



Swig* Times



Valley of the Moon Dilettante Enological Society Newsletter MAY, 2005

President: Michael Cooper, 939-9848

Secretary/Treasurer: Doug Ghiselin, 996-8967

Vice President & Winemaster: Jack Bertram, 938-2310

DUES WERE DUE IN MARCH

\$36 ANNUALLY

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO VOMDES

MAIL TO

300 MOON MOUNTAIN ROAD
SONOMA, CA. 95476

Meeting of May 12, 2005

President Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM. 20+ members were present. William J. McGuire from the Napa Valley Home Winemakers Club was our guest. Their web site is nvhomewinemaker.com.

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. We still need members input for our website.
2. Secretary/Treasurer Doug Ghiselin reported that we have 38 paid members. 28 members from last year have not paid dues for this year. If you wish to continue membership, please get your \$36 check to Doug at 300 Moon Mountain Rd. Sonoma. Checks should be payable to VOMDES
3. Pres. Cooper reported that the by-laws review committee recommended that the by-laws be revised to establish the membership of the nominating

committee as the current slate of officers and the past two presidents. The committee shall meet in January and submit a recommended slate of officers in February. The election shall be held during the March meeting. Also recommended was that the financial review be conducted in February and a report be presented to the membership in April. Both recommendations were approved by the membership.

4. President Cooper reported that he has had favorable response from the Sonoma Fire Chief regarding the establishment of a home winemakers event similar to the Home Winemakers Classic held in the Napa Valley. The discussions had not progressed to the point of deciding if the event should be coordinated with Patron's Night. President Cooper appointed Bobbie Collins (Chair), Jack Bertram, Bruce Stephens, Doug Ghiselin, Mike Muscardini and Rich Brooks to the committee that will finalize this issue. During discussions, it was suggested that the Sonoma High athletic program be considered as a benefactor of the event.

New Business

1. President Cooper reported on the April visit to Schug Winery. He noted that we had been treated quite well. The club will present Mr. Schug with a gift as a token of our appreciation.
2. Member Mike Muscardini reported that he had accepted the task of coordinating participants in the Napa Valley Home Winemakers Classic. He noted that they still have room for a few more participants. Members interested should contact Mike at 933-9305 or mmuscardini@yahoo.com.
3. President Cooper appointed Mike Muscardini (chair), Jack Bertram, Bobbie Collins, and Alex Milotich to the picnic committee.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Ghiselin reported that we have a balance of \$1899.17

Guest Speaker:

Vice President Bertram introduced our guest speaker, Diana Burnett of Scott Laboratories. Ms. Burnett presented information on various aspects of fermentation. She noted three significant issues that home winemakers need to address. One, is the

process of re-hydration of yeast. Yeast should be dehydrated at 104 degree F for 15 to 30 minutes, no longer. She recommended her product "Go Ferm" as an additive to assist yeast. Second, avoid "cold shock"! The temperature of the yeast should be within 18 degrees F of the temperature of the must. Third, thoroughly mix yeast into the must. Ms. Burnett provided each attendee with a copy of Scott Laboratories 2004 Fermentation Handbook.

VOMDES Calendar

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

- 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.

FOR SALE

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1. Members Bertram, 938-2310, and Ghiselin, 996-8967 have new wine bottles for sale. Call either to determine cost and type and quantity available.
2. Member Ghiselin has several 5 gallon glass carboys available at \$10 each. Call him at 996-8967.