

WISCONSIN VINTNERS ASSOCIATION
March 7, 2007 BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

President Joanne Ziarek called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm at the home of Erv & Bobbie Herman.

Members in attendance: Don Betlej, Dave Brandt, Tom Courtney, Howard Hasselkus, Erv Herman, Jim Remus, George Scovronski, Debbie Stankus, Joanne Ziarek.

Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes of January 31, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

No membership meeting in February: Dinner Dance attendance 127

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Treasurer's Report: Tom Courtney presented the February Statement of Accounts. There are 2 new members. Tom will send them the new member brochure and March newsletter. Report approved for audit.

Winemaker magazine article: Howard was in contact with the **NEW** assistant publisher (in California). In the correspondence she stated that **IF** they use the info for an article, the deadline for the June/July issue is March 13 and pictures and Bob Wilson's information should be sent to her by then. We'll have to wait & see if the article appears in the magazine.

Advanced Winemaking Project(s): The results of all 3 results will be published in a future newsletter

Update membership list: Tom will go to the Rauenbuehler home to access John's computer and compare membership list, email & US mail addresses. Tom will update membership list for April newsletter & Don will update the website.

Update list of club assets/location: Tom will pick up WVA glasses and other WVA items from the Rauenbuehler home along with a CD of the asset information from George to be published in a future newsletter once it is revised.

Club Wine Judging March 11:

Clifford's is booked both downstairs & upstairs on Saturday March 10 so we are not able to set up early. Howard and Don will do wine labeling and what ever else can be done at Howard's on Saturday. Members have until 9:00 am on Sunday to drop off entries with judging to start by 9:30 am. There are 103-104 entries so far. The club judging will use the same forms that are used at the state fair . Howard & Jim Remus will pick up entries from the Purple Foot on Saturday. Judges are still needed. . It was suggested that Tom contact the people who completed the wine evaluation class last fall to help. Larry Legare will be the steward chair.

March 14th Membership Meeting: Howard reported the program featuring John Neuburg is all set.

Central WI Wine Club Challenge: A suggestion was made for members entering wine for the WVA judging to bring an extra bottle for the Challenge. Howard will meet Dick Gray in Madison on Monday 3/12/07 to deliver the 30 bottles from our club for competition. Howard, Dave & Bob will be the 3 requested judges and the only representatives from the WVA. It was suggested that the club help defray the expenses of the 3 judges for the Challenge. Joanne and the board thanked Howard, Dave & Bob for going. The Sun Prairie club is sending 21 members.

A MOTION by Tom, Second by Erv, that the 3 judges requested for the Club Challenge this year (2007) will receive \$75.00 each to defray expenses. MOTION CARRIED

April 11 Critical Wine Evaluation – Information will be put in the newsletter

Wine & Food Pairing Program – Originally scheduled for *May 9*, but a cook that was going to help Tim Harty with the program is not available on that date. Tim, etal would like to change the date to May 16. Joanne did not receive a proposal from Tim that was to be presented to the board. Joanne checked with Clifford's and May 16th is available. It was decided to proceed with Tim Harty's program on ***May 16th***.

May 19 State Fair Judging: A question was asked, if the IRS was getting involved with prizes awarded at the State Fair. It was explained that the State Fair policy is that all entries (not just wine or beer) require a W9 form to be submitted along with the entry form.

June 9 Wollersheim Winery: Joanne asked for someone to coordinate the bus trip for this event.

July 11 Lake Front Brewery: Joanne confirmed the date with Russ for the cook out/potluck.

August 18 Picnic: Joanne asked for a volunteer to chair the picnic at Calhoun Park in New Berlin. George Scovronski reported that Bill Schneider is willing to chair the picnic again this year.

Nominating Committee: Jerry Horzewski, Dave Brandt & Mary Scovronski will present slate at April 11 club meeting for the May 16 election. Board member terms expiring are: Howard as Trustee and Chuck & Jim as At Large Members. The nominating committee will also be looking for a candidate for Sgt-at-Arms, Vice President, and Corresponding Secretary. Tom Courtney and Joanne Ziarek would be willing to step down if the committee can find candidates for their positions as well.

Dinner Dance: Jim reported that thank you notes have been sent to donors and procurers of the items on the Chinese Auction Table. After review of the list, Jim will send out a couple additional thank you notes that were missed. Erv reported that this year's attendance at 127 was the lowest in 7 years. Only 40 members signed up to attend & 2 could not attend because of an emergency. The expenses and receipts were in the middle compared to other years. Auction net was the 2nd best at \$1,986.12. There were questions about some of the expenses and receipts. Erv will fill out the spread sheet & provide it to the Board at the next meeting. A \$2,120.00 profit was estimated. A \$2,000.00 net profit is usually expected from the Dinner Dance. Debbie questioned if a \$2,120.00 net was worth all the time & energy by only a few members to put on the Dinner Dance. With a membership of 104, the \$2,120.00 profit comes out to \$20.00 per member. She suggested we raise the yearly dues to \$35.00 per year and save a lot of work for the few members willing to chair this event. After much discussion it was decided to pursue ideas about the future of the dinner dance at the next meeting. Erv reported that the date set aside by the Latvian House for us next year is February, 9, 2008. Our usual date is the first Saturday of February, rather than the second one. Erv will verify the date.

By-Laws/Constitution: Dave passed out suggested revisions to the Board for review. There was a question regarding an Honorary vs. Life membership as well as use of the word *shall* vs. *may*. After some discussion it was decided to readdress the By-Laws/Constitution revisions at the next Board meeting.

Memorial for John Rauenbuehler: After a discussion to determine if a policy is needed for future memorials to club members, depending on the members history with the club & the time frame, the matter was tabled until the April Board Meeting. *A MOTION by Tom, Second by Howard That the Club contributes \$250.00 towards a Memorial to John Rauenbuehler. MOTION CARRIED*

Interim newsletter editor/corresponding secretary (for April, May & June issues): It was suggested that Board members take turns. Don Betlej volunteered to write the April newsletter and Tom Courtney will send it via email and US mail.

Vintners Press: The board will be asking for memories of John's life for a final memorial edition to him to be coordinated by Tom Courtney..

Alternate site for Dinner Dance: Tabled until April meeting.

Next Board Meetings: April 4 - Helmut Wittbecker (bring wine)
May 12 (Saturday)- Lakefront Brewery 10:00 am - *Confirmed*
June 6 - Chuck & Mary Howell- *Confirmed*

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Debbie Stankus, Acting Recording Secretary