



2023 Annual General Meeting

June 24, 2023

Held at Mohawk College at the Sippers Symposium Festival

Certification of a Quorum – There were 16 Clubs were represented, which easily met the quorum requirement of 8, including KW Winemakers, Niagara Vine to Wine Circle, Other Hamilton Wine Club, Cambridge, Capital Amateur Winemakers, South Coast, Georgetown Vintners, Burlington Wine Guild, Growwine, Kawartha Krushers, Wentworth West Zymologists, Central Toronto. Vin Bon, Brampton, Corkscrew, and 2 others.

In Attendance- Max Rutherford, Jim Casey, GT Lawson, G. Thompson, Bill Hughes, Don Osmond, Burton McClland, Karen Mandrake, Jim Bradshaw, Ian Griffith, Nick Petruzella, David Sykes, Ken Maley, Barry Mitchell, Rick Wagner, Rick Reycraft, Doug Flowers, Dean Anderson, Ray Shier, Karen Leonard, Garry and Louise Turnay, Ron Droste, Patti Polfoss, Werner Lichtenberger, Norman Fall, Pete Zurek, Wayne Dummaski.

Introductory Remarks and Welcome

The President Ellen Kareckas welcomed all to the 2023 AGM and the Festival venue at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario.

Minutes from the 2022 AGM Meeting

It was noted that the Kitchener Wine Makers Guild we omitted as attendees at the 2022 AGM and that William Hughes was not included as an attendee. These omissions will be corrected.

Doug Flowers of the Burlington Wine Guild motioned to accept the minutes as amended and Burton McLlland Seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Financial Report

Ian Griffith presented the financial report. He indicated that the dues were down slightly from 2022 and that there may be a deficit of \$1,118.19. However our reserves will buffer this shortfall. Clive Woolner made a motion to accept the financial report, and this was seconded by Doug Flowers of Burlington. Motion passed.

Membership Report

Nick Petruzella, Membership Director indicated that as of May 1st 2023 there were 22 Clubs registered with a total of 203 members including 3 Members at Large. There were slightly more members in 2022 at 226. We gained 10 new members but lost 23 for a net loss of -13 members.

Three clubs dropped out involving 14 members.

Clubs were Bytown Vintners, Quinte Celar Dwellers and the Uxbridge Vintners. The decrease in both membership and clubs is an ongoing trend from the past couple of years.

Club Judging Coordinators Report

David Sykes the AWO/WJC Judging Coordinator gave the following report (condensed). There was a total of 18 competitions at Club level involving 20 clubs and 1 Member at Large. Auroa and Pickering did not participate.

A total of 22 judges were called upon to assess wines. Unfortunately, many of the new judges were not being chosen by Clubs. This is attributed to the Clubs not being familiar with the candidates. It was suggested that for any club requesting 2 judges that the WJC be allowed to assign an unfamiliar judge as the second-choice with the preferred Judge. Patty Polfus made a motion to that effect. It was not seconded, but discussion proceeded anyway. Clive Woolner indicated that there is a distance problem with Ottawa and other outlying communities. Travel expense can get very large. The Brampton Wine Makers (Don Osmond) were against this proposal. They want specific judges. There were also issues with two clubs wanting the same judge on the same day. David Sykes indicated that this is resolved by the time stamp on the request. Some Clubs are late in requesting specific people and choosing judging dates. It was ironed out this year by shifting judging days, but in the future, it is first come first served. Clive Woolner indicated that new judges need to get exposure to club level judging. Judges are expected to have judged at least 1 club to be eligible to judge at the Provincials. If they are not used, they will drop out of judging and we will have a deficit in judges. Possibly the Judge coordinator can send out a new judge with a requested judge. The issue is not paying for the 2nd unasked for judge but the transportation cost. If the 2 judges can carpool this would only cost the club the travel costs of their requested judge. The issue was not resolved at this meeting and needs more discussion and creative solutions.

The report was seconded by Werner Lichtenberger. Motion passed by All.

Chief Stewarts Report

The report was given by Bob Stalder, Chief Steward. There were 547 entries and 54 Gold, 397 Silver and 71 Bronze medals were awarded. We had 4 judges per table. There are some issues with a small number of the entries. Faulted 8, out of Class 2, wines delivered but not in Database 11, No Shows 5. Overall, not a lot of errors made. The online registration was somewhat problematic. Several winemakers did not receive confirmation and bottle tags, resulting in people entering the same wines twice. There were 10 wines out of class. Tracking entries by clubs were a problem for some clubs. There were some payment issues and deadlines were not always respected. All of this causes a lot of extra work and frustration for the wine registrar and treasurer. Nick P. Proposed the report be accepted, Seconded by Doug Flowers and Motion carried.

Motion from the Floor

Patty Polfoss made a motion that AWO meet with WJC in the Fall and have the meeting include all judges, to resolve the lack of requested participation of new judges. This was seconded by Nick P. and was carried by the Majority.

Amateur Winemakers of Canada Update

AWC is having the 2023 competition in Ontario. Ontario has the potential to enter 68 wines. It was supposed to occur in 2019 but got delayed due to Covid. The competition will be in Ayr, Ontario at a Curling Rink on

September 17th. There will be 4 provinces involved. Clubs will be invited to submit gold medal wines to the competition. We will need judges from Ontario and a request will go out.

Plans for Next Festival

Clive suggested we have it every 2 years and continue with the club groups sponsoring that was used this year as it is a lot for 1 or 2 clubs to put on by themselves. The current venue at Mohawk College worked very well and there has been nothing but complements about the speakers and lodgings. Ellen K. indicated we need to get more new members to participate. Patty P. indicated we need to start planning very soon if we want one in 2024. She indicated it should be decided at the next AWO Board meeting in the early Fall. We need a short list of potential sites. Any Volunteers should be engaged ASAP to maintain the momentum. We need to appoint a Conference Director. A board member should be given an assignment to find a coordinator. The individual coordinating the festival does not have to be a director. Patty P. made a motion that the Board of Directors shall meet and put together a proposal in early Fall. Seconded by Karen Mandrake. The Motion Passed

Nominations to the AWO Board

Ian Griffith and Ellen Kareckas will stand for re election on 2023-2024. Jim Casey and Ken Maley will also stand for re election. We need 2 more people to have a Board Quorum.

Ian Grifith made a motion to Adjourn.

Reported by Jim Casey, Secretary