

NDGWA Board Meeting

January 16, 2017

Loftsgard Hall

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 pm by President Mark Vining.

Members attending in person were: Mark Vining, Greg Cook, Harlene Hatterman-Valenti, Stan Hanson, & Steve Sagaser

Members attending by conference call: Randy Albrecht, Kevin Kinzel

Members absent: Alan Fuller, Jeff Kopp, Bob Thaden

Guests attending:

SECRETARIES REPORT

Stan moved to approve the minutes. Greg seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurer Greg Cook stated that the quarterly grant report was submitted to the North Dakota Agriculture Department. We will receive 90 percent reimbursement for the expenses listed on the report.

Bills for the Conference phone calls are about \$100.

Steve moved to dispense with the full treasurer's report. Stan seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee Reports / Discussion

Research

Harlene reported that Brittnee has finished up and has taken a position with a distributor. She will be responsible for Happy Harrys in Fargo and Grand Forks. Brittnee will be available in the future to assist with micro-vinification projects.

Mark stated that we are included in the ND Agriculture Commissioner's budget at a similar level as in the past.

Vineyard and winery survey - Ray Ann Kilen will be conducting a survey of product demand for wineries and availability of those products from ND vineyards and orchards.

Education / Events

Annual Meeting & Conference

Greg provided a proposed schedule for the event including Friday February 3rd and Saturday February 4th. It was decided that we would not have concurrent sessions.

Topics and presenters were discussed for sessions 1 and 2 before lunch on Saturday and 3, 4 & 5 on Saturday afternoon. Steve agreed to contact Kathy Wiederholt and Tom Kalb for a session on New and Alternative Fruits for Juice and Winemaking. Harlene will visit with Jesse Ostrander for possibly assisting her in a presentation about weed control, pests, and nutrients for growing grapes. Harlene will also visit with Jan Knodel about a session on Spotted Wing Drosophila.

Sponsors, vendors, & the silent auction were discussed. Mark will contact Weed Badger, MDT and Neiss Impressions (printing) from Minot as possible sponsors. The sponsor fee is \$100. We need someone to help line up vendors. The vendor fee will be \$50 per vendor space with the option of paying \$35 and supplying a \$25 item for the silent auction. Steve offered to supply bid sheets and to assist with the silent auction.

The wine competition and social includes hors d'oeuvres. The suggested donation to attend the event is \$20. The entry fees for the wine competition are:

- Hobbyist 2 - 750 mL bottles, \$15/entry.
- Commercial 2 - 750 mL bottles, \$ 15 / entry.

All entries should be submitted by 5 pm, Fri Feb 3. Steve offered to supply the ballots for the wine competition in duplicate so that for those wishing to keep a copy of their voting, the top of the ballot can be removed for submittal and the bottom can be retained. Greg will supply the certificates for winners of the wine categories.

Member participation & volunteering is needed for all of the events in order for the annual meeting and conference to be successful.

Annual meeting - Greg cook and Rod Ballinger are the nominating committee for the board and officer's positions. The nominations for board seats and for officer positions will be posted on the web site, if available from the committee, prior to the annual meeting. A discussion about the new logo and marketing during an open forum may take place during the annual meeting. If a proposed new logo is agreed upon by the board prior to the annual meeting it will be presented for discussion at the annual meeting.

Marketing

The new logo was discussed. Several variations were shown. It was decided to add a stem to the "grape bunch" on the logo that has the grapes and wine glass. – Mark will ask Flint Communications to make the change.

Regulatory / Legislative

Randy and Mark will be meeting with Blaine Braunberger from the ND Tax department to determine what qualifies as an event regarding the regulation which limits North Dakota wineries to attending no more than 20 events annually.

Greg moved, Randy seconded to not support a proposed legislative bill asking for a second class of winery license as outlined by the sponsor. The motion passed by a voice vote.

A bill has been proposed to eliminate the ingredient requirement in the winery law. Also proposed in the bill the 20 event permit limit will be eliminated and language will be added to allow wineries to obtain a retail license to sell alcoholic beverages subject to local licensing authorities.

4:57 the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by,

Steve Sagaser – Secretary North Dakota Grape and Wine Association