

OCPVA 2016 4TH QUARTER MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2016

The 2016 4th quarter meeting of the Outer Coastal Plain Vineyard Association was held a RAREC on Monday November 14, 2016 starting at 6PM

The meeting was called to order by Dante Romanini, Secretary.

1. **Rutgers presentations:** Several Rutgers Extension Specialists gave very informative presentations about various aspects of viticulture.

Anne Neilson presented the results of her ongoing research with respect to red blotch virus and in particular the search for the vectors that may be transmitting the disease. Her research is in progress and she will be following up on field work she initiated last season. Right now there are still several uncertain aspects that she hopes to clarify. She also reported on some grape root borer investigations and work on brown marmorated stink bugs.

Dean Polk gave a brief presentation on his very recent investigation on phylloxera. He stated he was asked to look at a local vineyard that showed foliar signs of the disease. When he investigated the site and looked at the root zone he discovered a significant quantity of them on the roots. This discovery was in an own-rooted Chambourcin vineyard. This was an unexpected and disturbing find, which indicates that growers should be diligent in looking for signs of the insect on own-rooted varieties that they are growing.

Thierry Besancon introduced himself to the membership as the new extension weed specialist. He presented information on the pre-emergent herbicide Alion and there was a discussion of its efficacy and the precautions that should be taken into account when using it. It is a very effective weed control device but has some significant restrictions on use, especially in young vineyards.

Hemant Gohil made a presentation of hilling up for grafted vineyards and explained the proper way to do it as well as discussed the effects of its use. He handed out an informative flyer detailing how and when to do it.

Dan Ward made several comments on a variety of matters under discussion and in particular encouraged members to think about small research or promotion projects that could be the subject of grant applications. Dan indicated there is money readily available through USDA and that the Association should try to take advantage of that.

2. **Crop Insurance** Mike Marandola of Sentryag, Inc. made a very informative presentation on the possibility of obtaining crop insurance for grapes. Currently no programs exist in NJ for this type of insurance which is regulated by the federal government. Mike explained the process of how we could begin seeking such coverage. Members who are interested should contact Mike at 856-803-8400.

3. **Cape May Peninsula AVA** The Board of the Association has sent in comments to TTB regarding the proposed new AVA in NJ, the "Cape May Peninsula". The new AVA is located entirely within the Outer Coastal Plain AVA. The Association's comments supported the new

designation but also pointed out some erroneous information contained in the petition with respect to the current OCP AVA and asked that they be corrected.

4. **Italian Varieties** Larry Coia presented information on the status of the Association's importation and use of the new Italian wine varieties which have been hybridized by the Foundation Edmund Mach (FEM) and Dr. Marco Stefanini, in Trentino-Alto Adige, Italy. Two varieties in particular, one red and one white, which were imported by the Association over 3 years ago, have cleared quarantine at Foundation Plant Services in California and are now available to be propagated. The Association has these vines. Since the Association currently controls these vines exclusively in the US, the Board will be negotiating with FEM to obtain the exclusive rights to propagate and sell the vines in this country, possibly on both the east and west coasts through commercial nurseries. This could be an excellent source of income for the Association and also a means of bringing greater public awareness of the OCP wines.

5. **Board Initiatives and Updates.** The Board of the Association is seeking input and involvement on the current and new sub-committees. An email will be sent to members encouraging them to participate in these committees and also to think about being involved in the running of the Association.

6. **The next meeting will be held on Monday February 6, 2017. This is the annual meeting at which 4 board seats will be up for election. Those seats are currently held by Dante Romanini, Larry Coia, Larry Sharrott and Bill Heritage.**

The meeting was closed with a tasting of an excellent dry rose wine from Amalthea. The method of production and marketability were discussed by the members.