

United States Association of Cider Makers

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 15th, 2016

A Board of Directors meeting was held via phone conference. Members in attendance: David Cordtz, Mike Beck, Ryan Burk, Dan Wilson, James Kohn, Trevor Baker, Justin Kissinger. Missing were Paul Vander Heide, Eleanor Leger, Dan Rowell, Bruce Nissen. Also in attendance, Sue Husch and Ellen Serr.

Item: Accept Minutes

President Mike Beck called the meeting to order. David motioned to accept the minutes from the last meeting, Ryan seconded. Motion carried.

Agenda Items

Certified Cider Professional – Financial & Exam Questions

David suggested that the CCP get its own bank account to pay their own expenses. Sue noted that the finance committee is getting set up on Quickbooks online and can set up multiple accounts. Trevor said that Eric and the CCP instructors only got paid because he requested payment from Brad. Brad also paid the British cidemakers who have been waiting for payment. Mike will ask the finance department to come up with a better solution for timely bill paying.

Exam – The board received the exam questions last week and did not approve questions #31 and #45. Discussion on whether to re-write or replace the questions. David felt enough time had already been devoted to the project and moved to strike #31 and #45 and approve the test without those questions. Trevor seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Executive Director Committee

Today was the ending day for the applications to be accepted for the position of Executive Director. Trevor said over 1,300 applications have been received with some really good candidates so far. Mike suggested possibly hiring an HR firm to help us wade through them. Ellen will send a doodle poll for the committee to meet next week to begin the vetting process.

Cider Producer Survey

Trevor is working with NWCA on customizing their member survey to gather production data. This could either be posted on the member's only area of the website, or shared with the public. Concern was raised that with this information, the USACM could seem to impact the industry unfairly. Justin will check with legal counsel before the board moves forward with a decision.

Cider Institute of North America

Ryan shared with the CINA the boards desire to vet the course material before granting its approval. The members are still gathering materials and putting the course together. The board stands by its decision to see the curriculum before attaching the USACM name.

New Business

Committee Assignments/Duties

Mike noted that the board of directors has no rules in place about committee chairs; is it a lifetime appointment, do you need to be a member of the board to chair a committee, what if your employer changes, etc. He and Justin will start working on the project.

Membership Level Change

James proposed to change the membership levels of Cidery in Planning and Cidery 0 – 5,000 to two different levels rather than (currently) having them as the same level. Cidery in Planning does not have a TTB Basic Permit (no voting rights) and a Cidery 0 – 5,000 does have a basic permit and does have voting rights. The board agreed and the change will be effective immediately.

Conference Planning Update

QBS has decided not to extend their contract. Ellen will stay on in an administrative capacity and Sue will be available for conference consultation. David suggested the board send Sue a letter of recommendation and the board agreed.

David motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dan Wilson seconded. Meeting adjourned. The next board of directors meeting will be held Tuesday, March 29th at 5pm EST.