**The Grapevine Newsletter**

**April 2020**

The President’s Message…

Robert Wharton

First and foremost, I hope that this newsletter finds you and your family safe and secure from the coronavirus. If there’s any upside to this pandemic it is that most of our winemaking activities are at a bare minimum right now thereby allowing more time to focus on health.

Just a few things to point out this month. First, you’ll notice the “new” format of the newsletter. Stephanie had to step down and we currently don’t have someone to create the eye-catching newsletter we’ve become accustomed to. Thanks, Stephanie, for the many editions you published! For the time being we’re just going to take the articles submitted by the officers and committee chairs and publish them in a single MSWord document. If you are interested in taking on this task, please contact me.

Should you want to reach the President, Membership VPs, or Treasurer, you can now do so using our club email addresses: [president@sachomewine.com](mailto:president@sachomewine.com), [membership@sachomewine.com](mailto:membership@sachomewine.com) and [treasurer@sachomewine.com](mailto:treasurer@sachomewine.com). There are a couple of advantages to using these addresses. First, when we change officers, the new person can assume the office and have access to past email conversations. Second, when members or outside organizations (e.g. the bank for one) do not need to be informed of the new officer’s contact info. As a reminder, if you still have [robert.wharton@hpe.com](mailto:robert.wharton@hpe.com) in your address book, please delete it as it will no longer work and the messages will not be forwarded to me.

As with many other aspects of our lives, putting dates on calendars is difficult. So far there are plans moving forward for a State Fair this summer. We play an important role in the home winemakers competition, State Fair, and the awards ceremony. All that could change at any time. So please stay tuned and we’ll relay info as it becomes available to us.

Finally, as no surprise, there will NOT be a membership meeting on Wednesday, April 15th.

**A Message from Your Chief Judge**

**Donna Bettencourt**

First of all, I hope that all of you are well and finding comfort in each other and summoning the resolve to fight this treacherous virus by doing what does not come naturally to members of the Sacramento Home Winemakers – isolating at home. As a club, our members are not known for their social distancing and in our over forty years of existence, we have never cancelled a meeting, or a competition. But we are in different and uncertain times right now…. Here is what I know regarding upcoming home wine competitions.

But, before I get to that…..we are still home winemakers, and now, we are at home. And, most of you have more time at home than you have ever had. And so, whether or not you will be entering competitions, your wines still need to be cared for. Have you checked SO2 levels lately, topped up, sniffed and tasted your wines? Have you added oak to your 2019 wines? It is time to bottle your whites and rose wines. Are they clear? Do they need fining or filtering? Are you uncertain about any of your wines? Why not e-mail one of the Sacramento Home Winemaker mentors posted on our website and ask a question? Maybe now is the time you finally scroll through the many resources on our website, or stop binge watching *Ozark* and watch a few instructive Youtubes or Podcasts on home winemaking. And, of course, don’t stop sharing the occasional glass of wine with whomever you are blessed to have within six feet of you.

**California State Fair Home Wine Competition**

The California State Fair has tentatively announced that the 2020 Home Wine Competition will be judged on May 30, 2020. **Because of the uncertain impact of the COVID-19 the online entry start date has been postponed until April 13th.** Online entry registration is set to close on May 6th. The awards ceremony is planned for Saturday, June 20th. Because we will not be meeting as a club on April 15th, we will not be accepting entries at the Turn Verein. For more information email [homewine@calexpo.com](mailto:homewine@calexpo.com) or look for email messages from SHW.

**El Dorado County Fair Homemade Wine Competition**

Presented by the El Dorado Home Winemakers Association, entries will be accepted from May 1 through May 15th at the El Dorado Fair Office in Placerville. You can register and pay for your entries on line at [www.eldoradocountyfair.org](http://www.eldoradocountyfair.org/) $11 per entry for wine, and $1 to enter their label competition.

**Sacramento Home Winemakers Jubilee Competition**

At this time, there is little certainty as to whether or not SHW will be able to hold our annual Jubilee Home Wine Competition. We will know more in the coming weeks. The competition is tentatively set for Saturday, June 13th with the picnic and presentation of awards the next day, Sunday, June 14th. Look for further announcements in this column and via email blasts.

**Orange County Home Wine Competition**

The 2020 Orange County Home Wine Competition has been cancelled. Please see this [link](https://ocws.org/home-wine-competition/) for details.

**If you know the status of any upcoming homewine competitions, please let Donna know at** [**donnab1045@gmail.com**](mailto:donnab1045@gmail.com) **so we can add them to this monthly column.**

Calendar (As we know it today)

April 15 General Meeting - **Cancelled**

May 9, 16, 21 - Check-in State Fair wine entries, audit & flight wines for Fair judging

May 20 General Meeting - Topic TBA

June 13-14 - Jubilee!

July 17 - August 2 - California State Fair

August 1 - Winemaking 101