Sierra Wine & Grape Growers

Country Viniculture in the Heart of the Foothills

Trellis Wire

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November Means Business

Annual Meeting

Ballot Page 3



I don't have a picture of the entire Board but here is a picture from earlier this year taken at Tom Martella's house prior to a Board meeting. We had just finished a rousing game of bocce ball.

Left to right: Al Shafer (outgoing), Michael Hildebrand-Estrada (incoming), Rod Byers (outgoing), Paul McKim (outgoing), Lisa Whittet (staying), Victor Estrada-Hildebrand (incoming). *RB*

A Message From A Board Member

The annual business meeting is held every year in November. That is this coming meeting. The biggest piece of business is electing the new Board for 2027. See page three for the ballot.

As it turns out the Board had recently changed the bylaws to limit the number of Board members to a maximum of seven, down from nine. As you can see on the ballot, due to circumstances, there are only six names listed. The Board is looking for a candidate. At next week's meeting there can be nominations from the floor. It would be a simple as that.

Would you like to be on the Board?

In the meantime SWGGA-land is looking pretty good. As Diane has said numerous times, programs are our most important thing. We think we have come up with a good solution for going forward. We see our mission as supplying grape growing programs, winemaking programs and wine education programs. In addition, SWGGA can offer more than that; a deeper dive into more specific, hands-on information. We are so pleased to have Guy Lauterbach's three-part winemaking classes. We are planning to have an in-the-field pruning class this spring as well as a lab analysis workshop, in the lab. And now we have a website, a functioning up-to-date site where you'll find information about all these pieces.

And don't forget the whole social thing. Summer picnic, field trips to vineyards, not to mention the upcoming Holiday Party. Here's a shout out to Michael and Victor for grabbing this and taking it over. Thanks you guys. And the rest of you, don't forget: make a reservation.

One thing the Board didn't do this year is raise the dues. The Board is looking very seriously at moving to the Grange Hall down McCourtney Road. It is only about a mile further than Ponderosa, it's a pretty good space and, really important, quite a bit cheaper. More on the Hall next week at the meeting but know that it will allow us to keep the dues the same. By the way, dues are starting to be due. $65. *By Rod Byers*