



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting May 28, 2023

Roma Hall, 940 Ewen Ave, New Westminster, BC

Attendees:

Member Clubs

Club	Representative	Attendee
Belcarra Wine Makers	Robert Martino	
Kamloops Winemakers Assoc.	Absent	
Langley Fermenters	Axel Kroitsch	
Nanaimo Winemakers	Doug Markin	
Saanich Sommeliers	Absent	
VAWA	Larry McIntyre	
Vintners of Coquitlam	Absent	
Vintners of North Van (Vinovan)	Steve Small	

Guests:

Mike Roman

Number of Voting Members	5/8	Quorum? ✓
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Executive

President	John McMaster (VAWA) - present
Vice President	open
Secretary	Sharon Bierd (Saanich) - absent
Treasurer	John Matkovich (Vinovan) - present
Chief Steward – 2023 Provincial Competition	Bill Huva (Vinovan) - present
Past President	Mike Leeper (Vinovan) - present
National Director	Doug Markin (Nanaimo)- present
Director at Large	Robert Martino (Belcarra) - present
Director at Large	open
Guild of Wine Judges	Bill Huva (Vinovan)
Appointed Positions:	
Web Site	John McMaster- VAWA
Archivist	Robin McNeil Saanich Sommeliers Absent



1) Welcome by the President – John McMaster

John noted that there were 5 BCAWA Clubs present and that we would have a quorum for the Special Resolution regarding a name change to Artisan. John also thanked Mike Roman for arranging Roma Hall and lunch for us.

2) Toast by the Host Club

Doug Markin made the toast with wine judged the previous day during the 2023 BCAWA Provincial Competition by the Mainland Guild of Wine Judges. Doug mentioned that it was good to have meetings again after four years of COVID and may the grapes always be ripe and ready for our winemakers.

3) Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve by Larry McIntyre, second by Rob Martino

CARRIED

4) Approval of the Minutes for Annual General meeting October 16, 2022

Motion to approve by Doug Markin (Nanaimo), second by Larry McIntyre (VAWA)

CARRIED.

5) Reports

a) Treasurer's report - John Matkovich

John stated that the BCAWA now has 8 member Clubs with a total of 172 members down from 13 Clubs with 520 members in the past 10 years. The current bank balance is \$6,308.46.

He stated that BCAWA has funds for Education Programs. Saanich Sommeliers were the only Club that requested funds for education recently. They conducted a Wine Phenolics and Tannins Workshop in Victoria on Saturday April 15, 2023 featuring keynote speaker, Dwayne Bershaw, lecturer in Enology, Cornell University, Ithaca NY. Rob Martino said that Belcarra members watched the Workshop on Zoom and thoroughly enjoyed it. John mentioned that the previous time funds were provided was 2018 when BCAWA hosted a Zinfandel Seminar for the first BCAWA Provincial Crush.

Motion to accept Larry McIntyre (VAWA); Seconded Axel Kroitsch (Langley)

CARRIED



b) National Director's report (AWC) –Doug Markin –

Doug reported that the AWC Competition Seal was returned to Ontario. Doug will query AWC regarding BC's entries into each class of the AWC Competition, usually 2 from each class. Doug will mention to AWC that BC is adopting "Artisan" rather than "Amateur" and suggest that AWC should also consider the change. John Matkovich mentioned that he is the Treasurer of AWC and it has a bank balance of about \$5,000.

Motion to accept by Axel Kroitsch (Langley), second by Stephen Small (Vinovan) CARRIED.

c) Guild Master William Huva

Bill reported that the Provincial Competition on May, 27, 2023 had 162 entries from 28 Winemakers from 6 clubs (two fewer than 2022). About 59% of the entries were from Nanaimo and Saanich. As Guild Master, Bill was the Chief Steward and said that all three chapters were involved in the judging. John McMaster suggested that BCAWA should entice other Clubs to have competitions now that COVID has passed. This should increase the number of entries in future Competitions. Bill also mentioned that the Guild stepped up and judged the last 3 Provincial Competitions and that the only clubs to hold competitions during COVID were Saanich, Nanaimo and Vinovan who all have Guild members.

John Matkovich and Axel Kroitsch commented that white Pinots should not be entered in the Aromatic Class. They will review the class description.

Bill will submit the Guild Master's Report after the Guild AGM on June 3rd (see attached).

Motion to accept by Doug Markin (Nanaimo), second by Axel Kroitsch (Langley) CARRIED.

6) Unfinished Business

a) 2023 Provincial Crush – Mike Leeper

Mike Leeper reported that Jim Canil whom Clem Joyce of VAWA approached about supplying carmenere grapes was told by the Owner of Inland Desert that Carmenere grapes were not available for BCAWA even though Jim was told by the Sales Manager that carmenere was available. In spite of this, Jim said that he can purchase a sufficient quantity of grapes from the vineyards near Inland Desert though. A discussion ensued whether the selection of carmenere should be substituted with another varietal but some clubs mentioned that they have already



placed their orders for 2023. It was agreed that Jim would immediately contact the perspective BCAWA winemakers and advise them that the current source is not Inland Desert in case anyone wanted to change or cancel their order.

Mike Leeper asked if the two Members-at-Large (Rob Martino and Larry McIntyre) would head up the 2024 Grape Committee and to start the process late 2023 or early 2024. They agreed.

b) Special Resolution

At our general meeting on March 12, a proposal to change the name of BCAWA was discussed and it was decided to put the proposal to all member clubs in the form of a Special Resolution as required by our Bylaws. A notice of this proposed Special Resolution was sent to all member clubs on April 10, 2023. The 30 day notice required by our Bylaws has been met. The wording of the Special Resolution is as follows:

Whereas paragraph 2 of BCAWA's Constitution currently states:

"THE BRITISH COLUMBIA AMATEUR WINEMAKERS ASSOCIATION (Referred to hereinafter as the Association)."

Be it RESOLVED as a special resolution that BCAWA's constitution be amended as follows and that these amendments be filed with the Registrar of Companies:

By deleting paragraph 2 in its entirety and substituting in its place the following:

"THE BRITISH COLUMBIA ARTISAN WINEMAKERS ASSOCIATION (Referred to hereinafter as the Association)."

**Motion to approve by Doug Markin (Nanaimo), Seconded Axel Kroitsch (Langley)
CARRIED (UNANIMOUS)**

John McMaster noted that our Bylaws require that for a Special Resolution to succeed, the resolution must be "passed in general meeting by a majority of not less than 2/3 of the votes of those members of the Association who, being entitled to do so, vote in person". Since 5 of our 8 clubs are in attendance, and as they voted unanimously to approve the Special Resolution, it has passed.

7) New Business

none

8) Election of Officers – Mike Leeper



Mike reported that he'd contacted many people to consider joining the BCAWA Executive Committee. As part of the recruitment process, he advised that he was putting his name forward as President. Also, it was his intention to incorporate Video Conferencing (Zoom) at the in-person meetings so that potential Executive members could still join the Executive even if they were too busy to dedicate a day to travel or if they were in a remote location. Also, as its difficult to fill the VP position he said that the VP does not automatically have to become the President.

The 2023/24 Executive is as follows, all by acclamation:

President: Mike Leeper - Vinovan
Vice President: Joe Zucchiatti - VAWA
Treasure: John Matkovich - Vinovan
National Director: Doug Markin – Nanaimo
Secretary: Roger Ford – Coquitlam (absent)
Director at Large: Robert Martino - Belcarra
Director at Large: Larry McIntyre – VAWA
Past President: John McMaster - VAWA

Appointed Positions

Web Site: John McMaster - VAWA
Archivist: Robin McNeil – Saanich - absent

At the conclusion of the voting Mike Leeper thanked the previous Executive and said that he is looking forward to the new Executive serving the BCAWA clubs in a positive way in the post-COVID environment. BCAWA Clubs are in the process of revitalizing themselves and hopefully with the use of video conferencing there will be more participation from Clubs that are constrained by travel.

9) Town Hall Session

Should we change the definition of “quorum” in our Bylaws?

- a) John McMaster explained that the current BCAWA Bylaws define a quorum as 5 clubs, but with only 8 clubs in total, this might become a problem at future meetings where votes are conducted. Many organizations under the Societies Act define a quorum as 1/3 of the voting members. Also, should BCAWA change the Bylaws to allow for electronic voting?

John McMaster and John Matkovich agreed to review the BCAWA Constitution and suggest areas where the Constitution might be revised to incorporate technology such as email



voting, Zoom video meetings etc. Axel Kroitsch suggested that BCAWA should look at the best way to make BCAWA relevant and how do we want to achieve it as the more complicated it is, the less attractive it is.

- b) Rob Martino said that Belcarra would like to learn more about yeast selection. Axel advised that Langley already has a program that they can pass on to Belcarra. Rob will follow-up and prepare a budget for a presentation.

10) Announcements

Larry McIntyre announced that VAWA would have its Annual Competition on June 24, 2023, the first time in 3 years.

11) Motion to Adjourn

Axel Kroitsch (Langley) moved to adjourn. Seconded by Larry McIntyre (VAWA) CARRIED

12) Action Items

- a) John McMaster/John Matkovich – review present Constitution and recommend changes to modernize it especially regarding size of Quorum and electronic voting
- b) Rob Martino – contact Axel Kroitsch re yeast selection presentation
- c) Rob Martino/Larry McIntyre – plan 2024 BCAWA Grape Crush
- d) Mike Leeper- contact BCAWA regarding implementation of video conferencing
- e) John Matkovich/Axel Kroitsch – review Class C2 Aromatic wines regarding white pinots
- f) Doug Markin – contact AWC re BC entries for 2023 and BCAWA name change to Artisan and suggest AWC consider a name change also



B.C. Guild of Wine Judges

Presented to BCAWA Annual General Meeting 28 May 2023 Guild Master's Report

Well, COVID certainly knocked us around, as it did to most volunteer organizations. I am very proud that we were able to maintain a Provincial competition through the COVID years to support the winemaking chapters and provide them an opportunity to receive impartial advice to advance their craft. It also provided all three chapters an opportunity to exercise their skills and to come together socially.

Note that the only BCAWA clubs to hold competitions since March of 2020 are clubs that also have an active Guild chapter: Vinovan, Saanich and Nanaimo. And, of course, the 2021 and 2022 Provincials hosted by the Guild.

Our fate is intimately tied to the fate of BCAWA and its member clubs. Most of our judges are or were active winemakers and the local BCAWA club a major source of Guild members. The BCAWA clubs struggled during COVID and are only now starting to revive and hold regular meetings and competitions.

At this meeting, a special motion will be passed to change the name of the organization to BC Artisan Winemakers Association. The Artisan name was introduced to attract new younger members to the craft of winemaking. In the past, the major motivator of home winemaking was to make wine as cheaply as possible. Now, most home winemaking is motivated by skill for the craft and to produce wines that rival most commercial. And we are successful at it.

The BC Guild of Wine Judges was created for and is dedicated to judging competitions of BCAWA member clubs. What more can we do more to foster the Artisan winemaking culture in BC? We have some tremendous educational materials. Could we focus more on education? With a reset after COVID, now is the time to refresh our goals and create our future.