

NDGWA 2017 Annual Meeting

Chieftain Hotel, Carrington, ND

February 3rd, 2017

The 2017 meeting of the North Dakota Grape and Wine Association meeting was called to order at 4: pm by President Mark Vining.

Secretary Steve Sagaser certified that we had a quorum of 10 percent or more members present which allowed the meeting to proceed.

A review of the new membership classifications was made:

Student membership has one vote, individual memberships have one vote, a couple's membership has two votes – both individuals have to be present, a commercial membership has two votes. Both members must be present.

Minutes – The minutes were read from the 2016 annual meeting. A motion to approve the motion was made by Steve Sagaser. The motion was seconded by Greg Krieger and it passed by voice vote.

Treasurers report - The treasurer's report with explanations of income and expenses was made by Greg Cook. We are down about \$300 from last year. We lost about \$300 at the Wine N Dine event at Fluffy Fields Winery. A special debt of gratitude was extended to Kevin and Deb Kinzel for graciously paying for all the event marketing and offsetting some of the costs by matching our loss for the Wine N Dine event. Over 60 attended the event in Dickinson.

Greg submitted the treasurers report for approval. Bob Thaden seconded the motion and it was approved by voice vote.

2016 in Review - President Mark Vining gave a review of the past year's activities and news.

- **NDSU Grape Research program** - A panel tasted micro-vinified wines from 80 accessions. Six red and six white grape accessions were identified for further evaluation.
- **New Wineries** – Fluffy Fields Winery in Dickinson opened as the 15th winery in the state. Rookery Rock Winery is scheduled to open in the spring of 2017. Two new cideries are in the startup phase. Two wineries are in the planning phase.
- **Research Support** - \$500 was contributed to help continue the Northern Grapes Project. Letters were issued for research on pests, grapes and fruit. We continue to support the NDSU Germ Plasm Enhancement Project.
- **Viticulture** - We (NDGWA) provided funding for the FFA Fruit Proficiency Award. Reimbursement for one petiole test per member was available during the past year.
- **Marketing** A Facebook ad campaign which was designed to increase awareness of ND wines ran in late spring and early summer. The "likes" to the NDGWA Facebook page increased 262 percent with an increase of 631 new "likes." Over 16,000 people were reached by the campaign. A lengthy discussion followed about the use of Facebook and its advantages for marketing the organization and its members' activities.
- **A proposed new logo** - has been developed by Flint Communications and approved by the board. The new logo was made available for members to see on handouts and displayed on the projection screen.

- **Regulatory** – HB 1343 will eliminate the 51 percent ingredient requirement for ND wineries. It will also eliminate the 20-event permit limit, and allow wineries to obtain retail liquor licenses without the restaurant requirement. For any wine produced in North Dakota to be labeled as North Dakota wine, it will still need to contain 75 percent North Dakota products.
- **Survey** – R Kilen Consulting is conducting a comprehensive survey of vineyards, orchards, and wineries. The survey is funded by a USDA Rural Development Grant. The purpose of the survey is to determine the existing demand and availability of agricultural products for wine production in ND and to forecast the future demand.
- **Wine N Dine** – The event was held at Fluffy Field Winery. There were more than 60 (many were not NDGWA members) in attendance. A six-course meal was paired and served with six ND wines.

Committee Reports

Bob Thaden - research committee chair - discussed the continued improvement of the wines submitted for the wine competition.

Bob also discussed the replicated trials across the state as well as the trials in his Tongue River vineyard.

Stan Hanson - membership chair - reported that we are down two members this year.

Nominating committee - Rod Ballinger and Greg Cook.

Four board members are up for re-election. We are not required to fill the open seat that Alan Fuller is vacating. The board of director members whose terms are over are Randy Albrecht, Bob Thaden, and Stan Hanson.

The floor was opened for nominations to fill the board position which will be vacated by Alan Fuller.

Alan Verbitsky was nominated by Nikolai Verbitsky for board of directors – Allison Krieger seconded the nomination.

Jeff Forward moved to unanimously elect the four nominees to the board of directors. Darcie Hardy seconded the motion. The motion was passed by voice vote.

Officers

Bob Thaden discussed his desire to not run again for the vice-president's position.

Greg Cook presented the slate of nominees.

President- Mark Vining

Vice-President - Randy Albrecht

Treasurer - Greg Cook

Secretary - Steve Sagaser

Bob Thaden, conducting the election, called for any additional nominations for the officers' positions.

Alan Verbitsky was an additional nominee for president.

A motion for a unanimous ballot to elect the vice president, treasurer, and secretary, was made by Mark Vining, the motion was seconded by Kevin Kinzel. The motion passed by voice vote.

Paper ballots were passed out to vote for president. Mark Vining was re-elected for president by paper ballot.

New Logo discussion

Much interest and discussion took place by the members both pro and con about the new logo.

Barry Francis moved and Greg Cook seconded that we approve the new logo with the understanding that we ask Flint Communication to consider raising the sides of the wine glass and flattening the bottom of the glass. If these changes will improve the logo, then they (Flint Communications) should go ahead and do so.

The motion passed by a show of hands and we have a new logo.

Greg Cook passed out the wine competition awards for professional and hobbyist;

Commercial winners:

- White Grape - Louise Swenson Grape - Alan Verbitsky
- Red Grape - Frontenac Grape - Tongue River Winery
- Rose - Orange Wine- Tongue River Winery
- Grape Blend – Sangria - Wolf Creek Winery
- Dessert – Sweetie Pie - Tongue River Winery
- Stone Fruit – Plum Wine - 4E Winery
- Berry Fruit – Strawberry - Dakota Sun Gardens Winery
- Other Fruit - Pear Wine – Dakota Sun Gardens Winery
- Honey Mead - Alan Verbitsky

Hobbyist winners:

- White Grape - Frontenac Gris - Mark and Nancy Lunde
- Red Grape – Marquette - Mark and Nancy Lunde
- Grape Blend – Marquette, Petite Pearl, & Wild Grape - Bryan Severson - Dancing Loons Vineyard
- Dessert Wine – Frontenac / Marquette blend - Greg Krieger
- Stone Fruit – Yellow Chokecherry - Opie - Aaron Opdahl
- Berry Fruit – Haskap - Mark and Nancy Lunde
- Other Fruit – Apple / Raspberry Opie - Aaron Opdahl

Opie (Aaron Opdahl) addressed the assembly to inquire about the Aronia group joining us. There are between 30 – 50 members in the Aronia group. Several NDGWA members spoke affirmatively about how both groups would benefit by their joining NDGWA.

Kevin Kinzel moved and Randy Albrecht seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:24pm.

Submitted by Steve Sagaser - Secretary - North Dakota Grape and Wine Association.