



The Grapevine Newsletter

September 2019



2019 SHW

Executive Board Meetings:

Generally held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7ish PM; locations vary. Contact President Joe McGillivray at pyramidlake59@gmail.com for details.

General Meetings:

Held on 3rd Wednesday of month unless otherwise noted, starting at 7 PM upstairs at the Turn Verein meeting hall located at 3349 J Street, Sacramento.

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

General Meeting– Vessels

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Executive Board Meeting– location TBD



Monthly Meeting– September 18, 2019 Fermentation with Shea Comfort

Come join your fellow Home Winemakers Wednesday, September 18th, at the Turn Verein 7-9pm located on 3349 J Street. There is parking in the back off I Street.

This month will be devoted to Fermentation and post fermentation. Shea Comfort from Lallemant, a Consultant-Winemaker will be speaking about yeasts, fermentation, malolactic fermentation, and questions and answers. This is the perfect time to have Shea speak since we are either harvesting or in the midst of fermentation.

If you like bring a bottle of wine to share and your glass.

Your help in setting up and cleaning up at meetings is always appreciated.

Contact Terry Piazza-Perham if you have program questions: Piazza-perham@att.net

Please consume responsibly

Competition Corner– by Donna Bettencourt

Bear in mind that if you wish to enter the Sacramento Home Winemakers Rex Johnston Winemaker of the Year competition for 2019, you must have entered at least two separate and distinct wines (as far as variety and harvest year) in both the 2019 Sacramento Home Wine Jubilee Competition and the California State Fair, and one other recognized 2019 home wine competition. The deadline for entering WOY is November 30, 2019. The WOY entry forms and criteria are posted on our website. Send completed forms to Donna at don-nab1045@gmail.com. She will verify your results and check your math. Direct any questions to her.

The Cellarmasters competition is pretty much the last home wine competition of the year: **46th Annual Cellarmasters U.S. Amateur Wine Competition**. Judging will take place on November 16, 2019. Go to www.cellarmastersla.org for details. Entries are due by November 8th in Woodland Hills, CA. \$20 per entry, 1 750 ml bottle.

President's Message by Joe McGillivray

Greetings my fellow club members, I hope you have your grape sources secure and that you're getting ready to enjoy the upcoming harvest! I'm so excited to go through another wonderful fermentation! For those that are new to this, remember, if you need assistance or have questions about your wine, the Club has many who can help through the mentor program. There are many people available to ask questions and get advice. Depending upon your question you may seek out one person versus another based on their background or their skills.

Be sure to attend our August general meeting on August 21st it sure is refreshing to see all of the postings of grapes for sale in SHW's email blasts. The availability and quality of grapes is stunning and confirms the art of home winemaking is alive and well and we live in the best place to be winemakers! Be sure to check the email blasts so you don't miss out on opportunities.

This month at our General Meeting, we're going to get to hear from Shea Comfort. As always, this will be an interesting and informative meeting. And for those of us that have been to previous meetings with Shea, you know I'm speaking the truth. Just another example of the power of SHW; look at the quality of presenters that come to speak to our Club.

I had trouble beginning this President Message this month. I've done quite a few of



them and to try and find something meaningful to say month after month becomes challenging, especially when competing priorities clash. I looked back at last year's September President's message and found what I had to say then applies now. That being the case, here's this year's September President's message. It should sound familiar!

Help! The crush is upon me! There's too much to do, I can't keep up. And there's only one cure; a nice glass of homemade wine!

This year things seem to be off kilter: the grapes are coming in at varied times, in some cases the acid's high, other's it's low. There are so many other commitments to fit in besides wine making and the juggling act becomes the way of living. It's a good thing to have "islands" of respite; places where you can retreat to for a few minutes of sanity saving interaction. That's what SHW is all about. When you come to a meeting you get to hear a fabulous speaker, interact with likeminded people, taste excellent homemade wine and be among a diverse, fun, energetic group of people. What an island of retreat.

When you stop and think about it, what makes this thing we call SHW exist? First, there's you, the membership. You support the club by actively making wine. Then, you come to meetings and to other programs the club sponsors. When the fund-raising event arrives in December, you generously support the Club with your donations. Then, there's the leadership team. The people who have made the choice to be more involved to ensure that the programs are there for the membership, opportunities to learn and that new members coming into the Club have mentors available to help them with their early vintages. In a nutshell (grape skin?!), it's an ebb and flow of positive energy advancing

President's Message, Continued

this Club to greater heights. And it's so damn exciting to be part of that! You ALL should be just as excited about it as I am.

And, you ALL should be thinking; "What can I do for the Club?" There are lots of innovative ideas lurking in our midst, but an organization like SHW needs to be able to have those innovating members step-up and get involved. Club elections are coming soon in November, who's going to take the Club into 2020 and beyond? Executive Board positions are voted on at the November General Meeting. Many of you are used to me as your President for the past two years, but who's to say there isn't a new and improved President out there? I enjoy serving in this capacity but for this Club to be healthy and innovative, we need new ideas, new leaders, and usage of new technology. I'm sure there are other club members who can do what I do and make our meetings just as fun, engaging, and full (or less, wink, wink) of painful pun moaning.

The Club provides an awesome learning environment for new and experienced home winemakers. Proactive planning is strong in the club with much in place to support worry free management. So, consider what you might do for SHW in 2020. Are you a future Executive Board member? The next President? The next Board Member at Large? Talk to one of the current Executive Board members or one of the past Presidents to find out what it's about.

As the harvest gets into full swing, be strong, positive and encouraging to other winemakers, growers and those that help us with our business. May your vintage be healthy and age well!

Cheers!

Joe



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS!



Your Club appreciates your extra efforts to help keep meeting and activities running smoothly.

Thanks to:

The Flextank team for the August meeting program and for donating a 30-gallon Flextank to the Club;

Christa Roark and Cindie Gunderson for selling tickets for the 30-gallon Flextank raffle (thanks to all hopeful ticket buyers). Congrats to Ed Shepard for winning the tank!

Steve Barrett for volunteering to be the "pro in stow" at the August meeting. Steve staffed the table in the back of the room and answered your winemaking questions.

Chris and Jim Phelan for coordinating hospitality at the August meeting and other Club members who helped set-up and clean-up;

Thad Rodgers and Joe Morgan for coordinating the August 24 vineyard walk at St. Jorge Winery for the Beginning Winemakers group crush;

Kendall Johnson for coordinating the Club's equipment rental program, and co-housing with Joe Morgan the rental equipment.

Vice-President Terry Piazza-Perham for hosting September's Executive Board meeting.

Call to Duty: 2020 Sacramento Home Winemakers Executive Board Appointed Positions

At the November meeting, our new President will be elected. As President, one of their duties is to make appointments to the board to serve in dedicated positions for one year as voting members of the board, along side elected board members. If you are interested in putting your name in the hat to serve in any of the following appointed positions, please email or call Board of Directors member, Donna Bettencourt, at (916) 548-3199 or e-mail her at donnab1045@gmail.com. Term is one year, beginning in January. It is expected that appointed board members would also attend at least 75% of called monthly Executive Board meetings, first Wednesday of most months.

Cellarmaster: The Cellarmaster makes sure that wines at the monthly meetings are organized and poured in a timely manner, working with the speaker/evaluator for the program. They also bring home dirty glasses each month and bring them to the next meeting.

Newsletter Editor: The Newsletter editor receives articles for the monthly newsletter, organizes and edits the content, and publishes them on our website, and blasts them out to members one week before the monthly meeting.

Chief Judge: The Chief Judge organizes the judging of the wines at the annual Jubilee Competition, soliciting judges and ensuring the integrity of the judging by presiding over the judges. The Chief Judge also receives and verifies the Winemaker of the Year entries and results in late November.

Competition Coordinator: This appointed position organizes all the components of the annual Jubilee Competition – judging, site, food, cellar, and clerk. They solicit member volunteers to head up each department and keeps them on track for the day of judging. After the competition, ribbons are ordered and labeled and distributed along with the judging sheets.

Hospitality Coordinator: This position arranges for the presence of bread and cheese at our monthly meetings, and for their set up. They may solicit members to bring the items by enlisting volunteers.

Equipment Coordinator: In this position, the appointed members arranges for the member keepers of the club equipment (crushers, presses, scale, filter) and coordinates the rental and rental payments for the equipment. They make sure the equipment is returned clean and in good shape, and on time. Members are required to have completed equipment training and to have signed an equipment waiver after training.

Education Committee Chair: This appointed position selects members to sit on their committee which, in coordination with the Vice President, plans for educational events for SHW members, including Winemaking 101, Home Winery Tours, and Winemaking 201. They solicit ideas from the membership for new educational workshops or tours. Meetings are held quarterly usually.

Check it Out

TASTE – Wine, Art, Beer, and Music, October 19, 2019

TASTE is a partnership with the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, and the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art. Held on the UC Davis campus, event participants can taste wine and beer and enjoy culinary nibbles donated by area producers while enjoying visual and performing arts. Sacramento Home Winemakers is proud to again be invited to showcase club members' wines.

Support this event in a couple of ways:

donate a bottle or two of your gold winning wines to be poured at the event. Contact Seth Brunner at sethbrunner@sbcglobal.net and 530 758-9489; and

enjoy the event on campus checking out visual and performing arts while enjoying wine and beer and nibbles. More information and ticket info can be found here: <https://rmi.ucdavis.edu/events/taste-wine-art-beer-and-music>

