

Meeting Minutes - Education Committee  
9313 Pacific St, Plymouth, CA 95669

Monday, January 12th, 2026

Attendees: Daisy D'Agostini, Jeff Runquist, Milind Pansare, and Spencer Jones and Megan Van Hook

**CALL TO ORDER**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:05AM by Spencer Jones

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Present: Daisy D'Agostini, Jeff Runquist, Milind Pansare, and Spencer Jones

- Absent: Scott Harvey
- A quorum was established

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

- No conflict of interest stated

**DISCUSSION**

1. Plan to share and socialize new regional names with wineries that are within the boundaries, excluding Fiddletown and Shenandoah.

**Executive Director was given direction for the following**

- Highlight on a map Sutter Creek, Amador City, Ridge Road, West End highlight in different colors
- Send an email to the West End and Sutter Creek wineries to propose the name and confirm that they are comfortable with the winery cluster assigned to them.
- Set a response deadline of the 1st.
- Attend the next Education Committee meeting to provide public comment if they wish.
- They can prepare and submit an alternative name option in case they prefer a different designation.

Suggestions: Amador Hills, Sutter Creek, and Sutter Hills Other: West End and Amador West

**EDUCATIONAL MAP**

1. **Initial Map/Page:** Establish Amador's geographical context: "Where the heck are we??" Use a map showing Amador's relation to key major cities (Reno, San Francisco, and Sacramento).
2. **Subsequent Pages:** Dedicate individual pages to highlighting and detailing each of the wine regions within Amador County.
3. Map Project Order
  - a. Digital Map - Example Favorite [j Lohr Paso AVA Map](#)
  - b. Print
  - c. Topo Map
4. Map will cover the country incase we get new wineries
  - a. Focus on four regions
  - b. Multiple bids on project

## **ARC REVIEW**

Executive Director to book a lunch with ARC to review agreement about teaching seminars in the class. Good days Wednesday: Jeff, Milind, Spencer, and Jeff schedule a lunch. The Executive Director needs to book a lunch with ARC to discuss and review the agreement regarding teaching seminars in the class.

Good availability for this lunch is on Wednesday. Attendees should include Jeff, Milind, and Spencer, in addition to the Executive Director. Jeff is listed twice; please confirm the attendees.

## **MEMBERSHIP EDUCATION**

### **Customer & Wine Service Training for Winery Staff**

Objective: Provide high-quality, consistent customer and wine service training to ensure every guest experience is welcoming, professional, and memorable.

#### **Training Focus Areas**

- Proper wine service techniques
  - How to open wine correctly
  - How to pour wine
  - Pouring order and etiquette
- Guest engagement and hospitality standards
- Managing difficult situations
  - How to address customer concerns
  - Conflict resolution with guests
- Creating a “top-notch” tasting room experience from arrival to departure

### **Potential Training Providers**

#### **Rombauer Vineyards – Seminar led by *Tracey Berkner***

- Preferred option if available to present locally
- If on-site training is not feasible, offer a stipend for staff to attend off-site training

#### **Rick Cushman**

- Presentation on “secret shopper” insights
- Best practices for handling customer interactions and challenging situations

#### **Community Benchmark**

- Previously provided a successful training class for Amador wineries

## **Cost Structure**

- Training costs shared between the organization and participating staff
- Proposed model:
  - 50% covered by the organization
  - 50% covered by staff (or winery), supported by a stipend when applicable

## **Next Steps**

1. Reach out to wineries to assess interest in participating
2. Confirm training presenter(s) and availability
3. Finalize format (on-site seminar vs. off-site training with stipend)
4. Set dates, costs, and registration details

**Next Meeting Attendance:** Milind will be absent next month. Daisy will attend remotely (via Zoom).

### **Committee Confirmation:**

- Check with Scott regarding his interest in remaining on the committee.
- Email Elizabeth to confirm her commitment to the committee.

**Four Fires Speaker:** Email Milind about potential UC Davis speakers for the Four Fires event.

## **ADJURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Daisy D'Agostini

- Second by Milind Pansare
- Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM