



A Message From The President

SWGGA Structure, Annual Election, Old & New Blood

Happy post-harvest Fall! Since SWGGA is a very small organization (under 60 members), it does not warrant a large Board of Directors. Our Bylaws provide for “up to nine board members” and the number has varied over the years. While Directors provide governance and direction for an organization, we also take on a lot of the operational work too. Therefore, we hope to build even stronger committees to support our organization.

At a recent meeting, the Board voted to **reduce the Board to seven members**: four officers as outlined in the Bylaws, plus 3 Directors. Hopefully, this will lend itself to more efficient board meetings since detailed discussions would take place at the committee level.

Annual Election November 19: Included in this issue is our slate of board and officer candidates for 2027. You will see it’s quite a mix of old and new blood. Three of our current board members are not returning, Al Schafer, Tom Martella & Jason Blank. While we appreciate their contributions and will miss them, we are very pleased to have some of our newer members agree to step up! As you will see, we currently have seven people running for the seven positions.

Committees: As mentioned, we want to build out our committees more to mirror our strong Scholarship committee (5 members). In addition to supporting our activities, this provides more opportunities for members who may want help on some level, without a full board commitment. Thanks to Victor’s engagement, we now have 5 committee members for the Holiday Party too!

Education Coordinator/Programs Committee: With Rod stepping down as Education/Programs Coordinator, due to the importance of the role to the organization, we are creating a more robust Programs Committee. Instead of having it all fall on one person, the Education Coordinator will work with a Programs Committee, with a lead mentor assigned to each topic area: Wine Education, Viticulture and Wine Making. Rod will continue as our lead for Wine Education, Dave Elliot will lead Wine Making, and Eddie Bird, Viticulture. However, we’d love more of you involved! If you have an interest or expertise in one of these areas, please let me dchouston55@gmail.com or Dave Elliot djelliott@skydancesranch.com know by emailing us or sign up at the November meeting. Cheers, Diane.

Hanging On The Wire



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