

June 26, 2019

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## **Region 1 and 4 Meeting Recap**

On Wednesday, November 19, the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association hosted a meeting of industry members residing in Regions 1 and 4 (Texas High Plains and West Texas). Attended by 84 people, key topics discussed were:

- the anonymous herbicide drift survey currently being conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension,
- Texas wine labeling regulations,
- ways the Association can better serve its members, and;
- the importance of industry data collection.

A list of non-contracted grapes was collected and distributed under separate copy. Future meetings in other regions of the state are currently being planned to discuss the same topics.

## **Region 5 Board Member Resigns**

Region 5 Winery Director, Jesse Barter of 4.0 Cellars resigned his Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association board position on Thursday, June 20. Jesse will be moving on to another professional opportunity and will therefore not be employed by a commercial member of the Texas wine and grape industry. As dictated by the Association bylaws, the executive committee met and appointed Bret Perrenoud of Becker Vineyards to serve out the remainder of Jesse's term, which will expire in February of 2020.

## **TWGGA Staff Team Update**

Executive Director Dakota Haselwood is pleased to announce the new Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association staff team.

Sasha Velarde-Johnson is the membership manager, handling all member records and communication – including social media. Sasha's previous experience in pharmaceutical Sales for Merck & Co has prepared her well to be creative in her new TWGGA role. Having grown up in Honduras and California, Sasha also worked in the Kendal Jackson Winery family at Vinwood Cellars during her early professional career. Sasha can be reached at [sasha@twgga.org](mailto:sasha@twgga.org).

Sabrina Houser-Amaya is the sponsor and exhibitor relations manager, handling all sponsor and vendor negotiations, communications and implementation. As a former winery and vineyard owner, Sabrina brings a vast knowledge of the industry to her role as liaison between Texas commercial winery and vineyard owners and the vendors who serve the industry. She is a psychologist by trade with 25 years clinical experience in national health care operations. Sabrina can be reached at [sabrina@twgga.org](mailto:sabrina@twgga.org).

Nicole Anable is the external relations manager. Nicole has recently moved home to Texas from Washington, D.C. where she worked in a U.S. Congressman's office and in the advocacy office for the University of Texas. Nicole's role at TWGGA will evolve. She is currently learning to manage TWGGA's events and providing support in both the membership and sponsor/exhibitor relations areas. Nicole can be reached at [nicole@twgga.org](mailto:nicole@twgga.org).

Please help Dakota welcome these new staff members to the industry.

### **TABC Sunset Bill in Review**

After a 15 month review the TABC Sunset Review process has been completed with the passage of HB 1545.

The end product is a bill 324 pages long (2<sup>nd</sup> in length only to the state budget). Much of that volume is taken up in the task of combining beer, ale and malt liquor under the heading of malt beverage. There were several other significant changes to the code most of which will have little impact on the wine industry. Additions to the bill related to the industry include:

- The definition of "wine and vinous liquor" was changed to include sake,
- The number of TABC Commissioners was increased from 3 to 5 and the restriction on qualified appointee interest in an alcohol connected business changed from "any" to no more than 5%,
- The agency now has the ability to establish advisory committees as needed,
- The commission is allowed to voluntarily accept market data from licensees and permittees,
- License and permit fees are no longer in statute, they are now set at the discretion of the agency,
- The applicant for a winery permit is authorized to consolidate in a single application the application for that permit and any other permit the applicant is qualified to receive,
- A winery permit may be granted only on the presentation of an appropriate federal wine permit,
- Regarding label approval, the commission now has discretion to deny if they determine the label would create a public safety concern, create a cross tier violation, or otherwise violate the code,
- The total number of permits and licenses issued by the agency was reduced from 76 to 35, and;
- TABC is renewed for 12 years.

There were several other significant changes to other segments of the industry but none of which directly impact the wine industry. Most of the changes listed above will take effect on September 1, 2019. Once these changes go into effect, there will be numerous rule changes that could impact our industry. We will continue to monitor and when necessary work with the agency on those changes.

### **2019 Grape Camp**

Date: November 3 – 4, 2019

Location: Fredericksburg, Texas, Gillespie County Fair Grounds

Ever wonder how someone gets into the wine business in Texas? Ask almost any of them, and they'll tell you that, as nascent winemakers and grape growers, the single most helpful thing they did was go to the Texas Wine & Grape Growers Association Grape Camp. DAY ONE of Grape Camp is designed for the

new folks - meeting real professionals as well as viticulture and enology teachers. They will tell you the real nuts-and-bolts stuff, like how much it costs per acre, how to set up your irrigation, and which grapevines and rootstocks to use. DAY TWO is more technical for experienced vineyard producers with an educational focus on industry vineyard issues related specifically to Texas, as well as a panel of experienced growers who will address the most frequently asked questions among growers. Key vendors will also be presenting the newest products, services and technologies available.

Exhibitor and sponsor slots are still available but going fast. Please contact [Sabrina@twgga](mailto:Sabrina@twgga) or see the application packet [here](#).

The 2019 Grape Camp is Proudly Sponsored by the Texas Department of Agriculture – Texas Wine Marketing.

### **2020 Annual Conference and Trade Show**

Date: February 20 – 22, 2020

Location: Irving Convention Center, Irving, Texas

Entering our 44<sup>th</sup> year as the largest Annual Conference and Trade show, the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association is proud to be the oldest, and only state-wide industry organization that supports, promotes and legislatively addresses issues amongst vineyard owners, grape crop producers/managers, winery and tasting room managers/buyers, vineyard/grape crop manufacturers and distributors, and winery/tasting room product and service vendors. We also have a strong Texas wine drinker consumer awareness through our TWGGA Facebook page. Become a TWGGA friend [NOW!](#)

At the 2019 Annual Conference, over the 3-day period, there were 500 attendees and we expect MORE in 2020. Don't miss your opportunity to be 'front and center' of vineyard and winery owners and key decision makers to market and sell your products and services.

Exhibitor and sponsor slots are still available but will fill up quickly. Please contact [Sabrina@twgga](mailto:Sabrina@twgga) or see the application packet [here](#) if interested. Exhibitor booth prices increase on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, so don't procrastinate!

### **Classifieds**

Post your FREE classified ad through the TWGGA website. All you need is your email to get started. Please click [here](#) to get started. The following classified listings are available:

- [Equipment and services](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Winery / vineyard supplies](#)
- [Grapes and bulk wine](#)
- [Real estate](#)
- [View all listings](#)