

MINUTES

Ontario Wine Society - Niagara Chapter Executive Committee

Location: Nick and Ingrid's patio
Date: Thursday August 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm
Present: Jackie Barrett, Nick Merola, Ingrid Merola, Fred Couch, Sue Couch, Debbie Gifford

1. Opening of Meeting – Jackie Barrett

Jackie opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Minutes of the June 23, 2020 meeting were previously reviewed via e-mail. Minutes approved. No additions to agenda.

2. OWSNC By-Laws

Review

The current guiding documents for the OWS and Chapters consists of Corporate Constitution and By-Laws and Chapter By-Laws and Policies and Procedures. Chapter By-Laws require Corporate approval. There may be a need to review this structure by Corporate to determine if there is redundancy or a better way of providing the necessary guidance.

Jackie and Debbie reviewed the OWSNC By-Laws prior to the Executive meeting. Certain points were highlighted to the Executive and additional changes were made. See attached OWSNC By-Laws Version 4.2 for all changes. The Executive was asked to review the final version of the By-Laws one more time for any additional revisions before approving the document.

Action: At some point Jackie will bring the guiding document structure to Corporate for discussion and a decision.

Action: The Executive members will review the OWSNC By-Laws before approving document

3. Corporate Update – Jackie Barrett

London's Chapter withdrawal from OWS

An email was sent to the previous OWS London Chapter membership explaining what had happened regarding London's withdrawal from OWS. Members were invited to join OWSNC. Corporate minutes outlining the dissolution were posted on the OWSNC website for 10 days.

4. Social Media – Jackie Barrett

Corporate

This past month there have been a number of member requests to join the OWS Facebook group. Jackie has added questions for individuals before approving their request to join the group. The questions include: “Are you working in the wine industry?”; “Have you taken a wine course?” and, “Do you agree to the kindness rules?”. If the questions are not answered after a few days the request to join is not approved. Lately, there are more requests from people in the wine industry.

There is no active Twitter account at this time.

Chapter

There have not been many posts on the OWSNC Facebook page. It is not a group page so individuals do not need to be approved to post. Fred is usually the one who posts on this page and encouraged others to post as well.

5. Planning Report – Ingrid Merola

Our first virtual event with Niagara College on July 16, 2020 received positive responses from the Chapter members.

Planning members are approaching Between the Lines Winery and Fielding Estates Winery to determine what type of events can be hosted. Also researching people who host virtual wine tasting for a fee.

Corrinne Maund (13th Street Winery Sommelier) leads an online guided wine and culinary experience. The cost is \$150 and includes 3 premier wines and many extras. Jackie could be part of the program and interact with Corinne and online members. A minimum of 25 registrants is required. A suggestion will be sent to the membership to see if there is interest.

Fred outlined a few interesting virtual events happening elsewhere. Some were costly and others were in different locations with different pandemic considerations.

Aiming to have an event sometime in September. There is a need to get input from the OWSNC members regarding their thoughts about in-person events. Jackie offered to create a questionnaire in Survey Monkey.

Action: Ingrid will write an email to the membership which includes details about the 13th Street online event to see if there is interest and ask for input on in-person events.

Action: Jackie will create a questionnaire in Survey Monkey if required by Ingrid.

6. Website Development – Debbie Gifford

A number of updates were performed in WordPress. The receipt for the renewal for the OWSNC website Domain Name was given to Fred. Training for Executive members may be required in the future.

7. Financial Report – Fred Couch

The Treasurer’s Report show a loss of \$270 on the virtual event with Niagara College. This was due to the subsidy that was offered.

8. Membership Report – Sue Couch

Members in good standing – March 31, 2020 **99**
Members renewed as at July 31, 2020:

15 Singles	15
2 Single snowbirds	2
1 Couple snowbirds	2
17 Couples	34
1 Niagara College Student	1
6 Life members	<u>6</u>
Total members renewed to date	<u>60</u>

9. New Business – Executive Team

Due to the pandemic, memberships will be extended to March 2022 for those who have paid their fees for 2020-2021. Others who have not renewed their membership will receive a renewal notice in March 2021 and if renewed, membership will extend to March 2022.

The last input received from the OWSNC membership via email was not consistent. Will try gathering input using Survey Monkey next time.

Action: Sue will send out an email to OWSNC membership explaining the extension of membership renewals for paid members.

Action: Jackie will create a questionnaire in Survey Monkey if required.

9. Next Meeting – Debbie Gifford

The next Executive Committee meeting has been scheduled for Thursday October 15, 2020 at a location TBD.

Meeting adjourned.

dlg

16/07/20