**Lamorinda Wine Growers Association**

Minutes

Monday, July 8, 2019

Deer Hill Vineyards, 6 Lois Lane, Lafayette

Board Members Present: Bill Scanlin, Larry Thal, Tim Wedlake, Gerard van Steyn, David Hicks, Daniel Howsepian and Leslie Ward

Board Members Not Present: Bill English, Susan Captain and Carol Haag

The meeting was called to order at 7:13 pm by President Bill Scanlin.

The June 3, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed; David Hicks moved for approval and Gerard van Steyn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 1 aye vote and 4 abstentions.

Tim Wedlake provided a Treasurer’s report which showed a balance in the LWGA treasury of $2,435. The majority of bills have been paid, including Chamber of Commerce memberships and both D & O and General Liability Insurance. We are moving into the third quarter, which includes annual membership renewals, so cash flows for the balance of the year are expected to be good.

Bill Scanlin presented the updated LWGA website and demonstrated the forum tabs. Bill stressed that this project is still under development. He requested feedback on what he has already done. The Board seemed very pleased with what it saw.

Gerard discussed the upcoming membership meeting schedule and topic outline. There was also a discussion regarding attendance and owner preferences for educational vs. social meetings, and what is the best balance. It was agreed that educational topics should be kept short (15 to 20 minutes maximum). The assumption is that members prefer meetings at other member homes, as attendance usually proves to be higher at such venues. Timing is critical (i.e., consistency and competition with other events like Warrior games) and reminders through Evite are important.

* On Sunday, July 28th between 3:00 and 6:00 pm the member meeting will be held at Daniel and Anniemeke Howsepian’s home where the LWGA white wine competition winners will present their wines. There also will be a presentation on electric fencing for raccoon and skunk control.
* On Sunday, September 29th between 3:00 and 6:00 pm the member meeting will be held at Gerard van Steyn’s home (tentative), where the LWGA red wine competition winners will present their wines.
* On Thursday, December 5th between 6:30 and 9:30 the LWGA Annual Holiday Party will be held, again featuring Diamond Dave.
* LWGA will again participate in the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival on September 21st and 22nd.

The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding wine competitions. It was agreed unanimously that the presence of LWGA at the State Fair and at least one county fair is critical. David Hicks volunteered to present a specific recommendation at an upcoming meeting focused on which competitions we should be encouraging members to enter and a possible framework for LWGA to coordinate entries. Specifically, Dave suggested that the process is relatively easy once one has done it. This process is definitely one that LWGA could take on to benefit its members. The California State Fair has two categories – one for commercial wine makers and one for amateurs.

The “new member” letter written by Carol Haag was reviewed, along with one written by Leslie Ward from a few years ago. It was suggested that Carol try to combine the two versions and to specifically include reference to “how to access the LWGA website” and to also include the listing of upcoming meetings.

The next monthly Board meeting will be held August 5th at 7:00 pm at the home of Larry and Esther Thal.

Larry Thal made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lawrence Thal, Secretary