

District NW MBAA Member Meeting Minutes
November 14th and 15th, 2014
Riverhouse Convention Center, Bend, OR

President Joe Casey called the meeting to order. He announced the NW District officers; Tom Shellhammer Vice President, Brian Faivre Secretary / Treasurer and Doug Hindman Technical and Publicity Chair. He acknowledged the challenging weather and commended the membership for making the journey to Bend for the meeting. No guest members were introduced.

Brian Faivre gave a financial update for the district. The district is doing quite well financially. Our balance as of 9/30/2014 is \$45,978.65. The Dodge & Cox fund has been successfully transferred to Vanguard via MBAA National.

Our District Board of Governors Representative, Brad Loucks, was unable to attend this meeting. Joe Casey reported for him. He announced that Karl Ockert is no longer the Technical Director for National. Joe introduced Kris Scholl who is the current Treasurer for MBAA National. Kris said the Technical Director position is currently posted and that the MBAA National Executive Committee is forming a steering committee to review and hire a new Technical Director for MBAA National. Kris also mentioned that the MBAA Engineering course was a success.

Jim Boyd from Roy Farms presented the hop update to the membership. Jim referenced the German Hop Industry Report and the US IHGC-Economic Commission estimates. Both of these documents can be found under the meeting minutes. This was the first year of global acreage increase since 2008. Germany grew 42% of all hops and the US 34%. China is expected to continue to import more hops. The Slovenia crop was good, however the Poland crop was noted as disastrous. Jim discussed the "Effect of Brewing on Global Industry" stating that the USA is approaching historic highs in acreage with aroma and dual purpose hops showing 28% increase with a total increase of 11.5%.

Nick Funnell from BSG CraftBrewing presented the malt update. He pointed out that this is not a vintage year. Rain and snow has caused harvest and quality issues including sprout damage and lower yields both in the US and Canada. On the positive side the Europeans had a great harvest. This is the best UK harvest since 1984. Farmers are still wanting high prices so we are expecting to see higher prices along with higher proteins and lower extract. Beta glucans are slightly higher, but not concerning. Expect to see more gibberellic acid (GA) used this year. If you have an issue with GA let your supplier know. Damaged barley will be malted first to get it out of the way and blended out. If you want more information the Brewers Association did a power hour in October that has a lot of information. To sum it up, expect slightly higher prices for slightly lower quality. Nick stressed that brewers should know where their barley comes from and talk with their suppliers about their individual situation. The barley growing areas of North America are very geographically diverse and some areas were very badly affected, while others were almost untouched. Brewers should also consider sourcing at least some of their malt from overseas, particularly from the UK and Ireland where the proteins were exceedingly low this year and could offset the increases seen in the North American crop. Finally the Brewers Association is working on a crop report that will be sent out to members soon and will contain more detail.

Tom Shellhammer presented the membership and scholarship update. We are currently the largest district at 382 members. The NW District scholarship was awarded to No One, because no one applied. Tom encouraged the membership to make your pitch for free money to improve your education. \$15k has been contributed from the NW District to the OSU scholarship. We have an additional \$10k to go. Once we hit \$25k it hits perpetuity and we are endowed. Tom presented new member candidates to the membership for consideration. All new candidates introduced themselves. While it was a tough decision and some feelings were hurt – the membership agreed to allow all new candidates to the NW District. Tom swore all the new members in.

Doug Hindman gave the Technical Committee and Publicity update. Doug showed our members where they can find posted meeting minutes and presentations. He also mentioned that access to this information will soon be authenticated and require an active MBAA membership. This information will be available to all MBAA members, not just District NW. Doug also discussed what information is disseminated by our NW District twitter account and mailing list. He encourage all members to consider signing up for both to stay current on what is happening with the NW District and upcoming meetings. Finally Doug gave a shout out to all of the Technical Committee for all of their hard work.

Joe Casey discussed old business. Wristband are now being used to prevent stragglers and underage drinking at meetings. Venues are starting to require more stringent rules around alcohol consumption so please be patient with these changes.

Joe Casey also discussed new business. The 2015 spring meeting is set for May 1st and 2nd in Hood River, OR with Everybody's Brewing as the host. The 2015 fall meeting is set for October 23rd and 24th in Bellevue, WA. We are still looking for a host for the fall meeting. Joe talked about the safety concerns of using plastic kegs at our meetings and that we are formalizing a plan to prohibit the use of plastic kegs. We are not certain on single use kegs, however we don't want to allow reusable plastic kegs. MBAA National is recommending insurance policies for all local districts. The cost is approximately \$1300 / yr. MBAA National will pick up the 1st year of coverage and that the NW District will incur the cost after the 1st year. The MBAA Annual meeting is set for October 7th – 10th in Jacksonville, FL. We might be outgrowing the Best Western Hood River Inn for our District NW spring meetings and might need to start considering a larger venue that can handle our membership.