published for this year's WI State Fair Amateur Winemaker's Competition.

Website: The list of current club Board of Directors will be added to the web site.

Programs:

February 4 Dinner Dance: Tom Courtney reported on last minute progress related to the dinner dance. As of this meeting, a total of 161 people had sent in reservations for this event, which included only 44 out of the 103 current memberships. Personal phone calls were made to new members inviting them to the dance but as of this meeting, none were expected to attend. George Scovronski and Howard Hasselkus presented an update on wine and other prizes to be used at the dance. George provided an impressive list of donated prizes for the Chinese auction. It was suggested that one or two of the items be auctioned off separately, if someone would volunteer to be auctioneer. Tim's new dice game, *Sixes Win*, will be used for the first time this year. All were again encouraged to help with the set up of the hall on the morning of the dance.

March 8: Critical Wine Evaluation event.

March 26: Club judging.

April 5: Annual food and wine pairing event. The event will be run by Lou Bruno, and will be held starting at 7:00 pm at the Deer Creek Preserve in New Berlin. Note that April's board meeting will be held on Wednesday April 12 at the home of Paul & Bertie Brauch.

NEW BUSINESS

Collaboration among Wisconsin winemaking clubs: Our president, Joanne Ziarek, received a letter from Mike Closser, who is the owner of a winemaker supply store in Mosinee, WI and is a board member of the Jenny Falls Corkmasters winemaking club. The letter was also sent to the presidents of two other clubs: the Sun Prairie Amateur Vintners and the Central Amateur Vintners. Mike stated that his club had an interest in designing a wine judging training program for its members. In his letter he then expressed an interest in the formation of a Wisconsin Association that would be made up of representative members of the various winemaking clubs in Wisconsin. He stated that "through the pooling of our combined resources we could, with the assistance of outside 'experts', design and develop training, judging criterion and judging methodologies..." Mike asked that if there is interest, we should contact him. A copy of his letter was given to the wine judging committee for comments at the next board meeting. It is the board's intention to respond to his letter in some fashion.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Howard and Sally Hasselkus. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Don Betlej

Donald Betlej
WVA Recording Secretary