



Swig* Times



Valley of the Moon Dilettante Enological Society Newsletter FEBRUARY, 2005

President: Michael Cooper, 939-9848

Secretary/Treasurer: Doug Ghiselin, 996-8967

Vice President & Winemaster: Jack Bertram, 938-2310

DUES ARE DUE IN MARCH \$36 ANNUALLY MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO VOMDES MAIL TO 300 MOON MOUNTAIN ROAD SONOMA, CA. 95476

Meeting of February 10, 2005

President Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. 31 members were present.

Old Business:

1. Our web site is on line. Go to www.vomdes.org and check it out!! Send comments to Mark Hermsen at markhermsen@sbcglobal.net. If you have won awards, send a list to Mark and he will get your data on the web site.
2. The nominating committee recommended that we retain our current slate of officers for a second term. The recommendation was moved, seconded and approved.
3. Treasurer Ghiselin discussed a proposed budget. He noted that the club's planned expenditures include meeting room rent, support of the Holiday party, a winery visit and a picnic. These expenditures have been totaling approximately \$1500 per year. He also stated that we usually have a few unplanned expenditures each year. Discussion followed during which it was noted that our dues have been \$24 per year for as long as anyone present could remember.

Following discussions, it was moved, seconded and approved to raise our dues to \$36 per year.

New Business

1. Vice President Bertram suggested that we consider an ascension policy for our officers. President Cooper agreed to review our by-laws and report results at our next meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Ghiselin reported that we have a balance of \$1381.58. Audit Committee Chairman Barry Ganley reported that his committee had not completed the audit. Chairman Ganley stated that he would have the audit report at the March meeting.

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Towell Merritt was our guest speaker. He spoke on pruning the vineyard. Mr. Merritt is the vineyard manager for Gundlach Bundshu. He noted that pruning is where the wine starts! Therefore, their entire management team is involved with developing their vineyard management plan. One should develop an overall plan for the vineyard, implemented by daily work plans. Vineyard pruning starts with canopy management. 20% to 40% of the canopy should be

air. If one were to push a pencil into a mature canopy, the pencil should hit only 2 or 3 leaves. A mature canopy should have a maximum of 6 shoots per foot of canopy wire. He suggested "Sunlight into Wines" as a good reference for pruning. Another source of information is the U.C. Davis-Integrated Pest Management web site, www.ipm.ucdavis.edu. Click on agriculture and floriculture and then grape.

In response to a question regarding utipa, Towell noted that the disease is most prevalent in Dec and Jan. The spores are carried by rain. Therefore, one should never prune when rain is forecasted. Utipa shows up as a "wedge" shape in the pruning cut. If you see a wedge, keep cutting back until the wedge disappears. Because pruning wood may contain utipa, it is not a good idea to leave the wood in the vineyard unless it is cut up into small pieces that will deteriorate rapidly.

VOMDES Calender

All meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Vintage House.

Mar. Business meeting. Elect officers. Pay dues.

Apr. Business meeting. New officers take over. Picnic Committee appointed.

May. Winery Visit

June. Business meeting

July. Annual picnic

Aug. Business meeting. Appoint Holiday Party Committee.

Sept. Business meeting.

Oct. Business meeting.

Nov. Business meeting.

Dec. Holiday Party

Note: We will attempt to have a guest speaker at each business meeting.