

The Wine Press



Newsletter of the Orange County Wine Society, Inc.
 Volume 40, Issue 11, November 2016

President's Message: Jim's Journal

I received rave reviews from those who attended the Oktoberween event held in the OCFEC Courtyard. There was lots of good food, wine, beer, games, dancing, and of course, friendship. I take my hat off to Brian McDonald and his committee for coordinating this fun and well-attended event. The costume and pumpkin contests were two particularly popular events.

Votes were tabulated on the proposed Amended and Restated OCWS Bylaws on October 3rd at the offices of the OCWS. Please refer to Brian McDonald's subsequent article for the results.

The OCWS celebrated its 40th Anniversary at this year's Installation Dinner at Yve's Restaurant and as anticipated, the meal

was simply superb! We would like to also thank Dennis Esslinger and Bill Redding for pulling excellent wines from the OCWS cellar which further complemented the menu. In appreciation of service to the OCWS, plaques were presented to outgoing Directors Dennis Esslinger and John Carnes. New Directors George Cravens and Terry McLean were also briefly introduced. Janet Hammond was recognized for her 19 years of service as the OCWS Office Administrator and was presented with an engraved OCWS Wine Box, along with jewelry as an additional gift of appreciation. We also took this opportunity to present Michelle Philo with a special gift in recognition and appreciation of her four year tenure as OCWS

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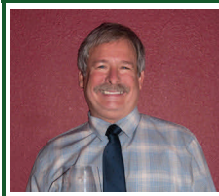
OCFEC Awards OCWS

On September 22, the Orange County Fair & Event Center Board of Directors honored the OCWS/Home Winemakers and celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Kathy Kramer, Chief Executive Officer of the OCFEC, presented a Recognition Award plaque to Bill Redding, Liz Corbett, Fran Gitsham, and Rich Skoczylas, OCWS Board of Directors present at the meeting.



This Award acknowledges the OCWS's long-standing commitment and dedication

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Jim Beard
President
 jim@ocws.org



Bill Redding
Vice President
 bill@ocws.org



Fran Gitsham
Treasurer
 fran@ocws.org



Liz Corbett
Secretary
 liz@ocws.org



George Cravens
Director
 george@ocws.org



Brian McDonald
Director
 brian@ocws.org



Terry McLean
Director
 terry@ocws.org



Rich Skoczylas
Director
 rich@ocws.org



Stacey Taylor
Director
 stacey@ocws.org

Membership Report

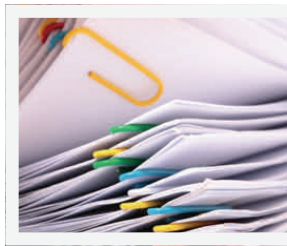


The Orange County Wine Society extends a warm welcome to its newest members! Membership for the following members was approved by the Board of Directors at the October 10, 2016 meeting: Evelyn M. Tanner and Lisa Wieter.

As at October 31, 2016, the Orange County Wine Society had 1,022 members.

- **Brian McDonald, Membership Committee Chair**

Amended and Restated OCWS Bylaws



At the Annual Business Meeting held on September 9, the OCWS Board of Directors presented to the OCWS membership proposed Amended and Restated Bylaws. The proposed Bylaws represent over six months work of the Bylaw Committee consisting of Brian McDonald, Chair, Michelle Philo, Fran Gitsham, Jim Beard and Leslie Brown. Hard

copy ballots were mailed to all members on September 12. The Bylaw Committee met on October 3 to count the returned ballots. By a vote of 214 in favor and 14 opposed, the proposed Bylaws were approved. The OCWS Board of Directors approved the report of the Bylaw Committee at its October 10, 2016 meeting and certified the Bylaws as adopted effective October 10, 2016. A copy of the new Bylaws can be viewed on the OCWS website.

- **Brian McDonald, Bylaw Committee Chair**

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.

Editor-in-Chief: Linda Mihalik

Contributing Writers:

Board of Directors, Kevin Donnelly

Contributing Editors:

John Goodnight, Larry Graham, Janet Hammond, Janet Marino,

Ron Nickens, Michelle Philo, Karen Ward, Taren Weber

Contributing Photographers:

Jim Burk, Linda Mihalik, Wendy Taylor

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President's Message: Jim's Journal

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Wine Press Editor-in-Chief. Best wishes to both Janet and Michelle! Please refer to both the OCWS website and OCWS Facebook page for photos from this event.

Bill Redding is putting together two wonderful, must-attend events. A Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting scheduled for Saturday, November 12, and the OCWS's Annual Holiday Dinner Dance scheduled for Saturday, December 3. This is the first time in many years that I can recall being able to schedule a Saturday evening holiday event (no one has to hurry home from work to attend)! Last year's Holiday Dinner Dance offered really great food and everyone enjoyed the music — we anticipate an equally, if not exceedingly, enjoyable holiday event this year. Please refer to subsequent articles for more information on both events.

The OCWS Winemakers' Group has been very active in the month of October buying grapes in preparation for future competitions, and for personal enjoyment. If a member would like to join the Winemakers' Group or assist in making wine, please attend a Winemakers' Group meeting. Additionally, the Winemakers' Group Holiday Party and Pot

Luck is scheduled for Sunday, December 18. More information on the Winemakers' Group and their events can be found in the subsequent Winemakers Newsroom article.

The OCWS Officer and Director assignments and event responsibilities for 2016-17 calendar year has been uploaded onto the OCWS website. As you know, the OCWS relies on volunteers for all Wine Society events. As a result, I respectfully request and strongly encourage anyone interested in volunteering for an event to contact the assigned Director. New members will find that volunteering to work an event is an excellent way to be introduced to other OCWS members and a great way to be active and engaged in Wine Society events. Any member who volunteers to work on an event committee is comped for that event.

Many of our members have holiday activities during the months of November and December. I encourage everyone to drink responsibly and use a designated driver. I look forward to seeing you at future OCWS events.

- Jim Beard, President

OCFEC Awards OCWS

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in promoting the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of wine. During the presentation, Ms. Kramer recalled the OC Fair's partnership with the OCWS dating back "39 of those 40 years when the first OC Fair Wine Competition was held in 1977. The Wine Society had just 10 members back then and only two varietals were judged." Another noteworthy and interesting fact that Ms. Kramer added during the presentation was that famous vintner, Rodney Strong, was one of the judges in the competition. The Commercial Wine and Homewine Competitions has come a long way in 40 years, and it was only made possible because of all our wonderful members!

"I was very honored to accept this award on behalf of the OCWS and the Home Winemakers who devote their time and talents in presenting educational seminars and medal-winning wines annually at The Courtyard during the Orange County Fair," said Bill Redding, Director and Vice President of the OCWS, and a Home Winemaker. Receiving the Recognition Award highlighted the close of the Wine Society's year-long celebration marking its 40th Anniversary.

The OCWS is very proud of the strong relationship and collaboration between the OCWS/Home Winemakers and the OC Fair & Event Center and looks forward to many, many more years.

Introducing our New Board Members

The new OCWS calendar year brings some new faces to the OCWS Board. Three new members were added rounding out this incredibly focused and committed group.

Stacey Taylor, a very familiar face to a majority of the membership along with an equally well-known humorous personality, joined the Wine Society with his wife, Wendy, in 2003. From the onset, Stacey, owner of Pacific Software Group, brought his multifaceted and analytical mindset to be a force for good to a variety of the Wine Society's initiatives and committees. Stacey committed early on to focus on developing solutions that benefit the mission of the Wine Society - one of them being its well-established scholarship funding and allocations program. Stacey brought technology current by developing an app for use by patrons of a major fundraising event, the Wine Extraordinaire, so that attendees are able to access wines being served, to create a tasting order, and to finally be able to rate and comment on the wine. Stacey continued to break new ground in developing the new OCWS website with its visual wine compendium high-

lighting award-winning wines from the Commercial Wine Competition, as well as creating a platform for membership information and management. As an active member of the Home Winemakers' Group, it has been rumored that Stacey places his newly awarded medals under his pillow each night and no longer claims that sushi and sake are his favorite food/wine pairing!

George Cravens joined the OCWS several years ago. George has been in the engineering field for over 30 years and is currently an engineering manager at Intel. Interestingly, before joining the OCWS, George was a frequent visitor to The Courtyard during the Orange County Fair and enjoyed tasting and learning about the wines presented from the Commercial Wine Competition. During one of those visits, George decided to join the Wine Society to become a part of a community of likeminded people who were brought together by their passion for wine. George found that people

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Oktoberween

Oktoberween, a first-ever event for the OCWS, was an overwhelming success! More than 150 OCWS members enjoyed fresh popped popcorn, genuine German Bratwurst, potato salad, and sauerkraut. Beer was poured, courtesy of **4-Sons Brewery** in Huntington Beach, and wine selected from the OCWS cellar. There



Kevin Lite

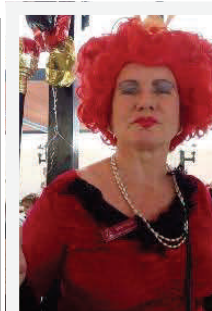
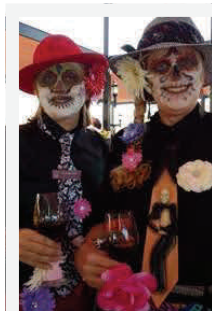
was a pumpkin decorating contest, and it was amazing to see what people did with a few magic markers, pretzels and candy. This was followed by a traditional German beer stein holding contest and an unbelievably amazing costume contest.



As promised, there was dancing to the sounds of **FBN DJ's** (yes, including the highly anticipated Chicken Dance). The food was prepared by the OCWS **Cooks' Caucus**. A special thank-you to Terry

McLean and Lynda Edwards who did a majority of the food

coordination and to Jolen Zeroski who coordinated all of the volunteers who helped pour wine, serve food, set up and tear down. Without our volunteers, events like this would not come together. And finally, a very special shout out to Frau Germaine Romano who transformed the Courtyard with creative decorations — the painted wine bottle centerpieces were especially a big hit.



Costume contest winners: (l) first place, (m) second place, (r) third place

More photos from this event can be found on the OCWS website and on the OCWS Facebook page.

- Brian McDonald, Director

Introducing our New Board Members

(Continued from page 4)

are just as passionate about food as they are about wine and he joined the Cook's Caucus to lend a hand in creating menus that offer something for everyone. We shouldn't be surprised that George thoroughly enjoys the OCWS mini-tastings — an informal gathering at members' beautiful homes with "pot luck" food and wine! When asked if he had a varietal preference, George claims that his "preference in wines is fairly broad, but in general I prefer reds . . . Pinot Noir, GSM and other blends frequently being favorites." During the hot months of the Fair, we can certainly speculate that we will see George with a glass of Viognier or other white varietal as George further expressed "a hot day makes me think of a refreshing white."

Terry McLean, a California native, entered the U.S. Army as an officer stationed in Germany after earning his Bachelor's degree from UCSB and a Master's degree from Boston University. Terry brings to the OCWS over 30 years of experience in consulting, sales, marketing, business development and general management from a variety of industries, both domestic and international. As a former business owner of a custom manufacturing company, Terry is well-versed in strategic planning and implementation. It wasn't by chance that Terry and his wife, Linda, joined the OCWS over four years ago; it was through the recommendation of friends who were 20-year members

themselves. Terry finds enjoyment in attending all of the OCWS events, but the most impactful are the mini-tastings which afford a more intimate setting to "spend 3 hours in a OCWS member's home with a dozen or so other members eating good food, tasting and comparing wine, and the opportunity to really get to know and connect with other members one-on-one." As a volunteer with the Shared Journey Program at St. Jude Hospital in Fullerton, and a cancer survivor, Terry mentors men recently diagnosed with prostate cancer and provides them with support and advice as they face the reality of their diagnosis and decisions on course of treatment options as they navigate through a daunting journey.

Terry brings a wealth of talent to the Board and would like to utilize his talent and experience to tap into the tremendous potential of the OCWS to promote and educate the public on California wine, the Home Winemakers Group, and to raise further awareness of the Wine Society and its scholarship funding initiative. Terry strongly believes that the Wine Society is a strong, healthy, viable, effective and fun organization and looks forward to working with the Board and membership to rightfully position the Wine Society for the future.



Turn your Clocks and Fall Back

Daylight Savings Time (DST) ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 6, 2016. Prior to going to bed on Saturday, be sure to turn your clocks back one (1) hour, or if you forget, be sure to do so when you get up on Sunday morning!



Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting

Saturday, November 12, 2016 @ 6:00 pm
Various Members' Homes

Hosts: Mini-Tastings are held at various host sites around Orange County. If you would like to host this event, please e-mail Bill Redding at bill@ocws.org or call him at 949.248.1125. You will need to sign up and pay until hosts are selected. Reimbursement will be made for all host sites.

Locations: Host sites and directions will be announced to those attending approximately one week prior to the event. We try to place you at the location nearest your home or to accommodate your specific site request; however, your assigned host site is also based on the order in which your sign-up is received in the OCWS office. The cost to attend this tasting is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests.

Etiquette at Mini-Tastings: Each person attending brings a potluck dish (appetizer, entrée, side dish, or dessert)



ready to serve a small portion to 18 people. The dish ideally should be designed to match the theme of the tasting, in this case Cabernet Sauvignon. Please coordinate your food

selection with your host to assure an appropriate balance of food types served during the evening. There will be a special bottle of wine awarded that evening

as a prize for Chef of the Evening. Our winning Chefs of the Evening may have their recipe published on the OCWS website. Please plan on arriving promptly at 6:00 p.m. so the event can get started on time.



You are invited to bring your own wine glasses for tasting; keep in mind the wines are served in flights of two.

We are planning a *maximum* of five sites for Cabernet Sauvignon mini-tasting, so the limit is 90 attendees.

Due to the high attendance at our Mini-Tasting Programs, we encourage you to sign-up early as sites tend to fill quickly. The cut-off date for online sign-up is Sunday, November 6, 2016. After this date, please contact Bill or the OCWS office to determine availability. The cancellation deadline for a refund is November 4, 2016. After that date, due to the advance purchase of wines, you will not receive a refund unless there is a waiting list.

Bon Appétit!
- Bill Redding, Vice President

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: www.ocws.org ■ [www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/OCWineSociety) ■ Twitter: [@OCWineSociety](https://twitter.com/OCWineSociety)

OCWS Website Administrator: Wendy Taylor

OCWS Photographer: Jim Burk

2016 Holiday Dinner & Dance

Saturday, December 3, 2016
@ 6:30 pm
Atrium Hotel
18700 MacArthur Blvd., Irvine, CA

The holiday season is right around the corner! Get in the holiday spirit and join your fellow Wine Society members at our annual Holiday Dinner & Dance. The festivities take place on Saturday, December 3rd, at **The Atrium Hotel** in Irvine.

The evening begins with Champagne and passed appetizers from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Dinner follows accompanied by a variety of fine wines provided by the Wine Society. The dinner menu for this event is as follows:



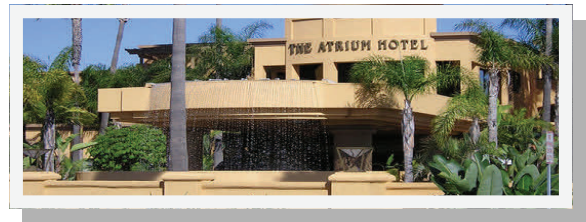
Following dinner, be prepared to have a good time “dancing the night away.” The “*Three 2 Sevens*,” a crowd pleaser last year, will return to provide this year’s dance music. Even if you don’t dance, you will be entertained and have a great time too. Yes – they promise to play some “slow dance” music and Holiday rock tunes.

The cost for this fun-filled evening is \$90 per person which includes tax, and tip. Valet parking is available at a discounted rate of \$5. Non-members accompanied by an OCWS member are welcome at the same price! Invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join the festivities.

We are taking table reservations — each table holds 8 people. When your group of 4 to 8 has signed up, simply contact the OCWS office to reserve your group’s table. Additional seats will be filled by 1 to 4 individuals on the evening of the event.

Once again, we encourage you to bring an unwrapped gift to place under the tree for donation to a charitable organization.

A special, incredible room rate of \$119 per night is being offered, which includes self-parking.



The **Atrium Reservations Line** is now open. Please call **1.800.854.3012** and mention the “**OC Wine Society Dinner**” to secure your room at the \$119 per night rate.

- Bill Redding, Vice President

Mark your Calendars to Save the Date!



- ✓ February 10, 2017 — Alexander Valley Vineyards — 2017 Winery Program Event
- ✓ March 10, 2017 — The Brander Vineyard — 2017 Winery Program Event
- ✓ March 26, 2017 — Wine Extraordinaire — OC Fair Hangar — Details forthcoming

Winemakers Newsroom

October had been the “grapiest” month EVER! Led by Bill Forsch and Rob Romano, OCWS Winemakers have received just under 20,000 pounds of grape and slightly under 500 gallons of juice from four vendors supplying nine varietals in a group buy. Additionally, some members purchased several more tons of their own grapes outside of the group buy. Grapes came from Sonoma, Lodi, Solvang and Paso Robles.



Janice and Roger Mattar scooping grapes at the Onx Crush Facility in Paso Robles

Many thanks to Bill Forsch, Noel DeSota, Rob Romano and to the other guys who participated in pickups and deliveries, including Roger and Janice Mattar, Kevin and Sylvia Donnelly, Dave Wiegand, Ken Scott, Steve Messer, and to Rick Nelson for opening his yard for distributing the grapes.

Many of our winemakers are fermenting away while our experienced members are mentoring our newbies. Scary terms like Sulfites, pH, Brix, Malolactic and Enzymes, along with phrases like “feeding the beastly yeast,” “I’m giving her all the acid I can Cap’n!,” “She’s gonna BLOW!,” and the inevitable “cleanup overflow in row 17!” are flying over and heating up the phone lines and text messages 7/24. Halloween ain’t got nuttin on us!

The Winemakers’ Group had its Quarterly Meeting on October 22 at Roger and Janice Mattar’s house in Corona. Jerry and Kim Guerin, assisted by David Rutledge, Eddie Petros and Mike Paz, tested our wines for proper Sulfites to protect our wines from oxidation and bacterial contamination. Thanks guys for always stepping up to help! We all enjoyed delicious pot luck foods, great home wines, and taking in the beautiful view of the Santa Ana Canyon! Thanks Roger and Janice!

The Winemakers’ Holiday Party and Pot Luck
December 18, 2016 | 3:00 pm—9:00 pm
East Lake Village Community Center
5325 Village Center Drive
Yorba Linda, CA



The Winemakers’ Holiday Party and Pot Luck will take place on Sunday, December 18 at the East Lake Village Community

Center in Yorba Linda. Our venue for this year’s holiday party has a “hard limit” 100 person capacity, so please sign up early if you would like to attend as this event always sells out! The cost is \$15 per person, and there is lot parking available as well as street parking. Reservations are now open and can be accessed through the OCWS website.

As a reminder, Winemakers’ Group events are open to ALL OCWS MEMBERS and guests. If you would like to learn to make wine, or just want to learn the basics without actually making wine, our Quarterly Meetings are a great and welcoming place to learn. Since our Quarterly Meetings are generally pot luck, the only criteria we ask is any one person or couple planning to attend bring a food item to serve 8 people and 1 bottle of wine per person, either homemade or commercial.

I hope to see you soon at one of our upcoming Winemakers’ events! If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out. We have downloaded many photos from our various events and activities that can be viewed on the OCWS website and OCWS Facebook page.

Contact Kevin Donnelly at kevindonnelly@ocws.org or 714.457.7229 with questions. Cheers!

- Kevin Donnelly

Messages from our Scholarship Recipients



I would like to express my great appreciation for you as well as my scholarship award. Your support has given me great confidence as I begin my fourth and final year at Cal Poly. By awarding me this scholarship you have lightened my finan-

cial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students as you have helped me. Thank you so much!

Best, Maddy R.



My name is Darren O. You gave me a scholarship of \$1,000 and I am truly thankful for the opportunity of the money you gave me. My friends and I are saving up money for a food truck and most of it will help us greatly. Some of the money will help me buy equipment and fees I need for my last semester at OCC. I am truly thankful for your scholarship; it means a lot.

I am truly thankful!



On behalf of myself and my family, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation for the scholarship you have generously granted me with. The funds I will be receiving from your organization will be used as I transfer to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to further my education and obtain my Bachelor's of Science in winemaking.

With my sincerest thanks,

Janet D.

OCWS Save the Date Calendar

Nov. 12 — Cabernet Sauvignon Mini-Tasting

Dec. 3 — Holiday Dinner & Dance

Dec. 18 — Winemakers Holiday Party & Potluck



www.ocws.org

2017 Winery Program & 2017 Wine Extraordinaire:

Feb. 10 — Alexander Valley Vineyards

Mar. 10 — The Brander Vineyards

Mar. 26 — Wine Extraordinaire — OC Fair Hangar

Apr. 14 — Cass Vineyard & Winery and Seven Angels Cellars

May 12 — Jamieson Ranch Vineyards



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PO Box 11059

Costa Mesa, CA 92627