British Columbia Artisan Winemakers Association



Minutes of General Meeting March 9, 2025

Location: ROMA Hall; 940 Ewen Avenue New Westminster, BC; 11:15am

1) Welcome and Call to Order by President Mike Leeper : Mike began by welcoming attendees, including Sandy Kirk who joined via Zoom (a first for the Association) from Saanich Sommeliers. He also announced that we were observing the Serve It Right protocols.

Mike further mentioned that he and many other BCAWA members were honored to attend the recent 100th birthday celebration of Tony Pearson.

2) Toast by VAWA - RIP Colin Nicholson

Larry McIntyre:

Since our last meeting we have lost a good friend, Colin Nicholson. I first met Colin at HMCS Venture and over the years we enjoyed many conversations while driving from Tswwassen Ferry Terminal to our BCAWA meetings in North Vancouver and the Roma Hall. Colin's enthusiasm for wine making and his contribution to the Saanich Sommeliers, the Guild of Wine Judges and BCAWA lead us to raise a glass in honor of a fellow winemaker, a mentor and a friend. He will truly be missed...to Colin.

3) Approval of Agenda: motion by Doug Markin seconded by Doug Martin Passed

4) Approval of October 6, 2024 General Meeting Minutes Motion by Brian McConnell

seconded by Larry McIntyre

Passed

5) Reports:

a) Treasurer John Matkovich – John began by noting that membership has declined to 155. (refer to attached report). Motion to accept by Larry McIntyre seconded by Doug Markin Passed

b) National Director Doug Markin – Comments regarding AWC Competition & potential name change- Competition was in late September this year. Unfortunately one bottle broke in transit. Alberta declined to host the AWC competition next year.

After some discussion, Doug Markin put forward a motion: (That) BCAWA will hold the next AWCcompetition.Seconded by Larry McIntyre.Passed

c) Guild Master's report: Mike presented on Bill's behalf as he was unavailable.

d) 2025 Provincial Competition by VAWA in June: Larry McIntyre noted that a Chief Steward and a Registrar have been appointed. The venue will be Dave Wong's house on June 20-21st (how many days will depend on the number of entries). John Matkovich asked Larry for a budget. Larry responded that VAWA executive were meeting next Wednesday and would forward it then. John McMaster asked if BCAWA covered competition deficits, to which Mike responded in the affirmative.

Motion to accept by Doug Markin seconded by Brian McConnell

Passed

6) Unfinished Business:

a) Results of Motion to collect \$1 per wine entry for BC Guild of Wine Judges: Saanich and Nanaimo clubs noted that they had not been asked about this and were therefore not responding yea or nay at this time.

c) Guild of Wine Judges to create 1 day Wine Appreciation Workshop for early 2025: see Bill's attached report.

e) Maintenance of Website - it needs refining/upgrading or a completely new system – John McMaster update: Since its inception, it has run entirely on volunteered efforts. There is a legitimate question of its value/relevance (at least as it currently stands). The archive portion has NEVER been accessed. Perhaps a reconfiguration using Sharepoint 360 (or?) would allow for the website to act as more of a conduit? After some discussion, it was decided to have club reps take the idea back for input and then report back to this body. *** The Competition portion of the site is deemed independent, relevant and valuable.

7. New Business

a) BCAWA Clubs request flexibility for determining Competition dates:

Nanaimo – April (although it will be in July, this year only)

VinoVan-November

Saanich-February 21st

VAWA – April 26th

Motion for approval- Doug Markin seconded by Doug Martin

Passed

Passed

b) 2025 BCAWA Crush Selection Committee: Brian McConnell has asked to be on the committee. First and second choices should be submitted to Brian by March 30th.

Motion- Do BCAWA members wish to buy from US suppliers?

Motion for approval – Doug Markin seconded by Doug Martin

c) Next Meeting (AGM) October 12th at Roma Hall

d) Next Toast/wine: Doug Markin (Nanaimo)

8) Town Hall Session

a) Dwindling Club Members: John McMaster reported that he'd had a conversation with Flory Bosa. She stated that commercial sales had dropped off too, indicating a more general slump in winemaking overall. It appears that both artisanal and professionals may need restructuring to deal with this new reality.

9) Announcements: VinoVan needs 5000 corks. Thoughts? Ideas? Sources? Let them know.

10) Adjournmotion by Doug Markinseconded by Doug MartinPassed