

Promoting Appreciation of Wine Through Education

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Get Certified! New Videos Available!

This year, I made the New Year's resolution to make no New Year's resolutions. Of course, by making that New Year's resolution, I failed to keep my resolution before the year got started. It is good to get the year started off right. If you made a New Year's resolution to start or further your wine education. 2019 is a great time to do it!

Wine Judge Training—Spring Session

The AWS Wine Judge Certification Program will have a first-year spring session in Washington D.C. on April 27, 2019. Spring sessions are a great opportunity to cut a year off the program by completing year one in the spring and year two in the fall at the National Conference. Like the conference session, the spring session is a one-day course including an examination. The cost of the spring session is \$285. There is a lot to do before taking the class in April, so if you are interested, please contact me soon.

Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET)

This fall the American Wine Society will be offering our first WSET course at our conference. WSET (Wine and Spirit Education Trust) is

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Meet the President



This is a very exciting time for the American Wine Society as we transition from two strong years of leadership under Kristin Kraft to two more years of growth and progress under the new Board. I'm very happy to be leading such a passionate group of wine enthusiasts.

The 2019 Board brings corporate business skills to our non-profit organization. Additionally, most members are graduates of the AWS Wine Judge Certification Program and several have advanced wine certifications from other organizations. All of our Board members are already working diligently in their respective offices to further the AWS mission of *Promoting Wine Appreciation through Education*.

In our National Office, David Falchek and Katie Kearney are starting their third year as Executive Director and Member Services Manager. David has been a champion of the AWS, in addition to running the National Office.

As your new President, I invite **you** to become a part of the growing and evolving AWS. A special way to show your support by taking advantage of the AWS Wine Judge Training Program or enrolling in the WSET Level 2 training we will offer this year. These are both nationally and internationally recognized wine certification programs where you can learn more about wine and evaluating wines.

I especially urge every chapter to invite your Regional Vice President to attend at least one of your tasting this year—you will learn what benefits are available to make your chapter better and to stimulate growth.

Finally, it's not too early to start planning to join us in St.



Pete Beach, Florida, for the National Conference (Oct. 31-Nov. 2). Our delightful venue is the Tradewinds Resort, right on the Gulf of Mexico, where we'll be taking advantage of its great water views. This will be the furthest south we've ever traveled for a National Conference.

Diane Meyer, our dynamic Conference Chair, outdoes herself each year and is already working hard to once again make it truly memorable. If you want to help with the planning, contact her at Diane@AmericanWineSociety.org.

Both the major and smaller airlines offer bargain direct flights to nearby Tampa airport, so the conference will be quite accessible for most of our members.

Cheers!

Joe Broski

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