

Wine Specialty Group Business Meeting Minutes (Draft version)
19 April 2007
Monterrey 1 at Nikko Hotel,
San Francisco, CA

Meeting called to order by George McCleary about 7:00 pm.

15 members present.

George McCleary (President), Marilyn Silberfein, Luke Muller, Chris Brown, Percy Dougherty (Past President), Zoran Zok Pavlovic (Board), Denyse Lemaire (Vice President), Robert Sechrist, Gail Sechrist, Nancy Hulquist, Rolf Sternberg, Francis Sternberg, Juana Ibáñez, Phyllis Petersen, and.

Secretary/Treasurer Greg Jones not at meeting.

- No minutes available for last meeting to review.
- Juana Ibáñez volunteered to take minutes at this meeting.
- No formal treasurer report.
- George tracked down account information.
 - The Balance in the account = \$1038.00
 - Account opened: 31 May 2004
1st year the \$1 membership was not credited to our account.
 - Currently dues are \$5/yr for nonstudents
 - \$1/yr for students
 - note: that workshop and fieldtrip monies go to the AAG, not to the Specialty Group. Patricia Solis is the Workshop AAG staffer. The Specialty group will begin to bill the AAG to get some workshop fees into the Specialty Group account. For four years the understanding has been that some portion of the fees for workshops should be returned to the Specialty Group treasury but that hasn't happened. It has been decided to charge the AAG \$5-10/person in order to ensure that some monies are returned to the Specialty Group treasury. This year, the corkage fee was very high and paid by the AAG from the workshop fees. As a result, the workshops during the 2007 meetings were kept at a minimal cost for participants with little to no profit for the AAG. The AAG will not be billed this year as a result.

Wine Specialty Group Websites

- The 2005-2006 Annual Report is available on our website at:
<http://aag.org/sg/wine/1%20AAG%20Wine%20Specialty%20Group%20Annual%20Report%202005-2006.doc>
- There is also a nonAAG Wine Specialty Group website. This website is AAG neutral and designed for all Wine folks to stay together. The site can be found at <http://geographyofwine.org/> Zok Pavlovic is the webmaster of that site. It is anticipated that a discussion board and bulletin board will be part of the site. Our webmaster can track how folks arrived at the website. Papers can be published on the website. The website is up to date with the Wine paper abstracts for the 2007 San Francisco meetings.

Specialty Group Chairs Meeting Report

George went to the Specialty Group Chairs Meeting and provided us a run down of their meeting.

- Terry Martin is the AAG treasurer
- Student Dues must be \$1 because the programming does not allow for membership under \$1.
- The Wine Specialty Group has a 140 member email roster
- There are about 275 total members including paid and unpaid members
- about 60 members are student members
- Emails were sent to all on the email roster with information on the AAG wine themed events, panels, poster sessions, fieldtrips and workshops.
- We need to contact Oscar Larson next year to ask him to put any wine-themed papers into the Wine Specialty Group panel sessions in 2008.
- At the Chairs' Meeting it was proposed that we do as many joint group sessions as possible.
- We need to start looking 2 to 3 years ahead to plan fieldtrips, Next year's meeting is in Boston. 2009 = Las Vegas. 2010 = DC. Hotels need to be reserved 5 years in advance so we should be able to plan ahead for fieldtrips with greater ease.
- 6700 people attended the meetings this year. There were 65 concurrent sessions. The AAG has outgrown the majority of union hotels in the country. Are Convention Centers next? Convention Centers would add to the cost.
- The AAG is considering limiting the program. There is a new President, Thomas Baerwald, coming in who wants to get outside professionals working with the geographers to sponsor sessions. He wants to bring in big names from outside the field to potentially get sponsors.
- We want to bring more students into the conference. We feel that is more important than using AAG money to pay a big named person to come to the conference. Zok is willing to contribute \$100 for a student awarded paper in the Wine Specialty group for 2008.
- 2007 -- 145 registered Wine Specialty members, 50 student members. = \$550 in dues that should be in our account. Only \$300 put into account. Can join specialty groups for more than one year which may account for some of the financial differences between membership and what was deposited this year. George will be tracking down problem.
- Which other specialty groups might be interested in producing joint sessions with us next year? Examples:
 - Lee Johnson, Remote Sensing. Combine GIS/RS on grapes and wine
 - Dave DiBiase from Penn State uses GIS to do best site analysis for wine growth.
 - Environmental GIS Program
 - Suggestion: Review titles from previous AAG meetings and see if any might be usable with wine sessions
 - Let's go after folks to develop wine projects that are technology driven

Problems to Fix

- Percy Dougherty's name is still on AAG website as President
- Percy solicited 3 sessions. If we don't solicit we won't get any sessions. We need to contact people to get the sessions in place. It is time to consider how to put sessions together for Boston and beyond.

What is going to get people to Boston with regards to wine?

- New Hampshire has lots of liquor supermarkets with lots of unexpected wines. (Phyllis Petersen)
- Boston has a large hospitality school with a wine education program. Percy will track down which hotel has this program.
- Are there Long Island wineries for fieldtrips? (Zok)
- Could meet in Buffalo for a 2 day trip covering Buffalo, the Finger Lakes and New Hampshire. (Percy)
- We can do 3 or 4 workshops instead of fieldtrips. -- they don't have to be regional tastings. (Chris Brown)
- Chateau LeGay is willing to bring wines in for tastings. Perhaps more workshops instead of papers would be appropriate. (Percy)
- We shouldn't do fieldtrips in Boston -- it will be too expensive. Let's have dynamic papers. Moore Brothers can come and do a workshop on Boutique wines. (Chris)
- Spanish wine workshops would be phenomenal. (Zok)
- Stop with regional focus for the Boston meetings. Talk to distributors and industry reps for appropriate workshops. (Chris)
- Boston is a port town therefore there should be lots of distributors (Phyllis)
- Workshops are hard to set up. Most come in and do it for free. Percy has done all the workshops so far and he's running out of contacts. Others need to assist with setting up workshops. (Percy)
- Handpicked, small European winery might be willing to come (Denyse Lemaire).
- 4 workshops would be good (Percy)
- Try to get all wine poured before workshop begins. This year glasses arrived late and pouring had to start when workshop started.
- Spanish workshop worked because it was very intimate. The French workshop folks were more relaxed. (Zok)
- Leaders of workshops are used to these kind of problems. (Percy)
- Phyllis will try to get names of folks in South Maine that might be willing to do a workshop.
- New England winery presentation Sakonnet out of Rhode Island is a possibility. (Percy)
- How many bottles of wine are necessary for a workshop? 16 bottles used at workshop prior to business meeting. measured pours needed. (Zok)

Sessions Recommended for 2008

- Trading of Wine Session (Denyse)
- Historic Geography of Wine Session (NW Rep Robert Sechrist, Central Washington)
- Prohibition Session
- Student Award --

- Motion to create a competitive, \$250 wine-themed paper student award.
 - What are the AAG deadlines for the awards?
 - An abstract must be in by deadline to be considered for the award.
 - Full papers are needed one month before the conference.
 - Specialty group Chair has appointed Denyse to get two members with ideas of how to do the student awards.
 - Denyse will work out the deadlines.
 - Denyse will set up the student paper award guidelines.
- Motion seconded by Chris. Passed by voice vote.

Election of officers.

- Motion made by Percy to re-elect current officers for second year. 2d by Chris. Passed by voice vote.
- 2007- 2008 Officers
 - George McCleary- Chair
 - Denyse Lemaire - Vice-Chair
 - Greg Jones - Secretary/Treasurer
 - Zok Pavlovic - Student Representative (will be graduating)
 - Artemis Kieffer - Board Member
 - Tony Shaw - Board Member
 - Robert Sechrist - nominated by Phyllis to be new Board Member and 2d by Chris. Passed by voice vote.
 - Nominating committee is ad hoc. Robert Sechrist was reappointed to do it next year by Chair.

Do we want regional representatives?

- Percy made the motion to recognize regional representatives. Seconded by Juana. Chair accepts the motion. Passed by voice vote.
- Suggested Known Regional Representatives:
 - Jim Newman for Middle States Region
 - Nancy Hulquist for Pacific Coast Division
 - Sheryl Luzzadder-Beach for Middle Atlantic Division (DC)
 - Juana Ibáñez for Southwest Division
 - Rolf Sternberg -- Standby regional representative
- Percy has been appointed by Chair to study the situation and invite potential regional representatives. A call for volunteers should appear in the next newsletter.
 - Still unidentified:
 - Southeast Division
 - Great Plains-Rocky Mountains Division
 - West Lakes Division
 - East Lakes Division
- Denyse suggested that we appoint regional people from abroad as well. Let's advertise specifically to internationals.

AAG International Membership

- AAG has made international membership available for \$20. All information is conveyed electronically.
- Incoming president wants to offer money to specialty groups to bring in speakers.
 - The President of the Sorbonne is a wine person (*Jean-Robert Pitte?*). Perhaps he'd be a good choice as a paid speaker.

Mystery wine

Brown bagged wine sampled. It was a Minassian Paso Robles Rhonoceros 2005. (a young white wine)

Thank you

Special thanks to Denyse Lemaire for donated cheese feast at Workshop prior to Business Meeting.

Boston meeting dinner

Find dinner restaurant for everyone to attend at same time. Percy will try to identify options ahead of time. Culinary school options may exist. Chris mentioned that Legal Seafood might be in Boston. They have wines.

2007 AAG Snafus

- Make sure we're added onto the Business Meeting Specialty list
- The workshops were not on the computer early like all the other workshops.

For 2008 meetings this is what's needed:

- dinner Chair
- Chairs needed for intergroup paper sessions
- fieldtrip ideas
- workshop organizers
- panel ideas
- plans for future meetings
- scholarship fun/student award
- sign folks up for membership and collect money at the panel sessions and workshops. Give \$ to AAG afterwards.
- bill \$5/person to AAG for each person that attends workshop
- workshop membership for email roster needed
- AAG website is out of date. Only the person with the password can fix it. George will track this down.

Chris motions to adjourn. Percy seconds. Business Meeting adjourns at 7:43 pm.