

# British Columbia Artisan Winemakers Association



## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting May 4, 2024, Prospect Lake Community Hall; Victoria BC

### Attendees:

Member Clubs	Representative	Attendee
Belcarra Wine Makers	absent	
Langley Fermenters	Axel Kroitzsch *	
Nanaimo Winemakers	Doug Markin *	
Saanich Sommeliers	Colin Nicholson *	Rick Homer, Shawn Qian
VAWA	John McMaster *	
Vintners of Coquitlam	Roger Ford *	
Vinovan	Brian McConnell *	

\* 6/7 voting members = Quorum

### Executive

President Mike Leeper – Vinovan  
Vice President Joe Zucchiatti VAWA - absent  
Secretary Roger Ford – Coquitlam Treasurer  
John Matkovich – Vinovan - absent  
Past President John McMaster- VAWA  
National Director Doug Markin – Nanaimo  
Director at Large Robert Martino - Belcarra - absent  
Director at Large Larry McIntyre - VAWA - absent  
Guild of Wine Judges Bill Huva – Vinovan

**Welcome and call to order** by President -Mike Leeper. Meeting commenced at 2:30 pm. Mike thanked those who attended and expressed thanks to the Saanich Sommeliers for hosting the 2024 BCAWA Provincial Competition and the AGM.

- 1. Toast** – given by Shawn Quian (Saanich) Shawn is 2023 BCAWA Grand Champion Winemaker. The wine presented was an aperitif composed of 75% Muscat and 25% Reisling. Shawn has been a

member of Saanich for the last six years. He spoke with gratitude of the mentorship of Colin Nicholson and Rick & Mary Homer. Shawn has found the experience exhilarating and serendipitous.

**3. Approval of Agenda** – moved by Axel, seconded by Rick. Carried.

**4. Approval of May 28, 2023 Minutes-** moved Roger, seconded by Doug. Carried.

### **5. Reports:**

**a)** On behalf of **Treasurer** John Matkovitch, Mike referred to the financial statement emailed to members. Said report is 'succinct and comprehensive', with a balance of \$6300. moved Axel, seconded Colin. Carried.

**b) National Directors Report (AWC)-** Doug Markin said that Nova Scotia plans to hold the 2024 AWC Competition in September. He will deliver the entries himself and request BCAWA entries for late August. Doug will ask the AWC Committee if they are in agreement to change the organization to Artisan Winemakers of Canada (still AWC). moved Axel, seconded Colin. Carried. Doug will also ask about the host Province for 2025 AWC Competition.

**c) Guild Master's Report-** Bill Huva thanked Rick, Mary, Axel and Doug for the success of Wine Judge training course. Eleven people qualified on the mainland, 14 on the Island. Plans are in motion for the Guild of Wine Judges to create 1 day Wine Appreciation Workshop for early 2025 which individual Clubs could present to their/members/guests with the assistance of the Guild. moved Doug, seconded Axel. Carried.

**d) Chief Steward's report** – see attached document from Rick Homer

### **6. Unfinished Business**

**a) Provincial Competition wrap up-** The 'Meet and Greet' at Starling Lane Vineyards was attended by fifty people. Rick and Mary Homer expressed disappointment in the number of entries, with 50% of the 204 bottles coming from Saanich. The competition itself was well organized. There were 10 judges and 10 stewards. Bill Huva commented, that scanning comment sheets in future, could speed up the process. Motion to accept by Doug, seconded by Axel. Carried.

**b) 2024 BCAWA Crush** – organized by Rob Martino and Larry McIntyre. In their absence, Mike presented that orders for Sheridan Syrah were due by April 30th.

**c) 2024 Guild Training update** R. Homer/A. Kroitzsch – both spoke of the success of the recent training session and that graduates will be encouraged to attend/join regular Guild meetings.

**d) Maintenance of Website** - John McMaster stated that the site was designed 20 years ago and is now difficult to meet BCAWA needs. It needs refining/upgrading or a completely new system. Doug Markin agreed to discuss the issues with Mike Scott who is a member of Nanaimo winemakers and who designs websites as part of his work.

**e) Update Competition Registration System** – The consensus of present users is that the system is adequate but may need a little tweaking.

## **7. New Business**

**a) 2024 BCAWA Elections** – 7 positions available, all incumbents chose to stand, however Larry McIntyre offered to step down if anyone wanted to be a Member at Large. Brian McConnell agreed to put his name forward for Larry's position. All positions were then acclaimed. Motion to accept results – Axel, seconded Doug. Carried.

**b) Next meeting-** October 6, 2024 at Roma Hall 940 Ewan Ave. New Westminster

**c) Archives** – to be posted on website before next meeting (October)

**d) BCAWA Wine Classes vs. AWC classes** – Doug commented that classes A – Aperitif Sherry, B – Aperitif and P – Sparkling Cider were removed from the Provincial competition, but were still included in AWC competition. After a short discussion, it was decided to reinstate said classes. Motion by Doug seconded by Axel. Carried.

**8. Next Toast** – Coquitlam will be asked to provide the toast and wine at the October 6<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

**9. Town Hall Session – dwindling club membership(s)** Rick strongly supports forming a provincial executive position of Social Media, as well as a recruiter; mentorship; and protocols for socializing new members such as the Saanich Sommeliers currently has. While there was much discussion, nothing was decided at this time, though this will undoubtedly be an ongoing issue.

**10. Announcements** – VAWA to host 2025 provincial, followed by Nanaimo in 2026 and Vinovan in 2027.

**11. Adjourn-** Motion by Brian, seconded by Axel. Carried.