

OWPA Board Conference call notes July 1, 2019

Present: Mark Zdobinski, Eric Cotton, Joe Juniper, Dan Mastropietro, Andrew Codispoti, Donna Roberts, Maura Meranda, Mary Tabeau

Absent: Ed Trebets, Dustin Heineman, Walter Borda, Anita Davis

Staff: Donniella Winchell

Guest: Julius Schwartz

Minutes were reviewed to be officially accepted at the next face to face meeting.

Financials were explained by Director Winchell. Under Meals & Entertainment over \$1350 from LTS will be moved from this category, Conf/Bd Meet/Staff Retreats – currently includes food for board meetings; Professional Fees - \$1800 of the \$3500.00 was paid to Jan as a casual employee. Cork Boards from the current statewide project are not reflected in these financials. Financials will be presented for approval at the next face to face meeting of the board. Director Winchell stated the financials are the best it has been for many years. There have been new small startup wineries and associate members plus some wineries have paid dues early.

A2F – after much discussion, Director Winchell stated she will provide a white paper outlining the problem, providing a proposal and defining the benefits to the board.

Senator Brown team meeting

- Issues of concern – labor shortage and shrinking vineyard lands (critical for authenticity)

Industry discussion following meeting:

- Labor must come first – those vineyards/wineries who have resources are planting – the newcomers do not see the need and/or cannot find the labor
- Ancillary issue – need to re-create a “vine-grants” program to encourage plantings
- Ad hoc committee: Dr Brockway (A-tech), Lori Lee and Ed Trebets (KSUA), Andy Kirk (OSU Kingsville), Eric Cotton and Gene Sigel (growers), Donniella Winchell (OWPA).

A pilot program will be created that could be taken statewide – starting with Lake and Ashtabula counties.

Brown team loved the project and helping to find \$ for the project.

Vintage Ohio – Winchell reported there are 17 wineries participating and 40 vendors Working to secure more \$ from vendors

Corkboard project – over 160 boards sold; media push coming

ORV brochures will be finished in 1 ½ weeks with 20,000 printed

Director Winchell asked the board to provide information of vendors they do business with that could be contacted for potential **OWPA associate members**.

Director Winchell shared some staff issues and that Podcast project is on hold