**The Missouri Winemaking Society Newsletter for December, 2017**

Next Meeting:  Annual Christmas Party

Meeting Place: Lisa & John Nordmann’s House

121 Parklawn Estates

Fenton, MO 63026

Time: December 16 at 7:00

MWS Website:[www.mowinemakers.org](http://www.mowinemakers.org/)

Submitted by: Lisa Nordmann – lnordmann@nordmannphoto.com

***December’s Program***

It’s a party! Lisa and John Nordmann will be hosting our annual Christmas party. This event will start at 7:00. Please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. Of course a bottle of wine or two to share is a definite! Sparkling wines are always a holiday favorite. (This party is open to member’s only and their spouses.)

***November’s Program***

**Favorite Red Wine Contest**

We had 8 members enter a wine in our Favorite Red Wine Contest. The winning wine was a wonderful 2014 Merlot made by John Merkle. His grapes came from Lodi. It was a hearty wine with great fruity notes. The runner up was a 2016 Chambourcin made by Terry Stromberg. Our third place winner was a Norton/Chambourcin blend by Steve Brunkhorst. Other entries were by Dave Wert – Norton Port, Alvin Vilestra – Carmenere, Phil Rahn – Grenach, Bob Palumbo – 2012 Merlot, and Chris Hener – Chambourcin Port. All of these wines were wonderful and made for a very fun evening.

***2018 Officers***

Our Current Officers have agreed to serve another year.

President – Steve Brunkhorst

Vice President – Phil Rahn

Secretary – Lisa Nordmann

Treasure – David Wert

Cellar Master – John Merkle

***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***: As 2017 draws to a close, I am pleased to report that we have 32 dues paying members and a healthy bank account of approximately $2600. This is an opportunity to recall the educational and social events of the year and recognize the volunteers who worked to bring these events to the membership. The twelve events in 2017 included member presented meeting topics on Chambourcin Wine, Yeast Selection, Wine Testing & Sanitation, and Making Sparkling Wine. We visited Noboleis Winery and enjoyed a winemaker talk from Jerry Mueller of Robller Winery. Member produced White & Red wines were evaluated and favorites recognized. Gold Medal wines from Missouri wineries were tasted and admired. We attended a presentation at “Total Wines” featuring commercial wines from “American Wineries”. Excessive heat on July 8th caused the cancellation of the annual picnic but we anticipate better cooperation from the weather man for our December 16th holiday party. Wine making projects based on frozen chardonnay juice and fresh red merlot grapes are underway for presentation in 2018 and 2019. Please extend a thank you to our member-volunteers who organized or presented these programs: Dave Wert, Phil Rahn, John Merkle, Dave Anderson, Lisa Nordmann, Mary Kalish, Mark Brenner, and Steve Brunkhorst (me).

***Society Dues:***

The yearly fee, per person, will be $50 ($25 after June), with no additional meeting fee (or tasting fee, if you prefer) – this is a savings over the course of the year if you attend all the meetings (and you should).  But if you do not want to pay the full $50, you can pay just $25 for a full year’s membership, but then you will need to pay a $5 per meeting “tasting” fee at each meeting you attend.  So it’s your choice to determine which way works best for you. Please pay by check but cash is also accepted.

***Missouri Winemaking Society Facebook Page***

Our MWS Facebook Page is up and running. For all of you Facebook users, log into Facebook and search for Missouri Winemaking Society. If you have not joined please do so.  I am hoping that every Facebook user will join this group.   It is a great way for our members to share with what they are doing in their vineyard and wine cellars.  Also, if you have any files you would like to share with the group please post them. **This is a closed group just for MWS members.**

***Wine Making Tips:***

Don’t forget, there is lots of useful materials and information on our website.

To access all the terrific things in the Library section, click on the website link at the top of this newsletter, scroll down to the *Membership* section, and click on the *Click here* link under MWS Library.  Be sure to check these materials out; they are chock full of knowledge and wisdom – you are sure to glean many gems.

There are many useful publications in the Missouri Winemaking Society Library – be sure to check out the books, papers, past presentations, and articles available in the Library by clicking on the link below.  **The MWS rules for borrowing books is also found there.**<http://www.mowinemakers.org/library.html#_Toc84355471>

We are in the process of updating the books and files we have.  If you are interested in borrowing a book please let me know and I will be happy to bring it to our next meeting.