

Amateur Wine Makers of Nebraska

3/5/16 Newsletter



We gathered on February 20th at Roma & Randy's for a great time. The theme was Chocolate & Wine (since it was close to Valentine's day). We started with chocolate lined glasses and most of our food was prepared with wine and chocolate in it. I believe all the food had chocolate in one form or another. One thing for sure is we have great cooks in our club, which will come in handy for our next meeting. It was such a beautiful night we ate on the deck!



I want to share with you all a couple of comments I received, via email, after our meeting. One said *"it was the most fun and productive meetings we've had"* and the other one was a new member *"I want to say I had a great time. Thanks so much for the friendly reception, the great host & hostess, the great food, and the great wine. I'm looking forward to future meetings."* And we look forward to see you at our future meetings as well.



SAVE THE DATE

April 2nd – 6:00pm
Jim & Karen Skinner's Home
1800 N. 176th St., Lincoln, NE

Bring your appetite to this one! This is the one where we are asking you to bring as much food as you can – all made with wine and bring your recipes. We will have a contest with prizes. We will be the judges. We are looking for some great recipes to share with Deer Springs Winery and Jen Reader will be joining us. We are looking for all kinds of recipes – Soups, Appetizers, Main Dishes, Vegetables, Desserts, etc. We will gather these recipes and create a booklet with the recipes and Jen can add which of her wines would be good to use with the various recipes.



2-20-16 Meeting Notes

We held a meeting on 2-20-16 and went over several items.

- Toast of Nebraska – Bart has asked if we were interested in participating this year as a club, which we have done in the past. After much discussion it was decided that we would pass this year. Toast of Nebraska will be held the first weekend in May. You can contact Bart or check their website for more information. They are still looking for volunteers as well.

- We discussed the upcoming meeting with wine and food. Jim Skinner volunteered to reach out to Jen Reader to see if she will be able to attend our meeting. Once we have her availability we will get the date set (which we now know it will be April 2nd). We also talked about the recipe booklet and we would like to include our club website and general info in the back.
- Dues have been due in July in the past. According to our by-laws it should be in January. We decided to go with July this year, but charge \$15 to carry us through Jan. 2018. We also voted that we will charge the \$15 per person, not per couple as in the past. We've had a mix on how people have been paying and this will not only help our budget but help to make all things equal.
- We currently have \$1,071 in our account. We discussed purchasing the Fault Test and options for our club wine this year. Jim Skinner talked about the Italian Grape kits, which are 6-gallon kits at \$100-\$120. We then talked about using fruits for the wine club wine (choke cherries, mulberries, wild plum, cherries) and maybe mix with some mead.
- Jim Skinner said he has some yeast for making sparkling wine, which was given to him by Jen Reader. He will distribute at a future meeting.

Upcoming Election of Officers

As we work our way through by-laws, we discovered it is time to work on electing officers. The nominating committee names will be published in the next Newsletter. This is also the time to present any changes to our by-laws and our membership costs.

In May we will publish the committees recommended slate of officers and any suggested changes to our by-laws and membership costs.

In June we will vote on the Executive Board, By-Law Changes and start collecting membership dues.

July is when our newly elected officers will start their terms.

Do not think we will follow Robert Rules of Order strictly. We will still be the casual fun club we've been, but we do need to make sure we have some guidelines. We will make sure and have a copy of our by-laws available for your viewing pleasure at our meetings.

Future events that we are looking at include:

May – Team Wine Contest meeting will be on Saturday, May 14th at 6:00pm – Bring It On! Who do you think will win this year? Each team will showcase their wine and we will see who the Champion Winemakers are! We expect the bottles to be cleverly labeled and the wine to be delicious. We plan on meeting at Chuck and Rhonda Berens home (7615 Erin Ct., Lincoln, NE). We want the emphasis to be on the wine so we will not have members bring any food or snacks, instead we will order Pizza and split the cost between the attendees. This year we will be our own judges. Each wine will be in a paper sack and each member taste and judge each bottle of wine, not knowing which one is which.

June – We are open to possibilities, so if you have something that you would like for us to do, just let either John Lange, Jim Skinner or Chuck Berens know. This may be a good time to show the wine fault kit.

July – We will visit Julianna and Dustin's home (actually Barn, which is not your typical Barn) as they have offered to host our July meeting on Saturday the 16th at 5:00pm. The meeting will be a potluck. More details coming soon.

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Please let the Skinners (jmskms52@gmail.com), Berens (crbvikings@windstream.net) or the Langes (john.lange.79@gmail.com) know if you have any questions about any of this or if you have suggestions for future meetings. We are very flexible on what we do.

Don't forget to check our website. Butch is doing a great job of keeping it up to date with pictures and events.