



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 43, Issue 8, August 2019

## President's Message

The OC Fair opened on Friday, July 12 and continues through Sunday, August 11. If you have not had an opportunity to get in on the "Acres of Fun" theme at the OC Fair, it is not too late. I encourage you to stop by The Courtyard and have a great time tasting the award-winning wines from the 2019 Commercial Wine Competition. A complete seminar schedule for members and the public will again be offered on Saturdays and Sundays. The Courtyard, along with the Annual Wine Auction, is our main source of income needed to sustain our non-profit organization. To those members who volunteered to work at The Courtyard this year—thank you—we cannot do it without you!

The Board of Director elections are right around the corner. Greg Hagadorn is the Election Chairman this year. Please see Greg's article below if you have any interest in declaring your candidacy for the upcoming Board term. You can help honor our Board of Directors by attending the Installation Dinner and greet the newly elected members. I encourage everyone to consider running for the OCWS Board.

The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 6, at Baja Blues. This meeting is free to all of our members and will provide an opportunity to meet the candidates running for the 2019/20 Board. The annual financial reporting and state of our OCWS organization will be detailed as well. Food and wine will be served at the end of the meeting.

Those volunteers who have earned award coupons during the previous year will be recognized at the Annual Business Meeting. The President's Award for outstanding service will also be announced at this meeting. The OCWS relies on our member volunteers, and they are rewarded for their volunteer efforts at events. Details on how members can earn one of three award levels can be found on our website under the Members' Corner, Members' Corner Info, tab entitled Volunteer Recognition Guidelines. Sign up on the website to attend this members-only event.

I hope to see you at The Courtyard.

- Bill Redding, President

## Upcoming Events:

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- October 6 ..... 6  
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- October 27 ..... 6  
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## OCWS Board of Directors: Call for Candidates



Electing new Board members is an active and ongoing process that peaks at this time of the year.

Board of Director elections are one of the most important duties, as Board members are the fiduciaries who steer the Wine Society towards a sustainable future. A Board with a high caliber of directors creates a

collaboration that produces the highest potential for innovation and progressive results.

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.

The beginning of a three-year term of the

(Continued on page 2)



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## Board of Directors: Call for Candidates

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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.

If you are telling yourself "I don't have the time," the overall time commitment for a member of the Board varies, based on assignments and participation. We have moved from having the Board manage events to having members run an 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 diverse skills and experience as well:

- Strategic planning • Accounting and finance/budget management
- Business development • Marketing • Public relations • Event planning
- Internet and social media • Membership development
- Communications • General knowledge of OCWS events and activities
- Experience as a volunteer in some events
- 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 23, 2019**.

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, at 714.388.8803 or at Greg@ocws.org.

- Greg Hagadorn, 2019 Election Chair

*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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## 2019 Courtyard at the OC Fair

By the time you read this, the 2019 OC Fair will be nearing its end. On behalf of both of us, a gigantic **Thank You, Thank You, Thank You** to the over 325 volunteer members who gave so freely of their time, energy and talent to make this year's Courtyard happen. Thank you for your response to our SOS emails (that's short for "Save Our Shifts").

And a very special **Thank You** to **Rich Skoczylas** for taking on the enormous task of scheduling all of the volunteer members. As of the date of this writing, The Courtyard is just getting underway, but things are looking really good.

- Fran Gitsham & Brian McDonald,  
The Courtyard Co-Chairs

## The Featured Winery Program August Schedule at The Courtyard

Below is the lineup of wineries scheduled to pour select wines in August during the 2019 OC Fair in a designated location, The Express Bar, located in The Courtyard from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

- Friday, August 2: Vinos Unidos, Bob Jauregui
- Saturday, August 3: Mineral Wines, Brett Keller
- Sunday, August 4: Orange Coast Winery, Peter Swanson

- Friday, August 9: Lions Peak, Jennifer Soni Arant
- Saturday, August 10: Majorca Vineyards, Larry Hudack
- Sunday, August 11: Bushong Vintage Company, Jason Bushong

We hope you will stop by and enjoy a taste or glass of wine.

- Liz & Lloyd Corbett,  
Featured Winery Program Co-chairs



LIONS PEAK 



## 2019 OC Fair Wine Seminars Scheduled at The Courtyard in August

OCWS wine seminars have been a valuable tool in understanding wine, learning about what fair foods or cheeses pair well with certain wines, and understanding wine making geared toward the mere mortal or beginner!

With the exception of our educational seminar entitled "Wine Making for Mere Mortals," a 2019 Govino Fair Logo Glass,

8 wines, and assorted snacks and food pairings will be offered at each seminar.

Our calendar of seminars scheduled during August provides a last chance opportunity to attend this year. Why wait? Sign up at The Courtyard or phone the OCWS office to reserve your spot!

Date	Class Name	Time	Host	Price
Saturday August 3	Wine Making for Mere Mortals	Noon	Kevin Donnelly	\$10
Saturday August 3	Fair Food & Wine Pairing	2:30	Ed Reyes/Fran Gitsham	\$30
Saturday August 3	Mineral Wines - OC Fair Competition Award Winning Wines	4:30	Brett Keller	\$25
Sunday August 4	Cabernet Sauvignon (Want a Big, Bold Wine ... Call a Cab)	2:30	Carolyn Christian	\$25
Sunday August 4	Pick Wines Like a Pro	4:30	Ed Reyes	\$25
Saturday August 10	Wine Making for Mere Mortals	Noon	Kevin Donnelly	\$10
Saturday August 10	Fair Food & Wine Pairing	2:30	Fran Gitsham	\$30
Saturday August 10	OC Fair Gold Medalists (Best of the Best)	4:30	Bill Redding	\$25
Sunday August 11	Summer Pool Party Wines	2:30	Irene Scott	\$25
Sunday August 11	Cheese & Wine Pairing (Perfect Pairs, Perfect Partners)	4:30	Carol Frank & Sam Puzzo	\$30

## 2019 Annual OCWS Business Meeting

2019 Annual OCWS Business Meeting  
Friday, September 6, 2019 @7:00 pm  
OC Fair & Events Center—near Gate 5  
Baja Blues Restaurant



The Annual Business Meeting, which is free to all OCWS members, will be held this year on Friday, September 6, beginning promptly at 7:00 pm and

held at Baja Blues Restaurant 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 at [ocws.org](http://ocws.org). All reservations must be received no later than Friday, August 30. 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 2018/19 OCWS Board year. Thereafter, the current OCWS Board of Directors will be available to answer

questions and listen to any comments from the general membership. Volunteer awards will be presented after the business presentations.

After presentations and OCWS question and answer session, candidates for the 2019/20 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](mailto:Greg@ocws.org).



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. If you choose to bring your own wines to this event, we ask that you please refrain from opening your wine until the meal has commenced following the end of the meeting.

The 2018/19 OCWS Board of Directors looks forward to seeing you as we review our 43<sup>rd</sup> year and look forward to the 2019/20 calendar year. The meeting is conducted in accordance with OCWS Bylaws and government regulations for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

- *Bill Redding, President*

## Fall Membership BBQ & Chili Cook Off

Fall 2019 Membership BBQ  
Saturday, September 21, 2019  
2:30 pm to 7:00 pm  
at The Courtyard on the OC Fairgrounds  
THE RETURN OF THE CHILI COOK OFF



Enjoy the competitors' homemade chili, accompanied by a BBQ menu provided by the Cooks Caucus, wine, beer, live band, and dancing!

For this to be a success, we will need about 20 members willing to "take the challenge" and put their homemade chili up against their peers in a competition judged by culinary professionals. Prizes will be awarded for winners in each category listed below, assuming sufficient entrants:

- Best Traditional Chili – with beans
- Best Traditional Chili – without beans
- Best Vegetarian Chili

- Best Chili Using Wine
- Best Chili Submitted by a New Member
- Members Choice (voted on by those in attendance)
- Best Decorated Work / Presentation Area

All chili entrants will receive free admission to this event for themselves and one additional teammate, plus a free bottle of wine as a thank you for participating. (You might also win an award if your chili wins one of the categories!) Please read the "Chili Cook Off Rules" located on the OCWS website under "Events."



Those interested in competing, please contact the Event Chair as soon as possible for additional details at [Terry@ocws.org](mailto:Terry@ocws.org) or at 714.345.3505. Remember, sign-ups accepted on a first-come basis as space is limited!

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## Fall Membership BBQ & Chili Cook Off

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For those who aren't interested in competing and only want to 'taste' the chili, enjoy the BBQ food, good wine, delicious beer and listen to and dance to the live band, your admission price will be \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members.

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, clean-up, chili 'runners' to assist the judges, food serving, wine serving, check-in, and a few floaters for those miscellaneous tasks that occur.

You can sign up to volunteer when you register for the event on the OCWS website. Looking forward to seeing you there!

- Terry McLean, Event Chair

## Winemakers Newsroom

The Winemakers' Group ended June with a double-header.



On Saturday, June 29, we received some advanced winemaking training from François Cordesse, Winemaker at Francis Ford Coppola Winery. The information and education we received was fabulous, and the 15 of us who attended took away several new tricks for our toolbox. Thanks, François!

On Sunday, June 30, we attended our Spring Quarterly Meeting at the beautiful home of Robin McCormick! Thanks to Robin for hosting us again and providing us with a backdrop overlooking the Pacific Ocean on a perfect and beautiful day.

**Upcoming.** We are now collecting information about our upcoming Group Grape Purchase and should have information very soon on varietals, AVAs, and pricing for various white and red wine grapes. Stay tuned!

**Home Wine Competition Display in The Courtyard.** Our

new Home Wine Competition Display is assembled and standing tall during the 2019 OC Fair!



Thanks to Rob Romano, David Rutledge, Eddie Petros, and Rich Skoczylas for helping assemble the display, and to Ken Scott for creating the new beautiful banner!

**A Call to Action.** Mark your calendars for Tuesday, August 13 when I will be reaching out to seek volunteers to disassemble the display and place it into storage for use next year.



If you have any questions, contact Kevin at [KevinDonnelly@ocws.org](mailto:KevinDonnelly@ocws.org) or by phone at 714.457.7229. Cheers!

- Kevin Donnelly

## Welcome New Members



The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the following new members was approved by the Board of Directors

at the July 8 meeting:

Beckie & Jim Splittgerber; Ed Kerins; Theresa King & Ted Reynolds; Russell Babcock; Susan Bristol; Jeannie & David Williamson; Angela & Darryl Jones; Megan & Chris Caporicci; Lizette Galvan-Perez & James Perez; Alexandra Schriff; Bonnie Sala; Bob Jauregui; and Ellen Polsky.

As of July 1, the OCWS had 1,024 members.

**New Member Info.** If you are thinking about attending an event and are not sure how to dress, what to bring, how it works, or just want someone to meet and greet, please reach out to any member of the Board of Directors, feel free to phone

Brian directly at 714.227.7284, or email the "New Member Hotline" at [Brian@ocws.org](mailto:Brian@ocws.org).

## Save the Date: New Member Mixer

The Board of Directors has *tentatively* scheduled a New Member Mixer for Sunday, September 29 (subject to space availability). It will be held from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Wine and water will be served together with light appetizers.

This will be a *free event* and is open to members who have joined after June 1, 2019. This is a terrific opportunity to meet other new members, the Board of Directors, and learn how to get the most out of your OCWS membership.

The event is not yet posted online, but it will require an RSVP if you plan to attend.

- Brian McDonald,  
Director and Membership Chair

## Champagne Brunch by the Beach

Champagne Brunch by the Beach  
Sunday, September 15, 2019  
11:00 am—2:00 pm  
BLK Earth Sea Spirits  
300 Pacific Coast Hwy  
Huntington Beach



BLK is one of the newer restaurants in Surf City, Huntington Beach which opened in the summer of 2015. It is located on Pacific Coast Highway, on the second floor across the street from the Huntington Beach Pier. We will enjoy Brunch on the restaurant's large terrace with an awesome panoramic view of the beach, ocean and pier.

The price for this Brunch is \$49 for members and \$54 for guests. This price includes tax, gratuity and validated

parking for two hours in the Underground Parking Garage. Sign up on the OCWS website to attend this event. Space is limited; when it fills up, contact the OCWS office to be placed on the waitlist.

**Cancellations/Waitlist.** Because we need to contract with the restaurant the attendance count, the last day to sign up, make changes or cancel and receive a refund is Friday, September 6. Any cancellations after this date would be filled and refunded from the waitlist.

Includes:  
Bottomless Champagne/Mimosas  
Traditional Breakfast Buffet  
Made to Order Waffles, Omelets  
& Eggs Benedict  
Fruit & Pasta Salads  
Seafood Station, including a variety of  
Fresh Fish & Shellfish  
An Assortment of Main Dishes  
A Carving Station

Each person should:

1. Bring a bottle of your favorite Champagne or wine
2. Bring your Champagne and/or wine glasses
3. Wear your OCWS nametag
4. Drink Responsibly

**Underground Parking:** The entrance to the underground parking structure for BLK is located on the south side of Walnut Ave., between Main St. and 2nd St., directly across from 3rd St. To access the restaurant from the garage, take the elevator directly to the second floor. Your parking ticket will be validated for two hours in *this* garage only. There is also a separate parking garage on the north side of Walnut and 3rd St. that does *not* take validation.

- Mel Jay, Event Chair  
- Rochelle Randel, Co-chair

## Save the Date for Exciting Upcoming Events

Annual Installation Dinner  
Sunday, October 6, 2019 @ 5:30 pm  
Avenue of the Arts Hotel

3350 Avenue of the Arts, Costa Mesa, CA



This is an exclusive event that provides our members with the opportunity to welcome the newly elected Board of Directors and also to honor the outgoing Board members for their hard work, dedication, and leadership during their terms.

The evening will begin with a beautiful lakeside reception to allow members to mingle prior to dinner. The Wine Society will provide wines selected from the OCWS cellar to accompany the meal. Members are also welcome to bring a bottle of their own wine. Details are being finalized and will be available on the OCWS website and in the September edition of the Wine Press.

- Leslie Hodowanec, Event Chair  
- Rich Skoczylas, Co-chair

Champagne Brunch & Oktoberfest

Sunday, October 27, 2019

Brunch—11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Oktoberfest—Noon - 5:00 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. Brunch will be held in The Grand Ballroom. The Oktoberfest will be in the large tent outside, where the OCWS will have tables reserved for our group. Mark the date on your calendar to attend this festive event! **Prosit!**

- Mel Jay, Event Chair  
- Rochelle Randel, Co-chair

## Gold Medal Mini-Tasting Recap

Over 180 members and guests attended the July 6 Gold Medal Mini-Tasting at 10 host sites. This may have been the best attended mini-tasting we have held. The line-up of wines included two from our Wine Society members - Big Nose Sauvignon Blanc (Double Gold) and Dewitt Syrah - Gold medal winner.

The blind tasting included seven flights of two wines each. The flights covered Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Barbera, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Malbec, and Zinfandel. Twelve of the 14 wines finished in the top three at one or more sites. The favorite wines of the 10 host sites are listed below:

Place	Winery & Wine Name	Year	Price	Description
1st	Vino Vargas—Matador Malbec	2017	\$38.00	90 pt. Gold. Two first place, one second place, one fourth, two fifth place finishes
2nd	Perrucci Family—Estate Malbec	2014	\$36.00	92 pt. Gold. Two first place, two second, one third place finishes
3rd - tie	Macchia—Righteous Barrel-aged Barbera	2017	\$26.00	95 pt. Double Gold. Three first, one third place finishes
3rd - tie	Halter Ranch—Cabernet Sauvignon; Adelaida District	2016	\$40.00	90 pt. Gold, one first, one third place finishes
5th - tie	Dewitt—Estate Syrah	2016	\$30.00	90 pt. Gold, One first, three third place finishes
5th - tie	Sculpterra—Bentley Ironworks Cabernet Sauvignon	2016	\$60.00	91 pt. Gold, one first, one second place finishes



Visit [WineCompetition.com](http://WineCompetition.com) for additional information on more award-winning wines.

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:



- Hosts Gisella & Greg Brett: Jim Burk "Beef Braised with Onions & Wine"

- Hosts Chris & Hank Bruce: Bob &

Judy Koeblitz "Chicken Marsala"

- Hosts Nancy & Stephen Edwards: Bob Topham & Beverly Genis "Pork Loin & Sauce"

- Hosts Carol Frank & Sam Puzzo: Lloyd & Liz Corbett "Chicken Divan with Rice"
- Host Julie Good: Natassia Ta "Vietnamese Spring Rolls"
- Hosts Else & Don Phillips: Kathy Kampman "Rumaki"
- Hosts Ronna & Craig Rowe: Yale Finkle "Kuegel"
- Hosts Pat & Frank Solis: Linda Shepard "Chocolate-Cherry Cheesecake"
- Hosts Wendy & Stacey Taylor: Rob & Germaine Romano "Tilapia Veracruz"
- Hosts Marcia & James Vaughan: Cheryl Bell "Summer Berry Tiramisu"

Congratulations to all the winners and a big thank you to the Hosts!

- *George Cravens, 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](mailto:WinePress@ocws.org).

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Orange County Wine Society, Inc.  
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### **OCWS Save the Date Calendar**

Through August 11	OC Fair
August 12	The Courtyard Tear Down
September 6	Annual Business Meeting
September 15	Champagne Brunch at BLK
September 21	Fall 2019 Membership BBQ & Chili Cook Off
September 29	New Member Mixer (tentative date)
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October 27	Oktoberfest at The Phoenix Club



[www.ocws.org](http://www.ocws.org)

