

**SHW**  
**The Grapevine**  
Newsletter of  
**Sacramento Home Winemakers, Inc.**  
**November-December 2011**

**November 16, 2011 Program – Annual Elections ~  
Sparklers/Dessert/Fruit/Port Evaluations ~ Port Presentation**

Be on time for a packed November meeting! Meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

We'll start the evening with the election of 2012 Club Officers for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Membership Chair.

Then, we'll join Craig Haermeyer, winemaker for Revolution Wines, and SHW's Chief Judge D.D. Smith for the evaluation of members' sparklers, dessert, fruit and port wines. Please bring two 750 ml bottles for evaluation and let VP Bill Staehlin know what you'll be bringing. Bill can be found at [bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bill.staehlin@sbcglobal.net) and 916 216-1753.

Following the wine evaluations, Peter Ficklin, third generation winemaker (and president) of Ficklin Vineyards, will educate us on port basics and various port styles. Ficklin Vineyards a 65- year old port house located in Madera specializing in ports made from grapes commonly used to make Portuguese ports.

Time Change! The meeting starts promptly at 6:30 PM upstairs at the Turn Verein, 3349 J Street in Sacramento. Please bring 2 wine glasses for your use. Thanks for helping set up before the meeting and cleaning up afterwards.

**President's Message**

As this year comes to a close for the Sacramento Home Winemakers, and my service as President, I would like to share a few observations, and some acknowledgements. No President of any organization can call herself or himself a leader, unless, when you turn around, people are following you. We have gone into some uncharted waters this past year, and I am grateful to the members of the Executive Board, and Board of Directors, and to our members for following, and often times, leading. I like to think that trying new things is a sign of confidence, and a tribute to the strength of an organization. So, thank you to everyone who brushed off a few old traditions this year, and welcomed a few new ones.

As our 2011 wines are resting safely, in their carboys, or barrels, it is time to be watchful, always tasting and testing for the next months. Next year's club evaluations will be the first "sunlighting" of your wines and you will learn a great deal by bringing them to the evaluations.

I look forward to joining you all at the Christmas Party on December 18th, celebrating another successful year of home winemaking. Oh, and bring some wine!

*Donna Bettencourt*  
2011 SHW President

### **Annual Elections – 2012 Executive Board Position Nominees**

SHW is governed by an elected Executive Board comprised of five officer position: president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and membership chair. To assist the executive board, the president makes committee chair appointments for both on-going and ad hoc functions including but not limited to hospitality, competition, newsletter, cellar master, chief judge, librarian, holiday dinner & fundraiser and community relations.

The Board of Directors, comprised of the current president plus four past presidents serves in an advisory capacity to the Executive Board and is also charged with the determining recipients of the annual awards. The first elected past president serves as chair of the Board of Directors.

According to the SHW by-laws, members vote the annual (November) meeting to elect the following year's executive officers. The following members have been nominated for the elected positions:

President	Donna Bettencourt
Vice President	Bill Staehlin
Treasurer	Mike Touchette
Secretary	Sue Summersett
Membership	Fred Millar and Gin Yang (running as co-chairs)

Nominations will also be taken from the floor. Please contact President Donna Bettencourt (916) 454-5487 or Board of Directors President Judy Pinegar ( 916 652-5198) if you are interested a leadership position.

### **Proposed SHW Bylaws Amendment**

#### **Regarding Executive Board Membership and Voting Rights**

At the November Meeting, members will be asked to vote on the following Bylaws Amendment, proposed by the Executive Board, chaired by Judy Pinegar. The SHW Bylaws, last amended on April 19, 2009 provide:

##### ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS

Officers of the organization, or a committee appointed by the President, or twenty percent of the membership, by petition may propose amendments to these bylaws. Upon such proposal being made, a copy thereof shall be submitted to each member. The proposed amendment shall be approved and adopted if, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting at which there is a quorum.

The purpose of this bylaws change is to clarify what has been long standing practice, but which has caused confusion in some appointive members of the Executive Board. Appointive positions on the Executive Board include Chief Judge, Cellar Master, Competition Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinator, Historian, and Newsletter Editor. These are all extremely important positions in keeping the club functioning, and those appointed generally come to Executive Board meetings and contribute.

This Bylaw amendment confirms that they are members of the Board and are afforded all voting rights at the Board meetings.

In regular text are the current bylaws for this section. The proposed amendment language is in *italics* text.

#### ARTICLE VIII. EXECUTIVE BOARD

##### Section 1. Members

The Executive Board shall consist of all elected officers and the immediate past president of the organization *as well as all members appointed to supportive positions by the President*. The President shall act as Chair.

##### Section 2. Duties

The Executive Board shall conduct the routine business of the organization.

##### Section 3. Meetings

The Executive Board meetings shall be held at the call of the Chairman or at the request of any two board members.

##### *Section 4. Voting Members*

*Voting members of the Executive Board shall be all elected officers and the immediate past president of the organization as well as all members appointed to supportive positions by the President.*

### **December SHW Executive Board Meeting**

**December 7, 2011, 6:30 P.M – 8 P.M.**

Please join us for our last Executive Board Meeting of the year on December 7th. If you plan to participate in the Board meeting, please come at 6:30 pm. If you want to enjoy the fellowship and potluck that follows afterwards, please join us at 7:45 pm.

Contact Donna Bettencourt, President, at (916) 454-5487 for location.

### **From the Chief Judge – Winemaker of the Year Award**

The SHW 2011 Winemaker of the Year will be awarded at our Holiday Party in December – but the deadline for entries is coming up soon! All entries are due by November 30th. Competition rules and an entry form are attached to the newsletter – check it out! Please get your completed form to the Chief Judge or to any SHW board member as soon as possible.

*D.D. Smith*  
*Chief Judge*

## **Save The Date! The Annual Holiday Party**

**Sunday, December 18th, 2011**

Just a reminder that the Club's December meeting will celebrate the annual SHW Holiday Party. This year's festive event will be held at the Embassy Suites Sacramento Riverfront Promenade in the Old Sacramento Ball Room with plenty of room to eat, drink and be merry! The cost will be \$40 for Members and \$45 for Non-Members and includes tax, gratuity, free validated parking at the hotel parking garage and no corkage fees for wines brought by Club Members for dinner and to share with other guests.

The party begins at 4 PM with appetizers followed by a holiday buffet dinner, Chef's choice of dessert, SHW presentations/annual awards and raffle prize drawings. Executive Chef Clay Purcell will dazzle you with his culinary delights!!

This party is coordinated by Debbie Moreton, Member, and she is still looking for Holiday help from as many club members as possible in the following areas:

- \$5 Ticket Raffle Prizes (Club Members and friends of Club Members can collaborate together for gift baskets, hosting a dinner or a wine tasting/food pairing, gift cards, gift certificates. unique one-of-a kind items, grapes)
- think of the possibilities!!

This is the Club's major fundraising event where all proceeds benefit the educational programs, field trips, tours, presentations and winemaking experiences offered to our members.

You may contact Debbie directly at dem1019@sbcglobal.net, (916)296-1115 (cell phone) or at any Club meeting.

Reservation form and more on the Holiday Party is an attachment to this Newsletter!!

## **2012 SHW Annual Dues**

Annual Club dues are due on January 1. The \$45 annual dues include a 1-year 6-issue subscription to WineMaker magazine for renewing members and new members who submit their dues by March 1, 2012. Member benefits also include evaluation of wines at meetings, eligibility to enter wines into the Club's wine competition/Jubilee, participation and members' pricing at Club events, and the monthly opportunity to hang with the best home winemakers! Please use the membership form attached to this newsletter.

## **January 18, 2012 Program Preview**

As many ways there are to eat an Oreo cookie, there are that many ways to make wine. January's guest speaker, winemaker John Munch, winemaker/owner of La Cuvier Winery in Paso Robles, will be sharing his philosophy, attitude and outcomes of his winemaking adventures which some might consider as unconventional. Come to the meeting and see for yourself.

## **Home/Amateur Wine Competitions**

**Los Angeles Cellarmasters - California Cellarmaster's US Amateur Winemaking Competition.** Entries accepted between October 14 and November 11. More info at [www.cellarmastersLA.org](http://www.cellarmastersLA.org).

## **Caught in the Act of Kindness!**

Particularly during crush, someone in our winemaking lives makes the extra effort to enhance our winemaking experience: a kindness, an unwaivering attitude, or sharing of resources. These actions shouldn't go unnoticed! We'll set aside a few minutes at the November 16 SHW meeting for members to briefly acknowledge that special person's inspiration.

## **December 2011 "The Grapevine" on Holiday**

We're cramming SHW news from now to the end of the year into this issue of *The Grapevine*. The next issue will be January 2012.

Attached to this newsletter are forms for your use:

- 1) Winemaker of the Year Criteria and Entry – entries due November 30
- 2) December 18 SHW Annual Holiday Party – mail in reservations by December 9
- 3) Holiday Raffle Donation – donations accepted up through December 9
- 4) 2012 Membership Form – due January 2012; please renew before March 1, 2012

## **Wanted – Newsletter Editor**

SHW's *The Grapevine* is looking for a 2012 editor. Be the first in town to report on the latest home winemaking happenings! Please express your interest to President Donna Bettencourt at (916) 454-5487 or Gin Yang at (916) 217-0294.

## **SHW's on facebook!**

Share your winemaking pics on Sacramento Home Winemakers facebook page.

## **Upcoming SHW Meetings and Events**

- November 16 General Meeting, 6:30 PM – a) Annual Meeting/Election of 2012 Officers, b) Sparkler/Fruit/Dessert/Port Evaluations, and c) Port Presentation by Peter Ficklin of Ficklin Ports
- December 7 Board Meeting, 6:30 PM - Sacramento
- December 18 (Sunday) Holiday Party, 4 PM - Embassy Suites in Old Sacramento. No December General Meeting.
- January 18 General Meeting, 7 PM ~ John Munch, La Cuvier Winery, "As Natural As It Is"

*This and previous issues of The Grapevine can be found on the SHW website at:*

[www.sachomewine.org](http://www.sachomewine.org)