



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 42, Issue 8, August 2018

From the Heart...

This will be my next to last President's article, as I will have served six years as a Director and, under our Bylaws, will be termed out at the end of September. I have tried to use this column wisely as a forum to share with all of you some of the history of the OCWS, to take a peek at the behind the scenes workings, and to highlight the magnitude of what it takes to run this amazing organization. This article is going to be different in that I want to tell you why I think the OCWS is so incredible and why it holds a huge place in my heart.

To me, the Orange County Wine Society is a microcosm of what the entire world should be. We have members ranging from their 20s to their 90s, members of all races, religions, political affiliations, and sexual orientations. We have doctors, lawyers, white and blue collar workers. But none of that matters because what *everyone* in this organization has is heart and passion and, for the most part, they don't care about the trimmings or

the labels. They care about the success of the organization and its educational mission and the camaraderie that nowhere else in my life has something like this been found. This group has hundreds of people willing to go out of their way to hold others up and come together for a better cause than one's self. Absolutely amazing in my estimation!

I have watched the people around me circle and embrace those in need of support as often as I have seen them laugh, dance, occasionally drink (okay, maybe that's a bit of an understatement), and work their tails off to make every aspect of our eclectic group a raving success. On a personal note, this group has held my heart at the highest points in my life, the years after my husband and I joined, and at the lowest point, when I was widowed. It was people within the OCWS that encouraged me to get back out into the world again, lifted me up and gave

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<i>(Sold Out-Waitlist)</i>	
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OCWS Board of Directors: Call for Candidates

Have you thought about getting more involved with the OCWS outside of volunteering for or attending various OCWS-related events? If you are innovative, open-minded, possess good interpersonal skills, are results oriented and a problem solver, then a position as a Director of the OCWS just might be right for you. As I have stated previously, we have a great opportunity right now for the first time in a long time. Three Board members' terms are expiring, and they are ineligible to run again.

The beginning of a three-year term of the nine members of the Board of Directors, according to the Bylaws, shall be staggered such that three members' terms will expire each year. The three vacated Board positions will be filled each year by a vote of the OCWS membership, following the Annual Business Meeting in September.

The overall time commitment for a member of the Board varies, based on assignments

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	Fran Gitsham President Fran@ocws.org
	Bill Redding Vice President Bill@ocws.org
	Brian McDonald Treasurer Brian@ocws.org
	Rich Skoczylas Secretary Rich@ocws.org
	Jim Beard Director Jim@ocws.org
	George Cravens Director George@ocws.org
	Terry McLean Director Terry@ocws.org
	Ken Scott Director Ken@ocws.org
	Stacey Taylor Director Stacey@ocws.org

From the Heart

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me the courage to help lead this organization, if but for a brief time. I am so proud to have been a Director and having had the opportunity to be your President.

As those of you who led before well know, we do not go quietly, as we continue to be die-hard volunteers, and our faces pop up all year round in one capacity or another. I will be amongst great company as a past President. The only thing I ask of all of you is to show the support and compassion to those coming next as much as you have shown me and, for me personally, please don't stop giving me hugs when our paths cross, which I hope will be often!

- Fran Gitsham, President

OCWS Board of Directors: Call for Candidates

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and participation. We are moving from having the Board manage some events to having our members run the event with a Board coordinator being the liaison to the Board regarding budgets, event timing and placement.

A candidate should possess some of the following skills and experience as well:

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

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 **Friday, August 24, 2018**.

During the Annual Business Meeting, you will have the opportunity 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.

If being an OCWS leader interests you, feel free to contact Greg Hagadorn with any questions related to Director responsibilities, the election process or anything related to the election. I can be reached at 714.388.8803 or at Greg@ocws.org.

- Greg Hagadorn, 2018 Election Chair

The Courtyard Portal

2018 Wine Label & Bottle Design Competition. This Competition gives recognition to outstanding label and bottle designs for California wines entered in the Commercial Wine Competition each year, in support of winery interests in creating eye appeal, easy recognition, and promotional value for their wines. The emphasis here is on the artistic and expressive visual presentation of the wines on initial contact by the wine enthusiast at retail or their home, in addition to the intrinsic value of each wine tasted and savored when enjoyed.



Wineries entering their wines for the Commercial Wine Competition are encouraged to submit four labels for each entry. The Commercial Label Committee, comprised of OCWS members with backgrounds in visual and graphic arts, assigns each label to one of 11 categories, including Best Use of Color, Contemporary Design, Figurative, Flora,

Special Effects, Thematic Series, and others. Of the grouping in each category, the Committee selects ten highest valued labels to present for judging by OCWS membership. The bottles are identified upon receipt as exceptionally designed, including two-toned glass, wax dripping over cork, glow in the dark graphics, uniquely shaped, and other fascinating features.

OCWS members and guests attending and participating in the 2018 Commercial Wine Competition the first weekend of June this year reviewed the selected labels and voted on the top three in each category, which by their vote counts were then awarded First, Second and Third Place in each category. The winery is then acknowledged with an Award Letter and a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal for their winning labels (an actual thick, metallic medal about 2.5" in diameter on a dark blue striped ribbon).

All label winners are displayed on two large, black boards on the eastern display wall at The Courtyard for the duration of the Fair for all attendees to view and enjoy. We hope you each will appreciate these exceptional winery achievements in label creativity by visiting the Label Award displays at The Courtyard!

If you don't get a chance to view the Label Award displays while visiting The Courtyard, the Label Award winners can be located on the ocws.org website under the Commercial Wine Competition section, in the link identified as 2018 Award Book.

- Kathryn Hansen

By the time you read this, The Courtyard will be in full swing. No doubt there will still be some empty shifts to fill, so watch out for notices and Fran's now famous "SOS" emails. Fran and I would like to thank the over 350 OCWS members who have stepped up to the plate and volunteered. Without you, The Courtyard would not exist, and without The Courtyard, the OCWS would not be what it is.

Thank you again, and remember, have fun!

Always wanted to get more involved in The Courtyard? We are looking to expand the number of people involved in running The Courtyard for 2019.

If you are interested in becoming involved in scheduling, training, etc., please contact Brian McDonald at Brian@ocws.org or Fran Gitsham at Fran@ocws.org.

- Fran Gitsham & Brian McDonald,
Event Chairs

New Member Promotion. Join the Orange County Wine Society between July 12 and August 31 and receive a \$15 coupon that can be used for any OCWS event (except membership renewal and merchandise). The coupons are valid until July 15, 2019. That means a \$40 single membership really costs only \$25 and a \$60 dual membership only costs \$30. Such a deal! Tell a friend, tell two friends.

- Brian McDonald, Membership Chair

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.

Editor-in-Chief: Linda Mihalik

Contributing Writers: Board of Directors, Kevin Donnelly, Greg Hagadorn, Kathryn Hansen, Rochelle Randel

Contributing Editors: John Goodnight, Ron Nickens, Michelle Philo, Rochelle Randel, Taren Weber

Contributing Photographer: Tina Fornadley

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2018 Annual OCWS Business Meeting

2018 OCWS Annual Business Meeting
Friday, September 7, 2018 @ 7:00 pm
OC Fair & Events Center
Baja Blues Restaurant

The Annual Business Meeting, which is free to all OCWS members, will be held this year on Friday, September 7, beginning promptly at 7:00 pm at Baja Blues located within the fairgrounds near Gate 5. 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 is required 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 Friday, August 31. The OCWS is required to have an accurate count to the caterer shortly thereafter.

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 2017/18 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.

After presentations and an OCWS question and answer session, candidates for the 2018/19 Board year 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 year. If you are interested in becoming an OCWS Board member, please contact Greg Hagadorn at Greg@ocws.org. Please read Greg's article on Board candidacy in this edition of the Newsletter.

Please note that no food or drinks will be served until the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting (approximately 90 minutes). We will conclude the evening 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 2017/18 OCWS Board of Directors look forward to seeing you as we review our 42nd year and look forward to our 2018/19 calendar year.

- Jim Beard, Director

Announcing Oktoberween 2018

Saturday, September 29, 2017
Noon to 4:30 pm
The "Haunted" Courtyard
on the grounds of the OC Fair

October means Oktoberfest with authentic German Bratwurst, sauerkraut, potato salad, and beer. But it also means Halloween with costumes, tricks, treats, and wine.

So we are having both!

Put your "creative" minds to work and show up in your favorite Halloween or Oktoberfest costumes, and enjoy some good food, wine, beer, games, contests, music and, dancing – yes, this includes the *Chicken Dance!*

The cost will be \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members.

Please remember to sign up early as last year's Fall Event was a sell out!

As with all of our events, they only happen because members like you are willing to step forward and volunteer to help. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the set-up, decorating, food serving, wine serving, clean up, check-in, raffle sales, wine wall, and a few floaters.

You can sign up to volunteer when you register for the event on the OCWS website.

Hope to see you there!

- Terry Mclean, Event Chair

Save the Date: Annual Installation Dinner

The Annual Installation Dinner for the Orange County Wine Society is an event that provides members the opportunity to welcome the newly elected Board of Directors as well as honor the hard work of our outgoing Board members.

This exclusive event is scheduled to take place on *Sunday*,

October 7 at 5:30 pm at the Avenue of the Arts Hotel in Costa Mesa. More details will be available on the OCWS website and in the September edition of the Newsletter. Mark your calendars now to attend this event as it will be a sell out!

- Rich Skoczylas, Dinner Coordinator

Winemakers Newsroom

The Winemakers' Group had their Quarterly Meeting at the beautiful home of Robin McCormick and her family in Laguna Beach which was attended by more than 50 people. Assisting our winemakers were Jerry and Kim Guerin and David Rutledge who did the SO2 testing to make sure the wines are

protected from bacteria and oxidation.

Many thanks to Robin for opening her home to us again, and to Jerry, Kim and David for doing the testing.



Homewine Display and Winemaking Seminars. Be sure to check out the Winemakers' Group Homewine Display at this year's Fair. In addition, if you're interested in learning how to make wine, attend one of our Winemaking Seminars on Saturdays between Noon and 2:00 pm at The Courtyard.

Update on Purchasing Grapes. We are looking forward to purchasing grapes this year from our sources at Soltera Winery (Dry Creek Area) and Lucas and Lewellen Vineyards (Solvang area), as well as other areas. We are checking with these vendors to see what grapes will be available this year. We expect Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, and seeing what other varietals and prices we can come up with. Stay tuned for upcoming information!



Be sure to frequently visit the OCWS website for upcoming Winemakers' Group events.

If you have any questions, contact Kevin at KevinDonnelly@ocws.org or by phone at 714.457.7229.

- Kevin Donnelly

Volunteer Position for an Award Book Editor and Publisher

The OCWS is currently seeking a volunteer to serve as Editor and Publisher of the Commercial Wine Competition Award Book. The Award Book is created every June after the Commercial Wine Competition and is maintained in Microsoft Word, published in PDF format, and uploaded onto the OCWS.org website. The Book contains both text and photos. As a point of reference, this year's Award Book can be located at OCWS.org within the Commercial Competition section.

As Editor and Publisher, you will be responsible for updating the Double Gold and Best of Class winners, as well as updating the Label and Bottle winners. All information and photos will be provided.

The successful candidate must have knowledge of and experi-

ence with Microsoft Word (for text editing and photo insertion) and Acrobat Pro (for final merge and publishing).

You will interface and work closely with OCWS committee members in the Bottle & Label Competition Group, the Bottle Photo Shoot Group and the Data Reporting Group.

It is expected that this task be completed within one week after the Commercial Wine Competition results are announced, usually the second week of June. This task will take approximately 8 hours to complete.

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact Stacey Taylor at 949.521.2228 or by email at Stacey@ocws.org.

- Stacey Taylor, Director

New Member Corner



The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the following members was approved by the Board at the July 10 meeting:

**Don Minchow • Jon Theurich • Tom Dutcher • Diane Nelson
Valerie Poole • Katherine Klager & Kelly Merrell • Fran & Robert Rogers**

As of July 1, the OCWS had 1,018 members.

- Brian McDonald,
Director & Membership Chair

Dine With Wine: Brunch Overlooking Beautiful Newport Harbor

Brunch Overlooking Newport Harbor
a Dine with Wine Event

Sunday, September 9, 2018 @ 10:30 am
Newport Landing Restaurant

503 E. Edgewater Ave., Balboa Island, CA



Newport Landing Restaurant, which offers the best of southern California incomparable cuisine, is located on the waterfront overlooking the historic Balboa Ferry with a panoramic view of Newport Harbor and Balboa Island.

Each person is expected to: bring a bottle of your favorite Champagne or wine; drink responsibly, as this could be a long meal; wear your nametag; and dress casually.

Each person is expected to: bring a bottle of your favorite Champagne or wine; drink responsibly, as this could be a long meal; wear your nametag; and dress casually.

This event is now sold out. **Contact the OCWS office to be put on the waitlist.**

SOLD OUT

The last date to make changes or cancel and receive a refund is Monday, September 3. Any cancellations made after this date will be filled and refunded from the waitlist.

Parking is a challenge on Balboa Island. Street parking is minimal. There is a parking lot at Palm Street/E. Bay Avenue, with a 2-hour maximum time limit, and a parking garage at E. Bay Avenue/Adams Street. Parking is also located at E. Oceanfront/Palm Street. Consider taking Uber or Lyft for transportation to avoid parking.

- Rochelle Randel & Rich Skoczylas,
Dine With Wine Coordinators

Oktoberfest at The Phoenix Club

Sunday, October 21, 2018

Brunch—11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Oktoberfest—Noon to 6:00 pm

The Phoenix Club

1340 S. Sanderson Ave., Anaheim, CA



No need to pack or go through security, just dust off your bier steins and join your fellow OCWS members and guests for Brunch, and an afternoon of German food, music and entertainment.

The price for this German inspired Brunch is \$46 for members and \$51 for guests. This price includes tax, gratuity, \$10 in beverage tickets, parking and entry into the Oktoberfest (a \$12 value). We will place tablecloths on several picnic style tables under the bier tent prior to the event for our group.

Since The Phoenix Club provides sparkling wine as part of their Brunch, there will be a reduced corkage fee of \$7 per bottle, payable at check-in.

Brunch will be held in the Grand Ballroom, accessed from the main entrance. We suggest you arrive by 10:30 am to check-in. Check-in is at the entrance to the Grand Ballroom.

The Brunch includes:

- Bottomless sparkling wine
- Carving Station & Omelet Station
- Garden, fruit, potato & pasta salads
- German Pancakes, Cheese Blintzes
- Schnitzel, Rouladen, Sauerbraten, Fish,
- Chicken Bavarian, Spatzle & fresh vegetables
- Desserts



The Oktoberfest activities will be held in the big tent and the OCWS will reserve tables as stated above.

Bring your own Bier Stein. You can bring your own empty stein or bier mug to Oktoberfest. Please note

that your steins will not be filled directly. Bier is sold and served in a cup and then you pour the bier into your own stein.

Proper Bier drinking etiquette. Mugs are raised and a song belted out. One of the most popular songs played is the German classic "Ein Prosit," translated means "A Toast!" At the conclusion of the song, make sure to give your table mates a hearty "Prost" and clink the bottom thicker part of your glass into theirs.

Since we need to contract with the restaurant with the attendance count, the last day to sign up, make changes or cancel to receive a refund, is Sunday, October 14. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the wait list.

For more information on what happens during Oktoberfest at The Phoenix Club, please check their website at www.thephoenixclub.com/oktoberfest.

- Rochelle Randel & Rich Skoczylas, Event Coordinators

"Ein Prosit!"

Gold Medal Mini-Tasting Wrap Up

Over 160 members and guests attended the Gold Medal Mini-Tasting on July 7 at nine host sites. The evening began with a Gold medal winning Viognier from Falkner Winery in Temecula and a Double-Gold Chenin Blanc from Dry Creek Vineyards (Clarksburg AVA).

The blind tasting followed with seven flights of two wines each. For additional information on more award winning wines, visit winecompetition.com. The wines covered a wide range of styles with three white pairs, one Rosé pair, and three red pairs. Several sites reported ties in their top three, and eight of the fourteen wines finished in the top three at one or more sites. The three favorite wines of the nine host sites and three others that tied for fourth are listed below:

Place	Winery Name	Year	Price	Description
1st	DeWitt Vineyards	2015	\$28	Tempranillo, Amador County, Double Gold . Three first, one second, and three third place finishes
2nd	Trentadue La Storia	2016	\$28	Zinfandel, Alexander Valley, Double Gold . Two first, two second, and one third place finishes
3rd	Carol Shelton - Black Magic	2017	\$20 375 ml	Late-harvest Zinfandel, Sonoma, Double Gold . Two first, one second, and one third place finishes
4th-tie	Sunce Winery	2016	\$30	Mission, San Francisco AVA, Gold , One first and one third place finish
4th-tie	Orange Coast Cellars	2017	\$29.99	Albarino, Double Gold , One first and three third place finishes
4th-tie	Blair Estates	2013	\$40	Pinot Noir, Arroyo Seco AVA, Double Gold , three second place finishes

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 Carol Frank & Sam Puzzo:** Kevin Coy's "Marinated Flank Steak"
- **Hosts Betty Jo & Jay Newell:** Irene Scott's "Flourless Chocolate Cake with homemade vanilla bean Ice Cream"
- **Host Linda Baumeister:** Linda Ellenburg's "Carrot Cake"
- **Hosts BJ & Tina Fornadley:** Fred Heinecke's "BBQ Tri-tip"
- **Hosts Nancy & Stephen Edwards:** Allison Snyder's "Cherry Cheesecake"
- **Hosts Marcia & James Vaughan:** Marcia Vaughan's "Peach & Blackberry Crisp"
- **Hosts Wendy & Stacey Taylor:** Bill Forsch and Noel DeSota's "Brisket and Burnt ends with 2 sauces"
- **Hosts Virginia & Karl Kawai:** Dino Amico's "Champagne Risotto"
- **Hosts Janae & Bob Unruh: (Tie)** Nancy Harman's "Chocolate Brandy Pudding Mousse shots" and Linda Crawford's "Herb Roasted Salmon"



Congratulations to all the winners! A big "thank you" to all the Hosts!

Please send your recipes to George Cravens at George@ocws.org as a possible recipe in a future Newsletter article.

- *George Cravens, Director*

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.

PO Box 11059, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Phone: 714.708.1636 ■ Fax: 714.546.5002

Website: OCWS.org ■ OCWS Facebook

Twitter: @OCWineSociety

OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor

OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk



The Wine Press

Orange County Wine Society, Inc.
PO Box 11059
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

OCWS Save the Date Calendar

Through August 12	OC Fair
September 7	OCWS Annual Business Meeting
September 9	Dine with Wine: Brunch at Newport Landing— <i>SOLD OUT</i>
September 29	“Oktoberween” themed Fall Membership BBQ
October 7	Annual Installation Dinner
October 21	Oktoberfest, Phoenix Club, Anaheim
November 30	Annual Holiday Dinner & Dance, The Atrium Hotel



www.ocws.org

