

# Amateur Wine Makers of Nebraska

## 6/1/2016 Newsletter



And the winner is ... The contest of the 4 teams from our club that created wine from Frontenac grapes graciously donated by Bart Holmquist. We gathered at Chuck and Rhonda Berens on May 14th. The club provided us with Pizza from The Isles. After everyone was able to sample and vote, the team of Jim Skinner, John Lange and Chuck Berens were declared winners. Each member of the team received a cheese serving tray as their prize.



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### 5-14-16 Meeting Notes

Elections were discussed and it was decided, by a show of hands, that we are going to continue run as is with Bart Holmquist serving as our Advisory and Jim Skinner, John Lange and Chuck Berens serving as our Board. They wanted to make sure everyone knows that we are open to your suggestions.

### SAVE THE DATE: JULY 16TH

We talked about a possible meeting in June, but it was decided later in the month that we will skip June and wait for our next meeting July 16th at the home of Juliana and Dustin. Advance notice will be sent out before then providing you with their address and additional information.

Our Club has purchased a wine fault kit with 40 different aromas. We discussed various ways of how we will want to use it.

We had a small discussion on promoting our club. We could use a few new members, but need to be careful not to grow too large as then we would have problems with hosting location options. Some of those options included creating a flier and posting it at local wineries and liquor store. We also talked about creating a Facebook page.

# Amateur Wine Makers of Nebraska

## 6/1/2016 Newsletter Page 2



We had a guest, Himanshu (Himmy to his friends) who is from India. He presented our group with information about the wine industry in his native country. It was very interesting in how he saw the wine industry there versus here. Thank you to Himmy for talking to us!

### Visit to Italy.

One of our members Jeannie Griffith is in Italy and has been since April. She shared, through email, a little information about her trip as she is learning about the people, their culture and the wine industry. We are hopeful that when she gets home we can talk her into giving us a little presentation about what she saw in the Wine Industry in Italy.



Also thank you to another visiting guest, Julie Zeilenski.



Roma Amundson mentioned that she knows someone at Russ's that may be able to help us set up a wine tasting/education meeting in that we would learn more about pairing wines with food. We all agreed that would be a fun educational meeting, assuming there is a reasonable cost.

### June 5th Board Meeting Notes

Dues are coming up. We had a Board Meeting June 5th and decided to keep the membership July to July and the \$10 membership fee, but we are asking that everyone who wants to join our club pay the dues. To be clear \$10/person (\$20/couple). We will start collecting at our July 16th meeting. We will use the funds for various things throughout the year. Just recently we purchased the Wine Fault Testing Kit at \$200 and purchased Pizza for the Annual Wine Club competition event. We are open to suggestions for future purchases as well. We are trying to make sure we use money for things that will benefit our club, which is why we need membership fees from everyone in attendance. We really appreciate your understanding.

# Amateur Wine Makers of Nebraska

## 6/1/2016 Newsletter

Page 3

Future meeting ideas discussed included:

- Have a speaker on wine-making 101.
- We are seeking a volunteer to house our oak barrel and watch over our club wine.
- We are checking on the annual end of summer picnic.
- Three of our members have traveled to Italy this year and we would like them to talk to us about their adventures, related to wine.
- We want to start utilizing the wine fault kit we purchased. We decided we would learn more if we spread this out by reviewing 5 faults at a time. We would let you know which ones in advance we would go over and ask that if you have wine with that particular fault of its own that you bring it for testing. That will be the best way for us to use this kit.
- There will not be a meeting in August due to it being grape harvest time. Most years there are some of our friends looking for volunteers to help with the harvest and we will let you know when we hear about these opportunities.
- We will have our Annual Holiday Party. No date yet, but we'll keep you posted.
- We discussed conducting a survey to see if we can get a better feel for what members of our club would like to see/do, or not see/do with our club. We want to help you get the best experience from our club.

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Please let the Skinners ([jmskms52@gmail.com](mailto:jmskms52@gmail.com)), Berens ([crbvikings@windstream.net](mailto:crbvikings@windstream.net)) or the Langes ([john.lange.79@gmail.com](mailto: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. Butch will be adding a lot more pictures from our May event soon. Check them out.