



The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 44, Issue 5, May 2020

President's Message

As we all struggle during these difficult times to maintain a sense of normalcy, it is difficult to know what to say. It is my hope that you and your families are doing well and staying connected. Cisco's WebEx, Zoom, and FaceTime are now part of everyone's experience.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OCWS staff, Directors, Event Chairs, and Committees who work diligently to keep our organization going. The commitment and dedication to this organization is truly inspiring. The challenges we have faced in these past weeks have been met and the best outcomes possible have been achieved. As an organization, we are determined to come back with renewed enthusiasm when we return to our event schedules.

Phone calls to wineries and wine judges have conveyed how important our organization is to the California wine industry. A frequent comment from them is that they "love" our organization and all we do to support them. I have received numerous emails and notices from wineries, many that are among my favorites, letting me know they are still open for business through online sales. In fact, many wineries are currently offering discounts and offers of free or reduced shipping.



If you are able to visit your favorite wineries online and support them by purchasing wine, the wineries would appreciate it, and I am sure everyone could use some additional wine right now! Not every winery has the ability to distribute their wines on a large scale and sales "out the door" are vital to their survival.

The OCWS winecompetition.com web address can provide not only the winery name, but has each winery website linked to their listing. This is a good way to support the wineries that support our Commercial Wine Competition.

At the virtual April BOD meeting, the Board unanimously approved a 4-month extension of membership terms, and also committed to working on ways to keep our members connected and to provide innovative activities for our members. Please stay tuned as these concepts develop.

Please remember to stay safe, drink some really good wine from your cellar, and wash your hands!

Cheers,

- Bill Redding, President

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Winemakers Newsroom

It certainly has been a “different” April and appears to be about the same for May due to the many restrictions caused by the COVID-19 virus, the “stay-at-home” directive, and the closure of the OC Fairgrounds through the end of May, at least.

As a result, it is with great disappointment that the Winemakers’ Leadership Group, in agreement with the OCWS Board and the OC Fair & Event Center, has decided to cancel this year’s Home Wine Competition, as well as the Quarterly Meeting scheduled to take place in May.

Group Bottle & Cork Purchases. We will be publishing information on the group bottle and cork purchases soon.



We are not sure how the import restrictions and tariffs will affect us, but other vendors will face the same issues. When we get the information, I will distribute questionnaires to inquire who wants bottles and corks from the



group, so be on the lookout for my emails in the next few weeks.



In the interim, our 2019 wines are still aging and only getting better! Happy sheltering, and happy winemaking everyone.

If you have any questions regarding the Winemakers’ Group, contact Kevin at 714.457.7229 or by email at Kevindonnelly@ocws.org.

- Kevin Donnelly

Mini-Tasting: Rhône Wines



The Rhone Mini-Tasting event scheduled for Saturday, May 2, is officially cancelled, and we are working on processing refunds for those members that had already signed up.

We are exploring ideas for Mini-Tastings that might be possible once we are able to hold at least small events. Please look for updates in future newsletters. Stay safe.

- 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.

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Membership: Important Notice to All OCWS Members

The OCWS Board of Directors hopes this message finds you in good health, in good spirits and secure during this unprecedented time in our lives. We appreciate your support as we navigate the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 outbreak and its effect on our operations.

All OCWS events in the recent months and in the months ahead have been cancelled due to the California Governor's "stay-at-home" order. We will resume our events when they can be held in a safe environment for our members and in accordance with local, state and federal directives and guidelines. Our top priority remains the well-being and safety of all our members.

Since all OCWS events have been suspended, the Board has

approved extending every member's expiration date by four months. If you have already paid your dues, we are sorry but there will be no refunds; however, your expiration date will still be advanced by four months.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the OCWS Membership Chair, Brian McDonald, at Brian@ocws.org or by phone at 714.227.7284.

Stay safe everyone!

- Brian McDonald, Director and Membership Chair

membership DUES INFORMATION

The Courtyard at the 2020 OC Fair Portal

At mid-month last month, when this article was written, we were all still thinking, "What are we doing and where are we going at this point with the 2020 OC Fair?" The answer was,

"We are following a moving target, and no one knows for sure." However, the OCFEC has announced an emergency meeting of their Board of

Directors to be held on April 27 specifically for the purpose of voting on whether or not to cancel the 2020 OC Fair. By the time you read this, our questions should be answered, and we will look to proceed according to the OC Fair's instructions. Needless to say, until we have been directed by the OCFEC one way or the other, we will be delaying volunteer sign-ups until further notice.

Thank you for your understanding and for hanging in there during these tenuous times. I urge you all to please take care of you and yours, find blessings in your lives for which to be grateful during this strange, weird time and drink great wine!

- Fran Gitsham, Courtyard Chair

Alcohol Server Training for The Courtyard: Cancelled

As many of you have heard, all TIPs classes scheduled in the Admin Bldg. have been cancelled due to the OCFEC abiding by the stay-at-home order. We are working on options as it will still be a requirement to be TIPs certified. We are also waiting for directions based on the outcome of the OCFEC April 27 meeting. Thank you for your patience and continued support of the Orange County Wine Society.

*- Rochelle Randel & Marcy Ott,
2020 OCWS Courtyard Committee*



OCWS Annual Wine Auction



As I informed the membership last month, the Annual Wine Auction which was scheduled to

take place in April was cancelled by the Orange County Fair & Event Center due to restrictions in place at the OC Fairgrounds.

As this issue goes to print, we are waiting for additional information to determine a future date for the Annual Wine Auction. My apologies for not being able to provide more details at this time.

- Bill Redding, Cellar Master

Wine Education 101: Get to know the Alsace Wine Region



As members of the Orange County Wine Society, we often find ourselves drinking California produced wines. These wines are wonderfully delicious and understandably our favorite wines. But as true wine lovers,

we should become familiar with wines from other countries, different wine styles, and sample some unfamiliar wine varietals. International wine regions usually have a very long, rich history of wine culture that is often mostly unchanged still today.

This month, I challenge you to learn about, and hopefully experience, the wines of the Alsace wine region in France. Many of you may not have heard of this region as it is often overshadowed

by its more famous neighbors, Champagne, Bordeaux, Burgundy, and the Rhone Valley. But Alsace offers up a diverse culture and rich wine history. Wild vines were thriving in this area long before the domestication of the vine by Romans. The earliest documented wine shipments from this area date back to 2 AD. Alsace has a diverse culture and a wide array of varietals in their own unique style. Read about Alsace and then experience some of their wines as you compare them to our California versions. Continue reading about Alsace on the OCWS website at: <https://ocws.org/category/wine-education/>.



- Irene Scott, WSET-3 - Wine Education Chair

New Member Portal



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

April 2020 meeting: *Delores Alpert and George Euen*

As of April 1, the Wine Society had 1,051 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.

New Member Mixer



A New Member Mixer was scheduled for June 28. At this point in time, this event is **cancelled**.

Since the event cannot be safely held on Sunday, June 28 in accordance with federal, state and

local orders, the New Member Mixer will be rescheduled to another date.

Thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented time.

- Brian McDonald, Director and Membership Chair

OCWS Office Hours



In accordance with the OC Fair & Event Center, our office has temporarily been moved offsite.

If you need to contact someone, we suggest you please

email us at Office@ocws.org.

We are working remotely and will pick up your messages from home and redirect them. Our offsite hours are 9 am to

2 pm Monday through Friday.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.



- Lynda Edwards & Rochelle Randel,
Office Administrators

OCWS Board of Directors: Call for Candidates

It's one of the strangest years yet!

With that being said, it's time to think about running for the OCWS Board of Directors. We may not be able to socialize with each other due to distancing directives, but the planning goes on.

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.

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. We have two members that cannot run again so two positions will need to be filled by new members.



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

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, 2020 Election Chair

- Leslie Brown, 2020 Election Committee Member

- Jolen Zeroski, 2020 Election Committee Member

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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OCWS Save the Date Calendar

- May 2 Mini-Tasting: Rhone Wines—Cancelled
- May 8 Winery Program: ZD Wines—Cancelled
- May 14 Wine Education Seminar:
US Wine Regions and Wines—Cancelled
- May 16 Spring Event: The Great OCWS Bake Off & BBQ—Cancelled
- May 30-31 Commercial Wine Competition—Cancelled
- June 13 Home Wine Competition—Cancelled
- June 28 New Member Mixer—Cancelled
- July 17 -
August 16 Orange County Fair



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