



# The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.

Volume 44, Issue 9, September 2020

## President's Message

It is my sincere hope that everyone is staying safe, staying busy, and drinking great wines!

I am pleased to report that at the August BOD meeting, it was unanimously approved to extend all memberships an additional four months.

In last month's issue of *The Wine Press*, I highlighted some of our virtual seminar offerings. We hope you have enjoyed the offerings during July and August which have been produced by our members: Ed Reyes, Carolyn Christian, Ken Knapp, Sara Yeoman, and Kevin Donnelly. Thank you all for such an outstanding job!

If you missed attending a virtual seminar, they have been uploaded on our website, and you can locate them after signing in and

this article we have five members who have submitted their intent to run for the Board of Directors. You can find their candidate statements on our website.

## HEAR THE CANDIDATES IN THEIR OWN VOICES

The candidates will also be providing a brief statement at the "Annual Business Meeting" as required per Article 6 of our By-laws. The 2020 Annual Business Meeting will be held on Friday, September 11. Due to gathering restrictions currently in place, the meeting will be held "virtually." The announcement for signups for this meeting was sent out via email and posted on the ocws.org website. As a reminder, for those with a dual membership only one individual needs to sign up to attend this meeting.

According to our By-laws, the Board of Director election must be held three weeks from the Annual Business Meeting. This year, we will be conducting the election electronically. A ballot will be sent out to members after the September 11 meeting.

Please be sure to update your email address to a current and valid email address using the edit profile feature on the OCWS website. More information on the electronic voting process and what you can expect can be found under the Electronic Voting article contained in this newsletter.

Cheers,

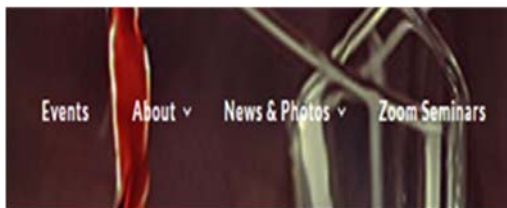
- Bill Redding, President

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clicking Zoom Seminars. Simply locate the seminar you missed, click on the name of the seminar, and watch the ones you missed . . . or watch them again!

The OCWS Winery Program is also making plans to conduct programs virtually. On September 20, we will be featuring ZD Wines. More details are provided in this month's newsletter. Thanks to Rich Skoczylas and Leslie Hodowanec for your efforts.

I am very pleased to see that as I am writing



**Bill Redding**  
**President**  
 Bill@ocws.org



**Ken Scott**  
**Vice President**  
 Ken@ocws.org



**Mel Jay**  
**Treasurer**  
 Mel@ocws.org



**George Cravens**  
**Secretary**  
 George@ocws.org



**Leslie Hodowanec**  
**Director**  
 Les@ocws.org



**Brian McDonald**  
**Director**  
 Brian@ocws.org



**Linda Mihalik**  
**Director**  
 Linda@ocws.org



**Rich Skoczylas**  
**Director**  
 Rich@ocws.org



**Sara Yeoman**  
**Director**  
 Sara@ocws.org

## Winemakers Newsroom

The Winemakers' Group has been busy. Our members will be going crazy the next few months, bottling their wines to make room for the new grapes from the upcoming crush season. To prepare for this, our group bottle purchase just delivered over 500 cases of Bordeaux, Burgundy, Flint and "375" bottles to our members, saving them over \$8 per case.



**Virtual Kit Wine Making Recap.** On August 8, we completed a five-week course on "Kit Wine Making" over *Zoom*, taught by Karyl Newton, during which viewers made their own kit wines at home. Thanks to Karyl for a great course!

**Virtual Filtering, Fining and Bottling Recap.** Kevin delivered his "Filtering, Fining and Bottling" seminar over *Zoom* to the general OCWS membership who attended.

Although we cannot conduct our Quarterly Meetings during these crazy times, we're still keeping the Winemakers' Group alive.

**It's coming, it's coming!** New grapes are coming, and we just announced our 2020 group grape purchase! This year we will be offering six varieties of grapes, all delivered for under \$2 per pound, including Merlot, Zinfandel, and Cabernet Sauvignon, and new offerings of Petite Sirah, Dolcetto and Cabernet Franc. We will also be offering Chardonnay and Rosé of Malbec juices, both ready to ferment!



As a new service, we will be adding in packaged yeast and additives, well suited for each varietal. Thanks to Bill Forsch and Bruce Powers for coordinating with the vineyards.



For more information, contact Kevin at the below email. Happy winemaking everyone.

- Kevin Donnelly

*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

## 2020 OCWS Virtual Annual Business Meeting



As we have anticipated to be the case, the 2020 OCWS Annual Business Meeting will take place in a virtual Zoom platform this year. The Annual Business Meeting will take place on Friday, September 11, beginning promptly at 7 pm and lasting approximately one hour. There is no limitation on the number of members who may attend; however, the meeting is strictly for members only. Sign-up for the Annual Business Meeting will be available through the OCWS website or by "email invitation" utilizing Constant Contact. To accommodate all OCWS members, please remember sign-ups should be limited to a single household.

This is the most important member meeting of the OCWS year. The Agenda will offer an overview of the year's activities, the financial summary of the 2019/2020 Board year, and looking ahead in these unprecedented times.

Speakers scheduled to present will be: Bill Redding, President; Mel Jay, Treasurer; Charles English, OCWS Accountant; Kevin Donnelly, Winemakers' Group Chair; and Greg Hagadorn, 2020 Election Chair.

After the presentation, Greg will introduce the individuals who have declared their Board candidacy. Each candidate will have a brief opportunity to introduce themselves and present their interests and objectives for the next Board term – 2020-2023.

Member attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions through the "chat" option on the Zoom platform. At the end of the presentation, all member questions will be directed to the presenters to read and answer.

The 2019/2020 OCWS Board of Directors look forward to seeing you as we review our 44th year and look forward to the 2020/2021 calendar year.

The meeting is conducted in accordance with OCWS Bylaws and government regulations for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

*- Bill Redding, President*

**MEET  
the  
CANDIDATES**

## Membership Update



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 August

10 meeting: Lorra & Gordon Dickinson; Sandra & Dennis Priest, and Kelly Reins & Dimitry Zelenyuk.

As of August 1, the OCWS had 1,064 members.

## Membership Expiration Date Extension

NEW MEMBERS: 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 or email the NEW MEMBER HOTLINE at [Brian@ocws.org](mailto:Brian@ocws.org) or call me at 714.227.7284.

*- Brian McDonald,  
Director & Membership Chair*

As everyone is aware, due to COVID-19, the OCWS has been restricted from hosting any in-person membership events since our February monthly meeting. While we have adapted to hosting weekly wine education seminars virtually during the summer months and will continue to do so going into the fall and winter, the Board understands and appreciates it is unable to offer the same level of activity for our members as we have provided pre-COVID-19.

However, we would appreciate everyone taking a moment to log into your account and confirm your expiration date. If you feel your expiration date is incorrect, please contact me immediately. We have an election coming up which will be done electronically. Only those who are current members as of September 11 will be entitled to vote. We want to make sure everyone who should be a current member is sent an electronic ballot so that their vote can be cast.

*- Brian McDonald,  
Director & Membership Chair*

**EXPIRATION  
DATE: / /**

## 2020 Board of Director Elections: Electronic Voting

In 2017, the Board of Directors approved electronic voting for a contested Board of Director election using an online election platform. This year we will be utilizing electionrunner.com as our voting software program. Electronic voting would only be used if there are more than three members who have filed a Declaration of Candidacy within the prescribed period.



This year, we have a contested election and wanted to provide you with a little background and a refresher on how the process will work.

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 in the OCWS membership list, 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, October 2.
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 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, October 2.

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 electionrunner.com identifying it as being the OCWS ballot. It will have a link to the electionrunner.com OCWS portal with a log in and password. Click on the link, you will be directed to the list of candidates, their pictures, and a link that will allow you to see their candidate statements.

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.



At the end of the day on Friday, October 2, the Chair of the Elections Committee will receive a notification from electionrunner.com indicating the number of votes cast for each candidate.

We will also be counting any hard ballots received by Sunday, October 4 and forwarding the results of the election to the President of the OCWS. The President will announce the results to the candidates and then publish the results to the membership.

We will be submitting the database of qualified members to electionrunner.com by Friday, September 11. 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.

*- Greg Hagadorn, 2020 Election Chair  
- Leslie Brown, 2020 Election Committee Member  
- Jolen Zeroski, 2020 Election Committee Member*

## OCWS Virtual Winery Program with ZD Wines

The OCWS Virtual Winery Program presents its first program on Sunday, September 20 at 3 pm featuring ZD Wines. ZD Wines is a Rutherford winery in the Napa Valley on the Silverado Trail. The Wine Society is excited to present winemaker Chris Pisani who will tell us about ZD Wines and discuss the quality, consistency, and style of several ZD wines that can be ordered in advance to taste



during the program. Chris has been one of our Commercial Wine Competition judges for several years. He grew up in a big Italian family and learned to appreciate the very aspects that make Napa Valley so memorable: amazing people, interesting history, incredible wine, and delectable food.

Founded in 1969, ZD Wines is owned and operated by the deLeuze family. ZD Wines is a family business that is committed to producing world-class wines, farming organically, and providing first-class hospitality to guests, all while supporting many charitable efforts locally and throughout the country. This year they celebrate 50 years of winemaking, with the second and third generations of the deLeuze family carrying on the family legacy. It has been nearly 10 years since we have had ZD do a tasting for us.

**Virtual Winery Program Invitation and Wine Order.** Several weeks prior to the virtual tasting, you will receive an email inviting you to participate. When you elect to participate in this virtual tasting, you will be eligible to order the wines that will be featured during the event. You will receive a *special Code* to order directly from the ZD Wines' website. Your wine order will need to be placed by September 15 in order for the wines to be received in time for the seminar on September 20. After you sign up to attend, you will receive confirmation to attend and be prompted to download the *Zoom* software if you have not already done so to attend previous OCWS virtual seminars. If you have not downloaded the *Zoom* software application, you should download this program in advance of the tasting event. On the day and time of the ZD Wines event, simply click on the link "Click Here to Join" from your confirmation of attendance email and the software will automatically connect you. (Note - see information in this newsletter on using the *Zoom* software application.)



- Leslie Hodowanec, Director

- Rich Skoczylas, Director & Winery Program Chair

## My Victory Dance for Winning Gold in our Wine Competitions

Gilded Ribbon Dance, by Kevin Donnelly

When the grapes out in the vineyard have been trimmed down to the branch

There's a risk of getting mildew, I don't want to take the chance

So I spray the vines with sulfur and I treat the vines for ants

Cause I want to end the season doing the gilded Ribbon Dance!

When the crushers and the presses and the grapes they do combine

And I start to racking juices while attempting to make wine

When the competition's pending and I want my wine to shine

Then I've got to get a-moving so gold ribbons will be mine!

When the must has been fermented and the wine is tasting bold

There's a chance I'll have to wait a while, it's better I've been told

To let it age a year in oak, so I put the wine on hold

I hate to wait, not a patient man, but I'm going for the gold!

I tried to race the clock one time and it ended up a waste

So I threw away that batch of plonk in order to save face

Now I've learned to have some patience, this is not a time for haste

And I'll dance that dance when I win the gold, and we'll all enjoy the taste.

And now the gold is on the wall and I can see the gain

That all the time I spent on wine has not been spent in vain.

It really is a lot of work, but every now and then

I want to dance the Ribbon Dance once more, and I start all over again.



## A Refresher on Using Zoom for Virtual Winery Programs



The host of the OCWS virtual wine event initiates an e-blast informing members of an upcoming seminar. The e-blast identifies the seminar event, date and time, and shows a sign up bar (link) for members to click and fill out. Once you have filled out the information, an email confirming your attendance will be sent to you from *Zoom*—please be sure to check your junk/spam folders if you didn't receive a confirmation email.

Later you will receive another email providing you with everything you need to know about the event and how to access the *Zoom* event with a “Click Here to Join” link. It also provides a password, which is unique to you so that the event cannot be accessed by others—it is member specific.

Members also have the option of using a landline or cell phone to dial in to the event using the dial in numbers shown, the webinar identification number, and password. If this option is selected (not using your computer), you will not be able to view any presentations—you will only be able to listen to the audio of the event taking place.

Remember, you do not have to have a Zoom account to attend, you will be prompted to download the software once you click the link that you have been provided, utilizing your personal computer. For demonstration purposes only, below is a screen shot of how to join the event, which will be located midway in each seminar registration email. Each registration email will be different, so please do not rely on the password contained below:

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

[Click Here to Join](#)

Note: This link should not be shared with others; it is unique to you.

Password: 769944

Reprinted from and thanks to Director, Sara Yeoman

- Leslie Hodowanec, Director

- Rich Skoczylas, Director & Winery Program Chair

## Wine Education 101: What is a Wine Flaw or Fault?

Most often, we open a bottle of wine and are greeted with wonderful aromas and flavors that delight our senses and taste buds. However, on a rare occasion and sometimes in home winemaking, we encounter less than pleasant aromas and tastes. Are these considered wine flaws or wine faults – and what is the difference? What we would most like to know is how to identify these and what causes them.

To start with, let's understand the difference between a *wine flaw* and a *wine fault*. A wine flaw is an imperfection in the

tional aroma or flavor, or color that is slightly off from expectations for that varietal. These are all considered *wine flaws* because they are not considered normal for the wine type but they are minor enough that the wine is *still drinkable*.

On the other hand, a *wine fault* is a major deviance from the normal characteristic of the wine and causes it to be *undrinkable*. A wine that has developed cork taint is usually so pungent that the wine is undrinkable. Likewise, a wine that has developed high volatile acidity (VA) will be so sharp and acidic that it too is undrinkable. These are both examples of *wine faults*.



To understand how to identify some of these wine flaws and faults, and understand what causes them, continue reading at: <https://ocws.org/category/wine-education/>.

- Irene Scott, WSET-3, CSWS

UC Davis Winemaking Certificate 2020  
OCWS Wine Education Chair



wine, such as a slight off-odor, minor cloudiness, bubbles or small particles in the wine. A wine flaw might also include an imbalance with acidity/sweetness, short finish, lack of excep-

## Wine Education 101: Stay Tuned for More Classes!



Many members have enjoyed our previous in-person OCWS Wine Education classes in 2019 and early 2020. Unfortunately, we had to postpone our remaining 2020 in-person classes due to COVID-19. Since

the COVID-19 situation is still uncertain, we are going to continue our classes in the *webinar* format until the time comes when we can hold these classes in person again. Here are some wine education classes that you can look forward to:

- November 8, 2020 (Sunday @ 3 pm): *PAIRING WINES WITH YOUR HOLIDAY MEALS*—Learn about the 5 basic food tastes and how they impact the taste of your holiday food.
- December 6, 2020 (Sunday @ 3 pm): *CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS WITH SPARKLING WINE*—Discover different sparkling wines with which you can celebrate the upcoming holidays.
- January 10, 2021 (Sunday @ 3 pm): *HOW TO TASTE WINE*—Learn how to identify the aromas and flavors in your wine.



- February 7, 2021 (Sunday @ 3 pm): *WINES OF SPAIN*—Learn about the history of Spanish winemaking, their regions and their wines.

- March 7, 2021 (Sunday @ 3 pm): *BORDEAUX – WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?*—Learn what makes Bordeaux wines some of the most sought after in the world.
- April 11, 2021 (Sunday @ 3 pm): *JUDGE WINE LIKE A PRO*—Learn how wine professionals and judges evaluate a wine for its quality.



- May 2, 2021 (Sunday @ 3 pm): *AMERICAN WINE REGIONS AND THEIR WINES*—Explore the different wine regions in America, its wines and

native grape varieties.

After the 2021 summer wine competitions and OC Fair events are done, we can expect more OCWS Wine Education classes to resume in September 2021. Please note that the above topics and dates are subject to change. Additional details will be announced one month prior to class.

If you have any questions or any class suggestions, please contact me at [irene@ocws.org](mailto:irene@ocws.org).

- Irene Scott, WSET-3, CSWS  
UC Davis Winemaking Certificate 2020  
OCWS Wine Education Chair

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*The Wine Press* welcomes input from the OCWS membership.

Forward comments, questions, and suggestions to [WinePress@ocws.org](mailto:WinePress@ocws.org).

Editor-in-Chief: Linda Mihalik

Contributing Writers: Board of Directors, Kevin Donnelly, Greg Hagadorn, Irene Scott

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

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## *The Wine Press*

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

### **OCWS Save the Date Calendar**

- September 11 Virtual Annual Business Meeting
- September 20 Virtual Winery Program: ZD Wines
- October Virtual Winery Program: Eberle Winery



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

