



Website: www.nebraskawines.com Email: info@nebraskawines.com

Winter 2012 – Vol. 2012, No. 1



NWGGA's President **Richard Hilske**

While it seemed like the holidays were just yesterday, we are speeding thru and almost to the end of January already. I am sure thoughts of pruning and readying the vineyard are on everyone's mind. In 6 weeks many will get the chance to see old faces, share stories, and hopefully learn a thing or two at the annual conference in Kearney put on by the UNL viticulture department.

The NWGGA hopes to see as many of you there as we will have our annual meeting on Friday March 2nd beginning at 8:30am. You don't have to be a conference registrant to attend the meeting and it is a great way to find out what is happening in our organization. The NWGGA Board will be unveiling the plans for 2012 and beyond. The board is taking the recently completed strategic plan and implementing the ideas and thoughts that came about through the listening sessions that helped created the plan. Plus it is another chance to share your thoughts and have a say in your industry.

This voice will extend to elections as it will be time to elect new board members to keep

this organization moving ahead. Seth McFarland will take over as President and we will have several vacancies on the board. The board is always looking for fresh new thoughts so please consider offering your time and the unique perspective you can bring by running for an open position or even helping out on a committee. You will gain a lot of insight into the Nebraska Wine industry and have a hand in the direction of our organization.

See you in Kearney!

Richard Hilske
2011-2012 NWGGA President

Announcements / Save these Dates:

January 29, 2012

**NWGGA Board Meeting, Lincoln, NE
Country Inn & Suites, 5353 North 27th St.
9am - 12pm**

February 16, 2012

NWGGA Legislative Reception, Lincoln

February 29, 2012

**NWGGA TTB Compliance Workshop
Kearney, NE - Holiday Inn, 9am - 6pm**

March 1-3, 2012

**15th Annual Nebraska Wine and
Grape Growers Conference /
NWGGA Trade Show
Kearney, NE - Holiday Inn**

March 2, 2012

**NWGGA General Business Meeting
Kearney, NE - Holiday Inn
Registration opens at 8am**

Executive Director's Report **Jason Hayes & Andre Mick**

Management Update

Since December the management committee has met on five separate conference calls. We discussed a number of items during the course of these meetings:

We have 30 RSVPs for the Legislative Reception (to be held on 2.16.12), which so far includes 12 senators and Greg Ibach, Director of Agriculture attending. The Governor and First Lady will be unable to attend but he is sending a representative from his office.

Please let us know by February 1, 2012 if you plan to pour by sending an email to the address: Andre@nebraskawines.com

The Board is tentatively scheduled to meet on January 29th from 9:00am - 12:00pm at Country Inns & Suites located at 5353 North 27th Street in Lincoln. Committees were asked to have their reports to Richard on January 20th.

There has been discussion about NWGGA leadership for next year (officers and committee chairs). If you have an interest in a NWGGA leadership position, please let Richard Hilske or Seth McFarland know.

Al Vybril, Jon Reeder, and Andre' continue to prepare for the 2012 Trade Show, March 1st through 2nd in Kearney. If you would like to participate, please contact Andre at her email, Andre@nebraskawines.com.

Grant Update:

Due to a Grape and Winery Board Grant received in 2011, the NWGGA is now able to accept Membership Registration/Dues online.

To register online please go to:

<http://www.nebraskawines.com/members/newMemberSetup.php>

The Association recently applied for a Nebraska Department of Tourism grant in the amount of \$10,000 to cover a statewide media and social marketing campaign. We are hopeful that the grant will be accepted and will enable the Association to begin a statewide and regional radio ad campaign highlighting the quality of Nebraska wines.

Legislative Update

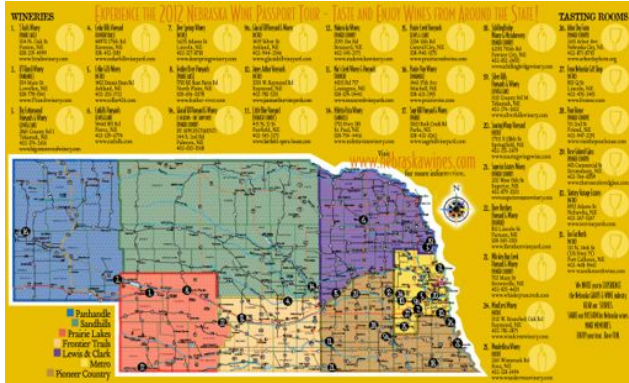
Jim Ballard, Jim Otto, and Andre Mick, met with Hobie Rupe and Jerry Van Ackeren from the Liquor Control Commission to discuss possible legislation. Thus far two bills, LB752 and LB781 have been introduced. LB752 will provide an income tax credit relating to grape growing and wine producing and LB781 will change bond provisions relating to the gallonage tax on alcoholic liquor (hearing is scheduled for January 23rd). Jim Otto will keep us updated throughout the Session, so please watch for his updates from as well.

DMACC Scholarships for Viticulture or Enology Online Courses

The NWGGA has received a grant for up to fifteen scholarships (\$300 each) distributed to individuals as an incentive for them to complete a two or more-credit online viticulture or enology course through the Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). If you are interested, please send an email and reserve your scholarship today prior to enrolling in your online course.

Please contact Jason@nebraskawines.com. Scholarships are awarded on a first come – first serve basis.

2012 Passport Update



If you are in need of 2012 passports for your business location or would like one in order to participate, please contact me by email at: Jason@nebraskawines.com. 2012 passports are in the process of being printed and will be ready for distribution by February 13, 2012. The 2012 passport will also be available for download at www.nebraskawines.com website at the start of February 2012.

2011 Passport Update



At the deadline for patrons mailing passports to the NWGGA office, we have received 186 passports of which the following resulted in winery bucks being issued:

- 119 received \$50 winery buck certificates = \$5,950
- 10 received \$75 winery buck certificates = \$ 750
- Total receiving winery bucks: 129 for a total of \$6,700

These gift certificates are issued in \$5 and \$10 increments based upon the participant attending at least 15 different wineries and 4 tasting rooms and getting their passport stamped at each one to receive \$50 worth of winery bucks, and visiting

all 29 locations in order to receive \$75 worth of winery bucks.



(Winery Bucks – printed on white or tan paper with signature of executive director).

Winery Bucks may be used when participants return to their favorite wineries and tasting rooms. 2011 Winery bucks will expire on May 31, 2011.

As a reminder, participating wineries and tasting rooms receiving winery bucks from consumers need to send them to the NWGGA for reimbursement, please send them to our Association's Lincoln address:

NWGGA
Attn.: Passport Reimbursement
P.O. Box 82081
Lincoln NE 68501-2081

As was done for the previous 2010 program, our Association Treasurer Wende Bergmeier will issue direct payments to participating winery and tasting room's bank accounts in order to expedite payment of these reimbursements.





NWGGA Winery Council **Jennifer Reeder and Jim Shaw**

We have organized the Compliance workshop. It will be the day before the conference. Registration will be at 0900 on Feb 29 with the presentations starting at 0930. First presenter will be from the Nebraska Safety Council on the following:

	NWGGA TTB Workshop This workshop is independent of the 15 th Annual Nebraska Wine and Grape Growers Conference and Trade Show
Time	Wednesday, February 29th
9-12A	OSHA Workshop
12-1P	Lunch on your own?
1-6P	TTB

Machine guarding, record keeping, hazcom, powered industrial trucks, respiratory, confined space, and electrical. This three hour training will be lead by an NSC consultant and trainer.

These are the 7 top areas where wineries are fined or cited. Then the remainder of the day will be on TTB compliance and audits.

This is being funded by a grant. Book your rooms now.

As a side note, the Neb Dept of Roads has released their final rule on Interstate signage for Wineries. Should be signed within a month.

Here is what I gleaned for your convenience. These are the parts I thought most germane. You may want to read these yourself at:

<http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regtrack/proposals/0000000000001092.pdf>

Cheers, Jen/Jim

SUBJECT TO CHANGE **TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE** **KEARNEY – MARCH 1st through 3rd**

	15 th Annual Nebraska Wine and Grape Growers Conference and Trade Show		
Time	Thursday, March 1 st		
10A	Registration Opens		
9-11A	NWGGA Winery Council Meeting		
11-12A	NWGGA Board Meeting		
12-1P	Lunch on your own		
1-4P	Viticulture	Enology	Marketing
4-7P	Dinner on your own		
7-9P	<i>"The Other Big Red"</i> Wine Reception Hors d'oeuvres Pre-Function Area		

	Friday, March 2 nd		
Time			
8A	Registration Opens		
9:30-10:30A	NWGGA General Business Meeting		
10:30-11:30A	NWGGA Growers Council Meeting		
11A	Trade Show Opens		
11:30-12:30	Lunch (Provided)		
1P	Opening of Conference Welcome and Introductions		
1:15-5:30	Conference Talks (2)		
3:15-4P	Break Visit Trade Show		
4-5:30P	Conference Talks (1) (Round Tables?)		
5:30-7P	Break Dinner on your own		
7-9:30P	Silent Auction Opening in Trade Show Hors d'oeuvres <i>"White Night"</i> Wine Reception Trade Show Area		

	Saturday, March 3 rd		
Time			
8A	Registration Opens		
8A	Trade Show Opens		
8:30-9:30A	Viticulture	Enology	Marketing (Vendors Presentations?)
9:30-10A	Break Trade Show		
10-12A	Viticulture	Enology	Marketing
	Viticulture	Enology	Marketing
12-1:30P	Lunch (Provided) Trade Show		
1:30-4P	Viticulture	Enology	Marketing
	Viticulture	Enology	Marketing
	Viticulture (Round Table?)	Enology (Round Table?)	Marketing (Round Table?)
4-5P	Wrap Up Discussion		
6:30-10P	Aperitif In Pre-Function Area 6:30-7P Grand Awards Banquet Banquet Speaker Lori Foster Ballroom 7-10P Close of Silent Auction Announcement of Amateur Wine Competition Winners Live Auction Background Music		

NEBRASKA WINERY & GRAPE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

2012 - 2013 Membership Form

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Please indicate your membership category by selecting one of the four choices below:

_____ **INDIVIDUAL MEMBER \$45 per year** – April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013
(an individual member receives one NWGGA vote, one discount per NWGGA sponsored event, a single discount from vendors, and one “Vine Lines” subscription)

_____ **JOINT MEMBER \$65 per year** – April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013
(a joint membership receives two NWGGA votes, two discounts per NWGGA sponsored event, a single discount from vendors, and one “Vine Lines” subscription)

_____ **STUDENT MEMBER \$15 per year** – April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013
(a student member receives one NWGGA vote, one discount per NWGGA sponsored event, a single discount from vendors, and one “Vine Lines” subscription)

_____ **CORPORATE/WINERY MEMBER \$125 per year** – April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013
(a corporate membership receives up to three NWGGA votes, five discounts per NWGGA sponsored event, a discount from vendors, and multiple “Vine Lines” subscriptions; Corporate Sponsors will be listed in the NWGGA spring meeting program)

Please tell us about you and answer the following questions that apply:

Company or Individual Name _____

Primary Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Types and number of grapes planted: _____

Number of acres: _____

I am interested in volunteering for events and projects: _____

Check here if you do not want to be included in the member directory: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Nebraska Winery & Grape Growers Association**
Mail completed form to: **P.O. Box 82081, Lincoln, NE 68501-2081**

If you have any questions, please email us at: info@nebraskawines.com