

**WISCONSIN VINTNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**July 6, 2005 BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm at the home of George & Mary Scovronski.

**Members in attendance:** Barb & Don Betlej, Jeff Beutler, Dave & Lois Brandt, Tom Courtney, Chuck & Mary Howell, John Rauenbuehler, Jim Remus, George & Mary Scovronski, Jerry & Mary Uthemann, Tim Larsen, Bob Wilson, Joanne Ziarek.

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

**Financial Report:** The financial report for June was accepted and filed for audit. Tom Courtney indicated that the membership is up another two, for a current total of 111. The annual financial audit is anticipated to take place prior to the next board meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS & MONTHLY BUSINESS**

**Correspondence:** A letter was sent to *Winemaker* magazine asking if our club members would be given the same reduced subscription price as last year, as well as an inquiry of the status of a future *Winemaker of the Month* article which is to highlight three of our club members. No word back on either topic.

**Programs:** Bob Wilson indicated that the Program Committee will meet at a future date to work on the planning of the upcoming year's program schedule. The committee will be drawn from members who indicated a wish to participate on the recent club survey. Future planned club activities:

July: July 13 at 6:00pm, cookout at the Lakefront Brewery; July 31 annual fishing trip. All 12 spots are now filled for this event.

August: Annual picnic on August 13. Sign-up forms will be sent out as soon as possible. Cost will be \$5.00 per membership (2 people). Any additional guests will be charged \$5.00 per person.

September: Sept 17 Door County winery bus trip. Bus charge is \$750. Additional cost will be for on board snacks and winery tour charges. Per person charge for this event will be dependant upon the number of participants, estimated at about \$35 each for 30 people.

November: Harvest Dinner on November 13.

February: Dinner Dance on Feb 4. Last year's Chairman, Tom Courtney, is looking for a Co-Chairman this year and Tim Larsen has volunteered. Bob Wilson has offered to be on the food committee.

**Club Library:** It was noted that the material included in the club library is comprised of mostly old published magazines and books. Today, with the vast amount of current wine making information on the internet, the value of keeping this library is questionable. In addition, there is hope that future improvements in the club website could help fulfill the library's intended purpose. Tom Courtney will bring the library material to a future membership meeting for review by anyone interested.

**Quartermaster:** A current list of club assets will be distributed to the membership and placed on the club website.

**Club survey:** Three more surveys have been received and a summary of the data was presented to the board by Tom Courtney. The results will be discussed in detail at the next board meeting after which will be presented to the total membership.

**Club website:** After a discussion with Jerry Horzewski regarding the current WVA website and the difficulty for many members to access it, Jeff Beutler, a new member, offered to investigate starting a new site and was able to set one up at no cost to the club for the first year of use. After the first year, the charge would be \$50.00 per year to maintain. Jeff presented to the board printed copies of a sampling of proposed web site pages and explained how some of the features of this website worked. Don Betlej suggested that a club document be developed which would describe the purpose for the site and general guidelines for implementation. Don offered to chair this committee with Jeff and John Rauenbuehler as members. Anyone else within the membership is also welcome to participate.

**State Fair Judging:** Six volunteers are needed to label winners' ribbons and plaques of this year's competition and prepare mailings of the results to all participants. A suggested date of August 2 or 3 was made and would take place at the home of Jerry Uthemann. John Rauenbuehler also volunteered to help Jerry Uthemann make modifications to the display used at the State Fair. The location of the display this year is changed to from the WI Products Building to the main exhibition building. It was suggested that this year's Best of Show winner, who just recently joined the club, be asked to be the Potpourri winemaker for next year's dinner dance. Dave Brandt will make the inquiry.

As a follow-up to last's month's initial discussion of issues related to this year's State Fair judging, it was decided to form a committee to take a fresh look and approach to this event. The committee would address issues including: future date of competition, recent difficulties in acquiring competent judges, scoring sheets used. Don Betlej, Dave Brandt and Bob Wilson expressed an interest to participate in the committee. Anyone else within the membership is also welcome. An initial meeting will take place prior to the next month's meeting of the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 3 at 7:30 pm on the boat of Tom & Linda Courtney. Future board meeting location: September 7 – Howell's.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Don Betlej*

Donald Betlej  
WVA Recording Secretary