

British Columbia Artisan Winemakers Association



Minutes of the General Meeting March 10,2024

Attendees:

Mike Leeper –Vinovan, Roger Ford – Coquitlam, John Matkovich – Vinovan, John McMaster- VAWA,
Doug Markin – Nanaimo, Joe Zucchiati – VAWA, Larry McIntyre – VAWA, John McMurchy- Langley,
Pat Zawalykut- Langley, Wayne Crossen- Langley, Doug Martin- Coquitlam, Colin Nicholson- Saanich,
Tony Diering- Vinovan, Mike Roman-guest

1. **Welcome and call to order** by President -Mike Leeper 11:20 am who spoke with optimism at the Associations resurgence post Covid.
2. **Toast** – also given by Mike. A 2018 Sheridan GSM. Mike proposed that, going forward, the toast, and toasting wine, be provided by each club in turn.

3. **Approval of Agenda** – moved by Doug Markin, seconded by Larry McIntyre. Motion carried.

4. **Approval of October 10, 2024 Minutes**- moved Doug Markin, seconded by Larry McIntyre. motion carried.

5. Reports:

Treasurer-John Matkovich presented the association's financials

John mentioned that BCAWA revenues are down because clubs are not holding competitions where silent auctions contributed to the association annually. Report accepted unanimously.

National Directors Report (AWC)- Doug Markin noted that the 2025 national competition would be in Nova Scotia.

Guild Master's Report- John Matkovich spoke on Bill's behalf. The 2 wine judge training courses on the mainland and on Vancouver Island, are well underway. Hopefully this will increase guild membership overall.

There was some question as to whether BCAWA needed to provide more financial support going forward.

Secretary- Roger Ford commented that the compilation of a list of 3 contacts per club is on-going.

Motion to accept reports made by D. Martin, seconded by L. McIntyre. Motion carried.

6. Unfinished Business-

2024 Provincial Crush Update L. McIntyre/R. Martino- Sheridan Syrah has been chosen, with an April 30th deadline for orders.

7. New Business

a. Guild of Wine Judges-John Matkovich spoke on Bill's behalf. John mentioned that consideration was been given to developing Wine Appreciation Seminars by the Guild for presentation to clubs. This may create more interest in BCAWA members becoming judges.

b. Annual General Meeting, host Saanich Sommeliers May 4 2024, 2:30-4:00 pm

c. 2024 Provincial Competition – Saanich Sommeliers May 3 & 4 2024 (R. Homer has sent out an email)

d. Notice of a Special Resolution: J. McMaster/J. Matkovich- repeal/replace bylaw

Be it RESOLVED as a special resolution that the Association's existing bylaws be repealed and replaced with the new proposed bylaws which have been circulated previously to all member clubs and were discussed at the Association's October 1, 2023 general meeting.

All clubs present were generally in agreement with the proposed changes to the bylaws.

Langley was not in favour of reducing the quorum from 5 to 3 as that should not be necessary if we enable electronic participation in meetings and felt that the fewer the members needed for a quorum, the fewer members would be motivated to attend a meeting in person.

After a lively discussion, resolution passed: 5 votes in favor 1 against.

[It should be noted that during this discussion, Langley indicated that the root issue of dwindling club membership and the relevance of the BCAWA needs to be addressed. Fewer people are making wine from grapes and fresh fruit and those who make wine are less inclined to submit wine for a competition. Most clubs have fewer members, although several noted new young members (under 50). A challenge for younger members is suitable space to make wine.

It was agreed that this topic should be added to the agenda of the next BCAWA meeting.]

e. Maintenance of the BCAWA website - John McMaster noted that he was not as able to maintain the BCAWA website these days and that the situation is not likely to improve. John also said that ideally the website would be completely reimplemented using modern web site / content management tool(s) as VAWA had just done. He asked the clubs to search through their members and contacts to see if they could find a volunteer. Nanaimo suggested that they might have just such a person and that they would ask him.

8. Announcements: J. Matkovich spoke of Mike Leeper's long involvement with, and active participation in, almost every aspect of BCAWA, BCGWJ and Vinovan. He then presented Mike with the Association's silver pin for that service.

9. Town Hall Session

a. Use of WhatsApp for Winemaking – Mike spoke of this app's usefulness in facilitating communication between winemakers.

b. BCAWA Archives system- Do we need more medals? In an effort to reduce costs, some winemakers suggest simply awarding new stickers for those who already have medals?

10. Motion to Adjourn- motion by D. Markin, seconded by J. McMurchy.