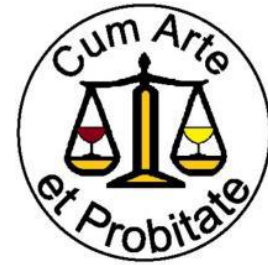


REPORT OF GUILD MASTER
June 9, 2019
Nanaimo, BC



As many of you may know, I am not seeking re-election this year as Guild Master. I will take this opportunity to recap some of what your Guild Executive members have achieved during my tenure.

When I was first elected two years ago, there were several issues that members wished to have addressed:

1. The need to increase the quality of the monthly presentation notes;
2. The lack of “quality” wines being included in the monthly tastings;
3. The distribution of wine class presentations seemed “unfair” . . . meaning that the responsibility for the preparation of “prime” tastings seemed unevenly shared amongst the 3 Chapters;
4. Find a way to assist members in becoming qualified in more classes;
5. Be mindful of the financial restrictions of each Chapters’ treasury;
6. The lack of qualified Judges in the Chilliwack area; (Rick Homer, as Guild Educator, to address)
7. The need for more education to be made available to our members (Rick Homer to address)

The monthly presentations during these past 2 years, I believe, have been of good caliber. The notes were very educational (our thanks to the volunteer mentors).

As well, the wines selected for monthly tasting have, for the most part, been representational of the range from no-medal to gold medal. Also, the monthly budget for wine purchases was increased for certain classes to ensure members were exposed to better wines.

Bill Wyngaards and I have collaborated each year in determining which flights needed to be placed on the roster for the tasting year; ensuring that our members have fair exposure to the various classes. We also selected classes based on members’ needs for particular tastings, due to them being close to qualification. All the while, keeping in mind, that each Chapter be responsible for the same number of “prime” tastings and not-so-popular tastings.

At a more basic level, we have also worked diligently to ensure that all 3 Chapters were using tasting glasses approved by the Guild and using pouring spouts . . . the purpose of which was to ensure that the participants in all 3 Chapters were having similar tasting experiences to increase consistency . . . which results in the determination of more “standard” wines being achieved at the monthly tastings. This would help members become qualified in more classes.

During my term as Guild Master our members have also been provided with acid adjustment kits for their use when judging at competitions; which, in turn, helps the judges provide additional feedback to the winemaker where necessary.

In an effort to be mindful of financial restrictions of each Chapters' treasury, the presenters have worked diligently to arrange, whenever possible, free delivery of wines from one Chapter to another. I know that the Victoria Chapter in particular has been very grateful for these efforts.

Time and energy were expended in discussions at several Executive Meetings with the Past Guild Master regarding our Guild potentially hosting and supporting a commercial wine competition; specifically for the BC fruit wine makers. After a number of discussions between the past Guild Master and contacts in the fruit wine industry, it was determined that the fruit growers in BC were not sufficiently organized to participate in such a competition. For the time being, it was determined that this issue be put to rest until a time when the BC fruit wine makers were sufficiently organized to support a commercial wine competition.

My sincere thanks to John Matkovich, our Treasurer, for continuing to maintain our finances responsibly and for keeping us in the black. Also, thanks to Bill Huva for doing a great job in recording our meetings (the Executive meetings as well as the AGM). Thank you to Bill Wyngaards for diligently keeping track of our monthly statistics and to Sam Hauck for being the keeper of our website.

Special thanks to Rick Homer, as our Guild Educator, for donating hundreds of hours to develop our new Accelerated Wine Judge Certification course. This was done with significant input from Axel Kroitzsch. My thanks to both of these gentlemen for donating their time and energy.

My thanks to Rick Homer, our elected Guild Educator, for his efforts in putting together a line-up of mini-education sessions for the past two years. And thank you to the Education Liaisons in each Chapter for ensuring the monthly education sessions are conducted in their Chapter.

Last but not least, I wish to thank the Nanaimo Chapter for hosting this AGM. A job well done, as usual.

In closing, I call upon your other Executive members for their reports.

Mary Homer
Guild Master June 2017 – June 2018
Guild Master June 2018 – June 2019