

WISCONSIN VINTNERS ASSOCIATION

November 9, 2005 BOARD of DIRECTORS MEETING

President Joanne Ziarek called the meeting to order at 7:48 pm at the home of George and Mary Scovronski.

Members in attendance: Don & Barb Betlej, Tom Courtney, Howard Hasselkus, Chuck & Mary Howell, Len Montalbano, John Rauenbuehler, Jim Remus, Bill Schneider, Mary & George Scovronski, Tim Larsen, Joanne Ziarek

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

Financial Report: The financial report for October was accepted and filed for audit.

October Membership Meeting Attendance: 49

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Historian: Howard Hasselkus reported that no club records could be found prior to 1972. In addition, most records available after are mainly accounting and financial records.

Medallions: A photo of the club medallion is needed, to be used in an upcoming mailing which will promote their sale. Barb Betlej has volunteered to do the photography.

Website Committee: No report. President Ziarek stated that she would give the okay for club member, Jeff Beutler, who created the original website (www.wihomewinemakers.com), to start updating it with current event information. Once updated, we would inform the general club membership that this site would take over as the official club website. No decision was made to delete all prior information still posted on the previous site.

Education: Tom Courtney provided a formal proposal for a new club activity; Advanced Winemaking. The proposal describes a committee which would review and approve a member's proposal to make two, five gallon batches of wine, with a specific ingredient, process or other highlighted difference between the batches. The difference should be of sufficient interest to the club. Examples could include using a different yeast culture per batch, or varying the amount of fruit, or using different variety of oak, etc.

If approved the member would then make the different wine batches and eventually report the results via a Vintners' Press publication and membership meeting demonstration. Estimated cost to the club was \$1500 assuming 50 proposals. The proposal was approved. Tom Courtney declined being the chairman of the committee but suggested that the new program be presented to the members at a future meeting along with an appeal for committee volunteers.

Club Judging Committee: Don Betlej, chairman, provided a summary of the committee's first meeting. The purpose of this committee is to evaluate past procedures, rules and regulations, related to the annual WVA club wine judging and the WI State Fair judging competition which is run by the club. There has been a significant decline in participation in these events over the past few years, especially by the judges. The club will first concentrate on a strategy to recruit more interested members (and possibly non members in the case of the State Fair event) to participate as wine judges. In doing this, the past judging process will be reviewed, including the judging form used, the point system, wine classification etc.

In addition to the wine judging process, the committee will also review the manner in which the club judging and State Fair is organized and make recommendations as to what worked in the past, what improvements could be made, all with the goal of making the events more valuable to the club and its members. This is a very large task and the committee is expected to be at work for at least a year.

Programs:

November 13: There are currently 83 people signed up to attend this year's annual Harvest Dinner. Chairpersons Don and Barb Betlej appealed to the board for door prizes and it was agreed that the grand prize this year would be a gift certificate for two to attend the upcoming club dinner dance in February. The club will also donate two cases of club wine. A number of club members have also donated items. All attendees are encouraged to bring a bottle of their best homemade wine as a gift to Jack of Clifford's.

December 14: This meeting will celebrate the club's 35th Anniversary. President Ziarek will invite all past club presidents to attend where they will be given a club memento commemorating the event. Mary Howell volunteered to obtain a cake for the celebration.

January 11: Critical wine tasting event.

February: Dinner Dance. Tom Courtney suggested and was approved that the previous \$24 charge for attendance be increased to \$25 per person. There will be an increased emphasis on the food selection and quality this year.

March: To be determined.

April: Annual food and wine pairing event. President Ziarek proposed a change to how this yearly event would be handled. It was suggested that this year the event would be run by Lou Bruno, who teaches wine and food courses at UWM and Alverno College. It would be held on the first Wednesday of the month, April 5, the usual date for the club board meeting. In this one case the board meeting would then be held instead on the second Wednesday of the month. The meeting location would also be changed to one possibly in New Berlin. There would be a \$600 charge which would be approximately \$100 more than last year's cost for the purchased food and wine. More information will be made available when details are finalized.

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Don and Barb Betlej. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Don Betlej

Donald Betlej
WVA Recording Secretary