



Swig* Times



Valley of the Moon Dilettante Enological Society Newsletter May, 2004

President: Michael Cooper, 939-9848

Secretary/Treasurer: Doug Ghiselin, 996-8967

Vice President & Winemaster: Vicky Scharnikow, 933-4400

Meeting of May 13, 2004

President Cooper called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM. We had 13 members and one guest present. Our guest, Jeff Ledger joined the club. Members with wine to taste introduced their wines, which were enjoyed during the meeting. As some of the wines were blends, a very good discussion on blending took place during the meeting. Wine tasting at our next meeting will be structured with member Jon Dion leading the effort.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Member Byron Nichols was not present. Therefore, an update on the status of our dialogue with the Vintage Festival Committee regarding our participation in the amateur wine competition and Patron's Night was deferred to the next meeting.

2. Ghiselin reported that he had still not heard from the folks that run the Home Winemakers Classic regarding a table for VOMDES at their event. Ghiselin reported that he would place information regarding VOMDES on his table at the event.

3. Ghiselin reported that the Vineyard Workers Services had requested we purchase tools such as weed eaters, mowers, etc. for their client's use. Ghiselin is awaiting receipt of a specific list.

4. Member Mark Hermsen presented his vision of our web site. After some discussion, the membership approved that presented with the following comments: the sight should contain a number of buttons to allow one to easily find more details on a particular subject; contain a "Hall of Fame" to allow members to post medals/awards won, and a want-ad button for either the sale of wine

making equipment/supplies or the desire to purchase wine making equipment/supplies. Member Hermsen is continuing development of the site.

5. Those members whose last name starts with the letters A through M brought finger food for four. We had more than enough food as most of those present fell into the A through M category. At the June meeting we need members with last names starting with N through Z to attend! And of course bring finger food.

6. VP Scharnikow reported on her effort relative to the club considering joining either the Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance or the Sonoma County Grape Growers. She noted that the Vinters and Growers Alliance was mainly geared to promoting products where as the Grape Growers was more geared to growing grapes. Those present felt membership in the Grape Growers was more in line with our goals. Membership in the Grape Growers is \$250 annually and Vicky indicated that they would be amenable to having different folks represent us at meetings. Member Mitchell Shapiro suggested that an email be sent to the membership asking for input. Vicky will send out an email.

7. President Cooper discussed efforts towards pursuing relationships with other amateur wine clubs. He noted that the Contra Costa County club was quite receptive. The Sacramento Club has not responded. Those present decided to invite the Contra Costa County club to our picnic.

8. The annual picnic will be held at the Buena Vista Winery on July 31 at 11:30 am. Members Ghiselin, McLain and Shapiro will visit the winery and report back on available facilities.

9. The club will again have a table in the plaza during Farmer's Market Night on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Purpose is to promote club membership. Next event will be May 25th. Members are encouraged to come down and help promote the club.

10. The winery visit has been scheduled for June 17th at Cline Cellars. Members should meet in the parking lot at 5:45 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. President Cooper suggested that each month a member volunteer to write an article for our newsletter. Member Ganley volunteered for May. His article on Oak Cubes is attached.

2. Presented Cooper discussed an article from the U.C. Extension web site relative to cost of developing a vineyard. Article is interesting and can be downloaded from their web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Ghiselin reported we have a balance of \$2206.57 and 47 members.

HOME WINEMAKING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR SALE

Manually driven crusher/destemmer. Can be converted to power driven. Call Chuck at 996-3571

New wine bottles. Contact Doug at 996-8967 for price, quantity, style, etc.

Manual corker. \$50. Contact Doug at 996-8967

FREE! FREE! 700 Plastic Grow sleeves. Call Bob Smith 415.519.3088 **FREE!! FREE!!**

AMATUER WINE COMPETITIONS

July 17th. Home Winemakers Classic, St. Supry Winery. Go to www.homewine.com to register

2004 DUES ARE PAST DUE!!

**SEND \$24 CHECK PAYABLE TO VOMDES TO DOUG GHISELIN
300 MOON MOUNTAIN ROAD
SONOMA, CA. 95476**