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Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 41, Issue 8, August 2017

President's Message: Jim's Journal

The Board of Director elections are right around the corner. Greg Hagadorn is the Election Chairman this year. Please see Greg's subsequent article if you have any interest in declaring your candidacy for the upcoming Board term. We have three Board members, Liz Corbett, Brian McDonald and Bill Redding, who will be completing their three-year term this year. I encourage everyone to consider running for the OCWS Board. Your three-year term will be very rewarding, and it will provide you an opportunity to meet and work with many wonderful volunteers. If you are uncomfortable around a crowded setting, a Board term offers an excellent opportunity to hone your speaking and leadership skills.

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2017 Board of Director Elections: Electronic Voting is Here



As you know from articles that have been published in *The Wine Press*, the Board of Directors has been investigating electronic voting. At its last meeting, the Board approved electronic voting for the 2017 Board of Director elections using a company called eBallot.com.

From a cost perspective, electronic voting and hard copy "snail mail" voting are about a push. Studies have shown electronic voting usually increases the participation in the voting process because it only takes a few minutes and requires a few clicks of the mouse. Getting more members to vote should be viewed as a positive. In addition, it is totally anonymous and the results are available within minutes after the ballot period ends.

Here is how it will work:

1. If you have a single membership and what appears on the surface to be a valid email address, you will receive an electronic ballot. If you do not have what appears to be a valid email address (i.e., your email address of record begins with "fake...."), you will receive a hard copy ballot which you must complete and return. Your ballot must be received by the Chair of the Election Committee no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, September 29.

2. If you have a dual membership with only one email address that appears on the surface to be valid, two email ballots will be sent to that single email address, one addressed to each member. Each ballot will have its own unique log in and password.

3. If you have a dual membership with what appears on the surface to be a valid email

2016-2017 Board of Directors	Jim Beard President jim@ocws.org Bill Redding Vice President bill@ocws.org	 (Continued from page 1) 2017 Annual Business Meeting The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 8 at Baja Blues. This meeting is free to all of our members. I encourage everyone to attend, ask questions and talk to those candidates running for the 2017/20 Board. Food and wine will be served at the end of the meeting. Please see the Annual Business Meeting article in this edition of <i>The Wine Press</i> for additional information. Volunteer Recognition Program Many members have expressed an interest in learning how volunteer points are calculated each year. George Cravens has submitted an article in this edition of <i>The Wine Press</i> regarding the volunteer recognition program. This article will be permanently posted on the OCWS website. The Courtyard is in full swing during the first two weeks of August. If you did not have an opportunity to sign up to work any shifts, I encourage you to stop by The Courtyard and have a great time tasting 	<text><text><text><text><text><text><text></text></text></text></text></text></text></text>
	Fran Gitsham Treasurer fran@ocws.org		
	Rich Skoczylas Secretary rich@ocws.org		
	Liz Corbett Director liz@ocws.org		
	George Cravens Director george@ocws.org		
	Brian McDonald Director brian@ocws.org	Volunteers Needed: C On Monday, August 14, the day after the OC Fair closes, we will be tearing down The Courtyard. Park- ing will be in Lot F. Please RSVP to Brian@ocws.org by August 1. This date is important as volunteer hours need to be turned in the fol- lowing day. Lunch will be provided similar to The Courtyard "set up." Beer and wine will also be provid- ed, and you can get to grab a bottle of wine to take home in apprecia- tion. Again, your RSVP is needed. The tear down goes much faster than the set up with your little	Courcyard Tear Down cleaning. Tasks involve more taking down, putting away, etc. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the set up crew — you were all incredibly awesome! De- spite losing water for about 40 minutes, everything was accom- plished by 1:00 pm. Everyone will receive 4 hours of volunteer points, with the exception of those few who arrived at 8:00 am, they will receive 5 hours. Again, many thanks! - Brian McDonald, Courtyard Co-Chair
	Terry McLean Director terry@ocws.org		
	Stacey Taylor Director stacey@ocws.org		

President's Message: Jim's Journal

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than the set up, with very little

2017 Board of Director Elections: Electronic Voting is Here

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address for each member, each member will receive his or her email ballot, each with a unique log in and password.

4. If you have a dual membership with what does not appear on the surface to be a valid email address for either member, a hard copy ballot will be mailed to each member each of which will have to be received by the Chair of the Election Committee no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, September 29.

ADDRESSEE UNKNOWN RETURN TO SENDER



The OCWS is not responsible for bounced email addresses any more than it is responsible for returned hard copy ballots received after the voting deadline. OCWS members manage their own profile and are responsible to insure their email address is accurate.

Here is how the email ballot will work:

You will receive an email ballot from eBallot.com identifying it as being the OCWS ballot. It will have a link to the eBallot.com OCWS portal with a log in and password. Click on the link, enter your log in and password and you will be presented with a list of candidates, their picture and candidate statement. You can then proceed to vote for up to three candidates. Vote for the candidates of your choice, then close your ballot. You will not be able to vote a second time or change your vote. This is no different than using a hard copy ballot. Once you mail or deliver your ballot, it cannot be changed.

Shortly after 5:00 pm on Friday, September 29, the Chair of the Elections Committee will receive a notification from eBallot.com indicating the number of votes cast for each candidate.

I want to emphasize that electronic voting will only be used if there are more than three members who have filed a Declaration of Candidacy within the prescribed period.

We will be submitting the database of qualified members to eBallot.com by Friday, August 25. Between now and then, I encourage you to open your online profile and confirm your email address (and that of your co-member if a dual membership) is correct.

- Jim Beard, President

OCWS Board of Directors Elections: Last Call. Don't Wait. Declare.



Declare early and take advantage of the opportunity to introduce yourself to the OCWS members volunteering at The Courtyard during the Fair! The Courtyard offers a unique venue for members to gather before and after shifts or to simply stop in

and enjoy a glass of wine. Take advantage of getting some valuable "face time" with members to discuss your qualifications and desire to be considered for the Board.

Declare now, don't wait until the filing deadline. Put yourself in front of your photo and written statement in an informal, relaxed and friendly setting.

Commitment. The overall time commitment for a member of the Board of Director varies, based on assignments and participation. All Board Members are expected to attend the monthly Board Meetings. Board members are also expected to organize or act as liaison for certain events and projects as assigned by the President. These responsibilities will generally require several hours per month of your time. Additionally,

Board Members are expected to attend as many OCWS events as possible and are granted free attendance at most events for their participation.

Skills and experience a candidate should possess, but not be limited to, are:

- A general knowledge of OCWS events and activities
- Experience as a volunteer in some events; involvement with event committees
- The ability and time to organize events during the year
- Experience in selected events and budget management
- Be a member in good standing

Submission and Deadline. To declare your candidacy for a position on the Board, the candidate must present their Declaration of Candidacy in writing, by mail or via electronic media to the Election Chair no later than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the scheduled Annual Business Meeting. The last date to declare candidacy for this year's election is the hard date of Friday, August 25, 2017.

During the Annual Business Meeting, you will have the op-(Continued on page 4)

OCWS Board of Directors Elections: Last Call. Don't Wait. Declare.

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portunity to speak to the membership and present your qualifications. A written Statement of Qualifications must be presented to the Election Committee no later than five (5) calendar days after your Declaration of Candidacy.

Questions, Reach Out. If being an OCWS leader interests you, feel free to contact Greg Hagadorn with any questions related to Director responsibilities, the election process or other matters related to the election. Greg can be reached at 714.388.8803 or at Greg@ocws.org. Involvement as a Direc-

tor of the OCWS can be both personally and professionally rewarding.

Candidate Statements. As candidates declare their candidacy in accordance with election protocols, their photo and statement will be uploaded on to the OCWS website for your review and consideration. BOD Candidate Statements can be accessed on the OCWS website either at About>Our Organization or at the link on the landing page at ocws.org. Please be sure to visit the site frequently.

- Greg Hagadorn, 2017 Election Chair

2017 Annual OCWS Business Meeting

2017 OCWS Annual Business Meeting Friday, September 8, 2017 @ 7:00 pm OC Fair & Events Center Baja Blues Restaurant



This year's meeting, beginning promptly at 7:00 pm, will be held on Friday, September 8 at Baja Blues and is complimentary to all OCWS

members. There is no limitation on the number of members who may attend; however, the meeting is strictly for members only. There is no charge to attend, although any member who signs up and does not attend will be charged \$25. The OCWS commits to pay for the number of meals confirmed which is based on the actual number of members who have signed up.

Please sign up at the OCWS website. All reservations must be received no later than Sunday, September 3. The OCWS is required to have an accurate count to the caterer the following day.

This is the most important member meeting of the OCWS year as it offers an overview of the year's activities and a financial summary of the 2016/17 OCWS Board year. Volunteer awards will be presented after the business presentations. Thereafter, the current OCWS Board of Directors will be available to answer questions and listen to any comments from the general membership. The meeting is conducted in accordance with OCWS Bylaws and government regulations for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

At this meeting, candidates for the 2017/20 Board term will be introduced and will present their qualifications and interests as potential OCWS Board members. This meeting provides the best opportunity for members to meet the candidates and learn about their interests and objectives for the next Board term.

No food or drinks will be served until the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting (approximately 90 minutes). The evening with conclude with a light catered meal, accompanied by wines from the OCWS cellar. Some members choose to bring their own wines to this event and, if you do so, we ask that you please refrain from opening your wine until the meal has commenced following the end of the meeting.

Your OCWS Board of Directors look forward to seeing you as we review our 41st year and look forward to our 42nd.

- Fran Gitsham, Director

New Member Corner: Membership Report



The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the following members was approved by the Board of Directors at the July 13 meeting: Linda and Rich McCarthy • Richard and Bonnie Holt • Beth Block-Levine • Debra and Bill Workman • Linda Ramage • Sheila Laughlin • Leslie Lamping • Melody and Randy Gleckman • Linda Rehm

As of July 31, the Orange County Wine Society had 971 members.

- Brian McDonald, Membership Chair

Farm Fresh Fun At The Courtyard



The 2017 OC Fair is here, and we are well under way with our most important fundraising effort of the year, The Courtyard. The OC Fair is currently open Wednesdays through Sundays through Sunday, August 13.

In exchange for running the OC Fair Wine Competitions (Commercial and Home Wine), the Orange County Fair and Events Center affords us the opportunity to run The Courtyard and realize the income from it. In addition to the income received from The Courtyard which funds the wine competitions, it also provides funds for our Scholarship Program and yearround office expenses. It is of the utmost importance to the OCWS that The Courtyard be a huge success! Whether you are a new volunteer or a veteran at The Courtyard, this is your opportunity to support the fundraising efforts of the OCWS.

In addition to hosting The Courtyard at the Fair, some of our most knowledgeable and experienced members are conducting wine seminars on Saturdays and Sundays. Check out the seminar schedule on the OCWS website and come learn something new about wines and wine pairings that you may not know.

With this year's Fair quickly coming to an end, don't miss coming out on having some Farm Fresh (Wine) Fun at The Courtyard! We look forward to seeing you there.

- 2017 Courtyard Committee

Graber Olive House, Longtime Supporter of the OCWS



The Wine Society would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Graber Olive House for their friendship, generosity and continued support over the years.

Graber Olive House has provided their specialty olives to the Commercial Wine Competition for many years. As you know, palate assault can be extreme even though wine judges may expectorate every sip. The acidity in white wines and tannins in red wines can be a painful experience after a full day of tasting. A small cup of Graber olives placed along side each judge neutralizes the elements in both reds and whites, and works wonders for the palate and tastes fantastic, too.

Graber olives are different from typical olives sold in grocery

stores. Graber olives are hand-picked when they've ripened to a cherry-red color, then "cured in covered vats without being



oxidized," according to Graber Olive House. After the curing and canning processes, the olives are of varying shades of nut-like color.

Graber Olive House is located in quiet, serene surroundings. Visitors will be delighted to discover a bit of early Cali-

fornia when they visit. Along with olives, Graber Olive House offers many other products, such as crisp California almonds and pistachios, California dessert fruits, olive oils and elegant gift baskets. When in or driving through Ontario, visit Graber Olive House and pick up a few cans of olives and other items. You can also visit their website at GraberOlives.com to have products shipped directly to you.

Graber Olive House is located at 215 E. Fourth Street, Ontario, CA 91764.

The Orange County Wine Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated under the laws of the state of California with its principal place of business in Costa Mesa, California.

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> OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

OCWS Annual Membership BBQ

Sunday, September 24, 2017 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm The Courtyard @ the OC Fair & Events Center



The Summer is winding down, and our hard work on the Commercial and Home Wine Competitions is a distant memory. And putting in the hours working at The Courtyard during the OC Fair is a more recent memory. Now is the time to relax, unwind and celebrate our success with our friends at the Annual Membership BBQ.

This year's theme is a traditional West-

ern BBQ. So put on your boots, western attire and come and join the fun!

There will be music, dancing, beer, wine and great food as our own Cooks Caucus will have the grills going ready to serve great BBQ (slow roasted beef brisket, pulled pork, chicken) as well as baked beans, corn on the cob and other items. We are also planning to hold a raffle, silent auction and our very successful wine wall. What could be more fun? **Donations are being requested, please contact Liz Corbett at Liz@ocws.org**.

Tickets will be \$43 for members and \$48 for non-members.

If you sign up on or before September 10, you will receive a \$5 discount, reducing the price to \$38 for members and \$43 for non-members.



Help is needed to make this, as with many OCWS events, a success. Your consideration in joining the team for set up, decorating, registration, serving,

pouring or clean up will be greatly appreciated. Short shifts are available before, during and after the event.

For more information, please contact George Cravens at George@ocws.org or Terry McLean at Terry@ocws.org.

- George Cravens & Terry McLean, Event Co-Chairs

Winemakers Newsroom

The OCWS Winemakers' Group has finally completed all the tasks from our Home Wine Competition. Many of us are sporting new Gold, Silver and Bronze medals on our cellar walls.

Rick Nelson managed the wine bottle group purchase this year, and we purchased a total of 492 cases at \$8.41 per case. Robbie Maldonado managed our cork purchase for a total of 6,500 corks of various qualities. Thanks to Rick and Robbie! We didn't have much time to sit back and catch our breath when we started getting ready for upcoming events.

Home Wine Competition Display. Set up in The Courtyard, the display shows off the Double Gold, Gold and Silver award winning wine bottles, as well as the display of labels.



Thanks to Rob Romano, Dave Wiegand, Rich Vegue, Eddie Petros and Mike Salas for helping with the setup, and Kim Guerin for the label display.

Presentations at The Fair. Jim Graver has been giving presentations at noon on making kit wines.

Kevin Donnelly has been presenting on making wine from fresh grapes at 1:00 pm. Both presentations are held on Saturdays. Come check us out!

2017 Harvest. Coordinated by winemakers Bill Forsch, Rob Romano, Dave Wiegand and Bruce Powers, we have arranged to pick up a fabulous variety of grapes for the 2017 harvest. These grapes are coming from Russian River, Solvang and Paso Robles AVAs. Last year we provided over 10 tons of grapes to our winemakers and expect to meet or exceed that number this year. Deliveries of the grapes will depend on when the vineyard managers pick a date, usually ranging between late August to October. Watch out for our announcements via email!

Quarterly Meeting & Potluck Dinner. Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 14 at Ed Reyes and Debbie Renne's house.

Winemakers' Group Holiday Party. Our holiday party is scheduled for Saturday, December 23 at the Eastlake Clubhouse in Yorba Linda.



More details on upcoming events will be featured in an upcoming edition of *The Wine Press* or posted on ocws.org. Kevin Donnelly can be contacted by email at Kevindonnelly@ocws.org or by phone at 714.457.7229 to answer any questions.

- Kevin Donnelly

Volunteer Recognition Guidelines: Get Involved, Be Rewarded

General Guidelines:

Volunteer recognition points are granted to members who are organizing, working or hosting an OCWS event. Attendance at an event does *not* qualify for Volunteer recognition points. Board members are not eligible to receive points.

The organizer of an event will send a list of members' names and points earned to the OCWS Board member responsible for volunteer recognition. A template (spreadsheet) is available for event organizers to use.

Point Tracking:

One point will be recorded for each hour worked at an event or while participating in an event organizing committee activity.

Events Generating Points Include the Following (not an exhaustive list):

- Teaching or preparing TIPS training
- Cataloging wines for competition
- Commercial or Home Wine Competitions
- Conducting wine testing
- Wine Auction
- Annual BBQ; Champagne Brunch; Chili Cook-Off
- Dine with Wine
- Election Committee
- Hosting Mini-Tastings & Potlucks
- Field Trips
- Preparing OC Fair Badge Lists
- Monthly Newsletter preparation
- Conducting Winemakers Judging Seminars
- Monthly Tastings
- Courtyard during the Fair; clean up, etc.
- Wine Education (Wine 101)
- Holiday Dinner Dance
- Equipment Maintenance

Additional points will be awarded per session or event for labor intensity or technical skills. Examples are shown below:

1 point per session or event:

- Activities that involve more responsibility
 - ✓ Examples: Competition steward, courtyard cashier
- 2 points per session or event:
- Higher-intensity activities
 - Examples: Event set up/tear down, courtyard preparation; clean up for Fair

3 points per session or event:

- Heavy physical or technically skilled activity or higher responsibility activities
 - Examples: Moving wine cases, working grill, graphic design, courtyard manager/assistant manager or

steward, mini-tasting hosts, wine seminar host/ moderator

Three tiers of Volunteer Award Coupons will be provided:

The point threshold for each of the three award levels will be set by the Board before the annual meeting. Award coupons are non-transferable, valid from October 1 to September 30 of the following year (distributed at the Annual Business Meeting). The award coupons can be applied to any OCWS event unless the OCWS is not directly paying for the event. Coupons are not valid for dues and merchandise purchase.

The three award levels are \$10, \$25, and \$50 coupons.

Other Recognition Awards:

President's Award:

- A. This award is presented by the President at his/her discretion as evidenced by personal observation of the recipient's contribution to the OCWS.
- B. May be presented to more than one member.
- C. Name badge with the year of the President's Award, e.g., 2008 President's Award.
- D. Does not need to be presented each year.

President Emeritus Award:

- A. This award is presented by the President with Board recommendation, as a special designation to acknowledge the dedication, time and effort given to the OCWS by those who have served as OCWS President, and who have continued to volunteer countless hours for many years after their term of office has concluded.
- B. Those awarded this designation receive a continued invitation to the OC Fair Commercial Wine Competition Judges' Dinner, without consideration of the amount of time volunteered during the given year.
- C. The invitation to the Judges' Dinner includes an invitation for spouse or significant other.

Distinguished Service Award:

- A. Awarded to a non-member who proactively supports the roles and objectives of the OCWS for many years (strong booster and supporter), e.g., OC Fair Staff, restaurant or purveyor, as evidenced by:
 - 1. A willingness to assist when and wherever needed.
 - 2. Promoting the Wine Society to non-members.
- B. Board should use its discretion in evaluating award criteria in presenting this award.
- C. May be presented to more than one person.
- D. Does not need to be presented each year.

- George Cravens, Director

Gold Medal Wines Mini-Tasting: Wrap Up

A total of 168 members and guests attended the July Gold Medal Mini-Tasting held at nine host sites. The evening began with a Gold medal winning wine from Gloria Ferrer, Blanc de Noir, Carneros.

A blind tasting followed with six flights of two wines each. The superb selection of wines chosen by Chris Cunningham had tough competition with many sites reporting "ties" for the top wines.

The three favorite wines of the nine host sites are listed below:



• First Place: Ballantine, 2015 Zinfandel, Napa Valley at \$30

• Second Place: J. Lohr, 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon, Hilltop, Paso Robles at \$35

• Third Place: 2015 Eberle, Barbera, Kokopelli, Steinbeck, Partridge Vineyards, Paso Robles at \$32

In addition, attendees brought a delicious dish to share and then voted on a Chef of the Evening. The results of the Chef of the Evening at each host site are:

- Host Chris Cunningham: Mike and Deborah Webber, Chile Relleno
- Hosts Pat and Frank Solis: Tom Richey, Smoked Pork
 Belly Burnt Ends

- Host Jolen Zeroski: Sheila Tedesco, Chocolate Fruit Cup with Sherbert
- Hosts BJ and Tina Fornadley: Judy Koeblitz, Chicken
 Devine
- Hosts Marcia and James Vaughan: Simone Dygert, Boeuf Bourguignon
- Hosts Stephen and Nancy Edwards: Nancy Harman, Chicken Tortilla Soup
- Hosts Sam Puzzo and Carol Frank: Carol Frank, Smoked St. Louis Ribs
- Hosts Stacey and Wendy Taylor: Bill Forsch and Noel DeSota, Nicoise Salad
- Hosts Craig and Ronna Rowe: Kathy Krieger, Blackberry Crisp

Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to the Hosts! A special thank you goes to Chris Cunningham for his selection of the Gold Medal wines.

For additional information on more award winning wines, visit **winecompetition.com**.

Please send your recipes to Bill Redding at Bill@ocws.org as a possible recipe in a future newsletter article.

- Bill Redding, Director



The Wine Press is the official newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc. The newsletter is published monthly. The Wine Press welcomes input from the OCWS membership. Forward comments, questions, and suggestions to WinePress@ocws.org.

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New Member Mixer: Recap

On Sunday, June 25, 21 new members attended a New Member Mixer hosted by Brian and Sue McDonald. These events are held 3 to 4 times each year and are free to new members. The Mixers are intended to give new members the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors, develop friendships with other new members, feel comfortable about attending OCWS events and to learn about the many activities of the OCWS. Kevin Donnelly was also present representing the Winemakers' Group and made himself available to answer any questions about home winemaking and the many Winemakers' Group events.

The New Member Mixer was originally started by Leslie Brown, a former President of the OCWS. New member attendance to the Mixer has increased over the past few years due to an accelerated effort to integrate new members into the OCWS.

Keeping the Mixer to only new members provides a more intimate, collegial setting — a fun time for sipping, snacking and socializing. Aside from all of the fun events the OCWS hosts, the Mixer provides the opportunity to learn about the OCWS's fundraising efforts and scholarship program.

A note worthy of mentioning, over half of the new members attending this evening have already signed up to work at The Courtyard during the OC Fair.

I would like to thank everyone for attending the June Mixer, especially all of the new members who were able to be present.

- Brian McDonald, Membership Chair

Save the Date for Upcoming Events, Mark your Calendars



Annual Installation Dinner Sunday, October 8, 2017 Yves' Restaurant & Wine Bar 5753-A East Santa Ana Canyon Road Anaheim Hills, CA

The Installation Dinner honors the outgoing Directors who have completed their three-year terms, as well as installing the new three Directors. Time to be determined.

- Rich Skoczylas & George Cravens, Event Co-Chairs

Cabernet Sauvignon

Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting Saturday, November 11, 2017 Various Members Homes @ 6:00 pm

Mini-Tastings are held at various host sites around Orange County. Each person attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish or dessert) ready to serve a small portion to 18 people. The dish ideally should be designed to match the theme of the tasting, in this case Cabernet Sauvignon. There will be a special bottle of wine awarded that evening as a prize for Chef of the Evening. Due to the high attendance at our Mini-Tasting Programs, we encourage you to sign-up early as sites tend to fill quickly.

- George Cravens, Director



OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance The Atrium Hotel, Irvine Friday, December 1, 2017 @ 6:30 pm to 11:30 pm

The *Three 2 Sevens* will again provide entertainment for this festive occasion. We have always enjoyed this band, and they have been a great hit the past two years.

- Brian McDonald, Director

More information regarding these upcoming events will be featured in a future edition of The Wine Press and posted on ocws.org.

OCWS Save the Date Calendar

August 13	Last day for the Orange County Fair
September 8	Annual Business Meeting at Baja Blues
September 24	Annual OCWS Membership BBQ
October 8	Annual Installation Dinner
October 14	Winemakers' Group Quarterly Meeting & Potluck Dinner
November 11	Mini-Tasting: Cabernet Sauvignon
December 1	OCWS Holiday Dinner & Dance
December 23	Winemakers' Group Holiday Party



www.ocws.org





The Wine Press

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