**OUTER COASTAL PLAIN VINEYARD ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of 2-4-21 Annual Meeting**

Members Present: Jim Quarella, Don Romanini, George Kelly, Jules Donnini, Mark Hernandez, Jeannette Marr, Bernard Tkaczynski, Brendan Boyle, Orley Ashenfelter, Mike Spadea, Joe Procopio, Larry Coia, Jules Donnini, Larry Sharrott and Karen Talarico, Administrator

The meeting was held via Zoom and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Jim Quarella. Jim asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting; the motion was made and approved.

**Financial Report:** Jules reported that OCPVA has $32,300 in its account. All grant monies have been received and the web designer has been paid in full. Our only outstanding bill is for $53 for our credit card.

**Election:** Four seats on the board of trustees are up for reelection; Dante, Larry S, Mark, and George have all agreed to be reelected. The membership approved their election for another term on the board.

**Italian Vines:** Larry C referred members to the recent newsletter article, which contains the latest update on the Italian vines. Double A has 2800 vines for sale this year. Linganore Wine Cellars in Mt. Airy Maryland plans to buy 700 vines, so there will still be about 2,000 for sale. Larry remined members that New Jersey growers get a $2.50 per vine discount on each vine.

Larry also said that he ordered 50 each of ECO1 and ECO3 budwood to graft onto different rootstock. Using the grafting equipment owned by OCPVA and housed at Rutgers, the grafting will be done with the assistance of Dan Ward. Mark Hernandez and Larry Coia will organize this project. Larry requested that OCPVA cover any expenses. He will develop a budget and submit it to the board. A motion to the effect was made and carried. Jim suggested that the grafting process should be videotaped and put on the website.

Larry also suggested that we have a plaque made for the grafting unit in honor of OCPVA founding member Frank Salek. The members agreed that this was a good idea. Larry will take care of ordering the plaque. A Frank Salek lecture series was discussed as another way to honor Frank. The first lecture could be on grafting techniques. A budget of $1,000 was suggested; the board will undertake further development of this idea.

**Coeur d’Est:** Larry S reported that he received no response to his email inquiry about new makers of Coeur d’Est. Jim suggested that the $500 fee to produce may be too high and asked the committee to review. Don brought up the issue that arose when the trademark was renewed in the fall. The examiner who reviewed the trademark on wine labels felt that it appeared that the Coeur d’Est trademark referred to the winery, and not the OCPVA. The website labeling that Bellview used convinced the examiner otherwise, and makers should be encouraged to adopt this practice. George suggested adding this to the Coeur d’Est contract. Don will send Larry the report from the attorney.

**Membership:**  Karen reported that after sending an email reminder, 11 of the 37 full members have paid their dues. In addition, 3 industry members (LeeRain, Lakeview Vineyard Equipment, and Quarella Consulting) have joined as well as 2 Associates and 2 Friends. $2,400 has been collected as of 2/3/21. Joe recommended that we try a text with a link to the renewal form to the members who have not renewed.

**Website:** The new website is live as of January. George mentioned that OCPVA.com still links to the old site. Karen said she was not aware that there were two domain names, and that she would alert the web designer. The Coeur d’Est url should be directed to that page on the new website as well.

Someone mentioned that they could not access the forum after renewing their membership. Karen will contact the web designer to resolve the problem. Joe asked how we could make better use of the forum; Orley offered that successful forums usually had someone who moderated them.

**Other Business:** Brendan asked if Trentino budwood was needed. Larry C said that Fox Hollow has plantings.

Mike asked if there were certification classes on the Rutgers website for organic/sustainable/biodynamic growers. Jim said that there were not; other universities offer additional information to grape growers that Rutgers may not.

Involvement with the American Wine Society was brought up. Virtual tastings are being held by various regional groups. Larry S offered to contact Gary Pavlis about the South Jersey society; members were encouraged to send contact info to Karen for follow up.

Larry C mentioned that most of the members are bonded wineries, and that the vineyard only members do not have websites, so they don’t benefit from the exposure on the website. One possibility would be to create a page on the website just for the VO’s, where they could post information about their vineyards.

**Next meeting:** The next member meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 6th at 6:00 PM. We hope to meet in person, even if outdoors. Karen will contact one of the Industry members to invite them to do a short presentation at the meeting.