

HOLLYWOOD WINE SOCIETY BYLAWS 2025

The Hollywood Wine Society (HWS) is a non-profit social group which sponsors wine tastings and dinners and wine education and also promotes the general enjoyment of wine. The HWS was founded in 1972 and the bylaws were revised in 1998 and 2015. This document will update those bylaws.

Tastings

Each month except July and August there shall be a HWS wine tasting hosted by a member based upon alphabetical rotation. If a member cannot make his assigned month, it is his responsibility to find another member to trade places with him.

Such tasting shall be on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, unless changed by the President. The host shall choose a wine theme and obtain the wines (typically 12-14 bottles) needed for his tasting and shall be reimbursed by the Treasurer for the cost incurred in obtaining the wines. The host shall not mark up a bottle above his actual cost unless such bottle has substantially appreciated. The increased price should be no more than 80% of the lowest price actually obtainable as referenced by Wine Searcher or other comparable site. If a commercial cost reference is not available, the member shall ask the President for guidance.

The host shall choose a commercial venue, usually a restaurant, as approved by the President which shall be geographically convenient for all members, with Hollywood as the central location. The East-West boundaries are the Atlantic Ocean to Palm Ave., and North-South boundaries are Sample Road to Miami Gardens Drive. The officers may approve an exception to such geographical limitations.

Also, the host shall provide at his cost at a minimum a three course meal and a dessert wine. In addition the Society will provide cheese commensurate with the wine theme chosen by the host unless the host decides not to include it.

In the event that there are fewer than twenty-two scheduled members attending such tasting the host shall maintain a list of potential invitees and shall be in charge of inviting additional guests of members as needed to reach a maximum number of twenty-two.

Priority shall be given to those prior attendees who wish to join the club and who are close to meeting the six tasting requirements to join the club. The Board may appoint an individual to keep track of the attendees, excused absences and guests and who will calculate the cost of each

tasting for members and guests. That individual or the host shall inform the Treasurer of any excused absence.

If a member invites a guest, he is responsible to make sure that either the member or his guest pay his share/cost of that tasting to the Treasurer. If a member repeatedly invites guests who are no shows, then the club can charge that member for the cost of the guest's share of the tasting. If the guest does not pay, then the Treasurer shall take such payment from the tasting account of the member who invited the guest.

Guests pay their *pro rata member* cost of the tasting plus currently a surcharge of \$75 to cover the cost of setup and food. This surcharge can be changed at the discretion of the Board.

Officers

The HWS has the following officers: President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Cellar-Master. All officers serve without compensation or other benefits. These officers constitute The Board.

Responsibilities and Terms of Officers:

All officers serve with the approval of the HWS membership and will retain their office until they either resign or are replaced by another member.

A member desiring to replace one of the other current officers will submit his request, verbal or written, to the President, thus becoming a candidate. The President will then question the incumbent officer whether he will stand-down or pursue re-election. No election is required if the incumbent will stand-down unless there are additional members who seek to become candidates.

If election/re-election is required, the President will so inform the membership with at least one month notice, and ask if any other members want candidacy, and then call the vote at the next monthly tasting;

A majority of the vote determines who will serve in the office. Multiple candidates will necessitate a runoff election of the two members receiving the highest number of votes.

The President at his discretion may appoint or request a volunteer to act as a temporary officer in the event of a vacancy due to death or disability, unexpected resignation, or removal. The office will become available by election to members so interested at the earliest opportunity.

If the President is unable to function/fulfill his duties due to death or disability, then the Board will preside until a new President can be elected at the earliest opportunity.

Duties of the Officers

The officers are responsible for the duties and functions listed below. These lists are not necessarily comprehensive or intended to limit any activity not described.

President

- *Provide leadership
- *Represent the Hollywood Wine Society
- *Preside at HWS tastings, meetings and Holiday Dinners.
- *Select/solicit hosts for Holiday Dinners
- *Approve venues for tastings, Holiday Dinners
- *Help members organize tastings and Holiday Dinners
- *Help members acquire wines for tastings and Holiday Dinners from the Wine Library or from the cellars of HWS members
- *Provide the Cellar-Master and Treasurer with a listing of the wines tasted at the Wine Dinners, as well as the expenses involved
- *Mediate disputes
- *Authorize the purchase of wines, at times with the help of HWS members, for the Wine Library, and other items as needed
- *Conduct auctions, or select auctioneer, of wines provided from Cellar-Master
- *Appoint or terminate Committees as needed and solicit members to serve
- *Appoint temporary officers to fill vacancies
- *Serve as the liaison between members wishing to become an officer and existing officers

Secretary

- *Maintain list of current members and contact information
- *Inform membership of monthly tastings, including host, date, venue and topic
- *Email membership of special information, including HWS Holiday Dinners and summer casual tastings that the President or other members want to distribute
- *Send out announcements via email of general interest.
- *Maintain list of past members

Treasurer

- *Maintain HWS checkbook
- *Record payment of fees and dues
- *Keep a tasting account for each member and send monthly updates to the Web Master

- *Advise members when their Tasting Account Balance falls below a minimum
- *Record members' attendance and excused absence from tastings
- *Coordinate with Cellar Master the transfer of funds as appropriate
- *Provide if requested by a HWS member financial records that pertain to the tasting account, annual fees, and other assets
- *Establish that checkbook signatories are the Treasurer and the President

Cellar-Master

- *Maintains the Wine Library
- *Purchases Wines for the Wine Library in consultation with the President
- *Assists members who wish to purchase wines for the Library
- *Provides a Quarterly Report to the Board of Directors of new Library wines
- *Provides a printed list of the Library at the start of each year to the Membership
- *Informs Web Master as soon as new purchases are made.
- *Monitors HWS Library Escrow Account to maintain a healthy balance
- *Arranges payment from HWS Library Escrow Account to any member who purchases wines for the Library
- *Assists Host for the Annual Holiday Party in selecting appropriate wines for the event

Membership

The Society maximum membership is 22 members, subject to change by the Officers and membership.

A quorum for voting purposes is two-thirds of the current membership.

When there is a vacancy, a HWS member may sponsor a candidate for membership by submitting a verbal or written request to the President. The candidate must have attended at least six prior HWS tastings.

The president may appoint a temporary Membership Committee to interview the candidate to determine his wine interest and knowledge while also explaining the obligations of membership. The Committee shall report to the HWS at the next meeting/tasting (allowing at least one-month prior notice) of their interview findings and offer recommendations.

Approval requires a unanimous vote of those present. If admitted a new member shall pay a nonrefundable library initiation fee (currently \$1200). The library fee may be increased by the President/HWS officers. The new member shall also pay full annual dues (no matter what month joining the club) and tasting account fees.

A member shall be excused from no more than four tastings per year, otherwise his membership may be terminated by the officers. In order to be excused such member must contact the host and that individual

designated to keep track of attendance and cost no later than the Thursday prior to that month's tasting. A member who exceeds three unexcused absences in a year may be terminated by the officers.

Termination of Membership

If a member resigns or is terminated for violation of the rules, such member forfeits any wine library initiation fees paid to the club. If the resignation or termination occurs in the second half of the calendar year then one half of the annual dues shall also be forfeited. In all events any unused portion of the tasting fees shall be refunded.

Leave of Absence

A member is permitted one leave of absence for a minimum of four months and a maximum of eight months, during which he is excused from both conducting and paying for any tasting. He is not permitted to attend a tasting as a guest nor vote nor invite a guest. Such member must still pay the annual dues each year.

Dues and Fees

Each member shall pay in January their annual dues (presently \$600) as established by the Officers, with a one month grace period. *If delinquent, a member foregoes his right to attend all HWS events* and cannot serve as an officer until such amount is paid. If the member remains delinquent for three months, his membership may be terminated by a majority vote of the officers. The dues pay the cost of wines for the HWS Dinner and other Society expenses.

The tasting account fees, presently \$800, are held in escrow and are added to from time to time as needed to maintain a positive balance (minimum \$400) within each member's tasting account as recorded by the Treasurer. Upon request by a member the Treasurer will provide a review of such account.

The Treasurer may advise raising the fees as wine tasting costs rise. The fees are used to reimburse the host of each monthly tasting for the cost of the wines served and for other expenses including cheese. Monthly the member's share/cost of the tasting (which includes a cheese selection) is deducted from his tasting account unless such member's absence is excused.

Website

The Society also maintains a website (www.hollywoodwinesociety.com) where each member can view his tasting account balance and a schedule of past and future tastings and other items relevant to the Club. The Web Master is appointed by the Board.

Web Master

- *Creates and maintains the website for Hollywood Wine Society
- *Ensures member account balances are updated monthly based on report from the Treasurer
- *Ensures new Wine Library purchases are added to library page promptly
- *Ensures member contact information is accurate and up to date
- *Ensures Tasting Schedule and Monthly Tasting pages are accurate and up to date
- *Ensures WordPress payments for annual fee and miscellaneous are up to date
- *Adds announcements as appropriate
- *Adds additional content as appropriate
- *Trains a member volunteer to become an Assistant Web Master

Holiday Dinners

The HWS will have one wine Dinner per year in December at a local restaurant, typically on a Saturday or Sunday evening.

The President will appoint a member host or volunteer to arrange the dinner at a venue approved by the President. The HWS will supply most or all of the wines from the Wine Library and each club member who attends shall only pay for the cost of the Dinner for himself (plus the option of one guest/spouse). The cost shall be determined by the host and the President. If a member does not pay for such Dinner by the date determined by the host, typically 30 days prior to the Dinner, he will lose his seat, which then will be offered to past members first and then other guests. Past members (plus one guest/spouse) will pay the same price as members pay for the Dinner. Additional guests will pay that price plus a wine cost as determined by the President.

Committees

The President may form advisory committees as deemed appropriate, consisting only of current HWS members. For example in the past there was a Membership Committee which established procedures for screening and determining the criteria to be used to recommend new members.

Amendments to the Bylaws

The rules of the club may be changed by approval of majority vote of the officers and shall require approval of two-thirds of the members then present at a scheduled wine tasting event. A minimum of a one month notice of such meeting shall be given all members by email.

Voting

All voting by members with regard to discharge of officers and voting for new officers shall be by secret ballot and shall require at least one month's notice by email prior to the next regularly scheduled club meeting. Any email sent to the last known email of such member as maintained by the Secretary shall be presumed to have been properly delivered. It is the members' obligation to promptly inform the Secretary of any changes regarding address and phone numbers.

Dissolution of the Club

In the event either the majority of the officers recommend to dissolve the society, or at least 50% of the then current members submit a written request to the President (or if there is no President then any other officer) for the same, then the club may be dissolved upon a vote of two-thirds of its then members.

All members shall receive at least a one month notice by email and such vote shall be at the next regularly scheduled tasting at least one month after such notice.

In the event at least two-thirds of all members agree to dissolve the club, the Wine Library will be auctioned by a reputable auction house under the direction of the Cellar-Master and coordinated with The Board and any unwanted wines will be auctioned to the club's members with at least a one month notice. The tasting/ Reserve account held for each member shall be returned to that member. Under the direction of the Treasurer and coordinated with The Board, all the auction proceeds plus any remaining club monies, if any, shall be divided equally among all the then existing members including members of the preceding twelve months.

Applicability

The members hereby agree to govern themselves pursuant to the terms of these Bylaws. In the event of a disagreement as to the applicability or interpretation of any of these rules, each member agrees to abide by the decision of the majority of the officers and a majority vote of the members then present at the next scheduled tasting.

Addendum

Officers of the Club 2024/2025:

President

Mark Stern

Secretary

Hugh Gardiner

Treasurer

(Vacant)

Cellar Master

Stu Roberts

Unofficial Positions:

President Emeritus

Bob Maliner

Assistant Treasurer

Les Zuckerman

Cheese Monger

Stu Roberts