



Swig* Times



Valley of the Moon Dilettante Enological Society Newsletter April, 2004

President: Michael Cooper, 939-9848

Secretary/Treasurer: Doug Ghiselin, 996-8967

Vice President & Winemaster: Vicky Scharnikow, 933-4400

Meeting of April 8, 2004

Vice President Vicky Scharnikow called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM. President Cooper was out of town. We had three guests: Frank and Claudia Mason who later joined the club and James Stewart who accompanied member Mark Hermsen. Members with wine to taste introduced their wines, which were enjoyed during the meeting.

Old Business:

1. Member Byron Nichols updated those present on the status of our dialogue with the Vintage Festival Committee regarding our participation in the amateur wine competition and Patron's Night. Byron reported that he had made arrangements to meet with members of the Patron's Night Committee. His meeting is later this month and he will report back at the May meeting.

2. The audit committee reported that they had reviewed the Club's financial records and found them to be in good order. The committee's report noted that Treasurer Ghiselin had expressed a concern that there was no real method of showing how much dues was actually collected. To address this concern, the committee suggested that future meeting minutes reflect dues paid.

4. Ghiselin reported that he had not heard from the folks that run the Home Winemakers Classic regarding a table for VOMDES at their event. Ghiselin reported that he would follow up on the request and report at our next meeting.

5. 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.

6. Ghiselin reported that he expended the \$35 to retain our domain for two additional years. Member Mark Hermsen is continuing development of the site. Members suggest he provide for a club calendar, how to contact us, membership list and members bios if member approves, and similar items.

7. VP Scharnikow reported on bio friendly soil supplements. She noted that several members had responded to her email regarding available product and all she had available has been spoken for. Members interested in obtaining additional product should contact Darrell Kiser at 481-6503.

New Business:

1. VP Scharnikow introduced several concepts she and Pres. Cooper had discussed. Their primary objective is to get more members involved in club affairs. We will pursue this objective throughout the year.

2. We will revive the tradition of having members share the responsibility for "finger food" at our meetings. At the May meeting, those members whose last name starts with the letters A through M should bring finger food for four.

3. VP Scharnikow suggested that the club consider joining either the Sonoma Valley Vintners and Growers Alliance or the Sonoma County Grape Growers. Discussion followed and at the next meeting VP Scharnikow will present data on SCGG and member Nichols on SVV&GA.

4. VP Scharnikow suggested we pursue relationships with other amateur wine clubs wherein

we would have joint meetings, wine competitions, etc. Members Stephens, Hermsen and Scharnikow will develop a proposal for the May meeting.

5. VP Scharnikow stated she had several speakers available and asked if the membership had a particular interests. It was suggested that she try to arrange speakers on subjects that the members were currently involved with; i.e. pruning in Dec/Jan, wine making in Sept/Oct, cellar maintenance in Nov. etc. Members approved expenditure of up to \$25 per speaker for purchase of a token gift expressing our appreciation of their presentation.

6. Member Byron Nichols suggested we hold an open house and invite the public. Members present agreed and Ghiselin stated he would coordinate the announcement with the article regarding our donation to the Vineyard Workers Services.

7. Member Carole McLain agreed to coordinate our picnic.

8. Member Troia suggested we have a table at the square during the Tuesday evening Farmers Market to allow members to socialize and as an effort to attract new members. It was agreed to do so on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Troia and Ghiselin will bring the table. Members need to bring their own chairs, and wine, of course!

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Ghiselin reported we have a balance of \$1802.57. Prior to the meeting we had 30 paid members. Three members paid dues at the meeting.

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 DUE!! 2004 DUES ARE DUE!!

SEND \$24 CHECK PAYABLE TO VOMDES TO DOUG GHISELIN

300 MOON MOUNTAIN ROAD

SONOMA, CA. 95476