

## **WISCONSIN VINTNERS ASSOCIATION March 1, 2006 BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING**

President Joanne Ziarek called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the home of Howard and Sally Hasselkus.

**Members in attendance:** Don & Barb Betlej, Tom Courtney, Jerry Horzewski, Howard & Sally Hasselkus, Len Montalbano, John Rauenbuehler, Jim Remus, George & Mary Scovronski, Joanne Ziarek

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

**Financial Report:** The financial report dated February 28, 2006 was accepted and filed for audit. We now have 106 dues paying members.

**February Dinner Dance Attendance:** 166

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES**

**Correspondence:** The monthly newsletter and Vintners Press will continue to be provided to members with email addresses via this method only. Printed copies would be mailed to only those members without email addresses. Note that the information provided in the monthly newsletter is also available for viewing on the club's website. The Vintners Press however is not available on the web site.

Due to the significant increase in the fishing charge a final decision was made to no longer sponsor a Lake Michigan fishing event. When the previous caught fish runs out, the cost of the smoked fish used at the annual dinner dance would be funded by the regular dance expense budget.

**Historian:** Old menus from past dinner dances will be displayed for membership viewing at the March membership meeting.

**Club Judging Committee:** The committee finalized the rules and guidelines that will be published for this year's WI State Fair Amateur Winemaker's Competition. The State Fair mailed them out to all past participants and has made the files available on the home page of the WI State Fair website, [www.wistatefair.com](http://www.wistatefair.com). Work is being done to the Microsoft Access database to accommodate new classes this year. Preparations are being made for this year's club judging which is scheduled for Sunday, March 26.

**Website:** The website continues to be updated multiple times per month, as needed. Don Betlej now has the means of doing this in addition to Jeff Beutler.

#### **Programs:**

February 4 Dinner Dance: Tom Courtney provided a summary report on the results of this year's dinner dance. The profit made this year was \$3,052.22 which was an all-time high. Congratulations to all who worked to make it a success. A special thanks to Chairman Tom Courtney for his leadership. Work will start soon by the board to develop a new model of organizing all of the planning of dinner dances in the future, detailing specific jobs that need to be done and the best way to utilize more club volunteers to accomplish them.

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.

May 10: Wollersheim Winery Presentation. Joanne Ziarek asked for topic suggestions.

**Collaboration among Wisconsin winemaking clubs:** A letter received 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 stated an interest in developing a wine judging training program to be possibly used by members of the multiple home winemaking clubs in Wisconsin, including ours. Tom Courtney did not feel that establishing a new organization to accomplish this was a good idea. It was the general opinion of the board that we need to respond positively in some manner, with the purpose of keeping a line of communication open. Our judging committee is in the process of investigating how to develop our own club "Judging 101" program. President Ziarek stated that she would officially reply to the letter on behalf of our club.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Paul and Bertie Brauch. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

*Don Betlej*

Donald Betlej  
WVA Recording Secretary