



NORTH TEXAS WINEMAKERS GUILD BY-LAWS

Preamble

The members of The North Texas Winemakers Guild are non-commercial home winemakers who voluntarily join together to encourage and support the art of home winemaking and wine appreciation in The State of Texas. The North Texas Winemakers Guild serves as a gathering point for people who are interested in improving their home winemaking skills through education, contests, sharing of information and social interaction. The Guild provides members an opportunity to enjoy home winemaking in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere; as well as providing the opportunity for every member to participate in the operation of The North Texas Winemakers Guild.

The following By-Laws have been adopted to insure an orderly and continuously functioning organization for the benefit of all members. To that end, The North Texas Winemakers Guild shall sponsor Quarterly Meetings, Meet-Ups, Tastings, and participate in whatever Local, Regional and National home winemaking activities The North Texas Winemakers Guild sees fit in order to enhance non-commercial home winemaking and wine appreciation.

Article 1 - Organization

Section 1 – Name: The name of this organization is “**The North Texas Winemakers Guild,**” referred to herein as “**The Guild.**”

Section 2 – Members and Officers: The Guild shall be composed of Members and Officers as set forth in Article 4 and Article 6 below.

Section 3 – The Guilds fiscal year is January 1st through December 31st.

Article 2 - Definitions

Section 1: Whenever the words “The Guild” or “Guild” is used in these By-Laws, it shall mean The North Texas Winemakers Guild.

Section 2: Whenever the term “Member” is used in these By-Laws, it shall mean a person who has obtained membership in the Guild by paying dues for the current year and signing a membership form.

Section 3: Whenever the term “Officers” is used in these By-Laws, it shall mean the President, Vice President, or Treasurer.

Article 3 – Purpose

Section 1: The purpose of this organization is to encourage and support the Art of Home Winemaking and Wine Appreciation.

Section 2: The Guild serves as a gathering point for people who are interested in improving their home winemaking skills through education, contest, sharing of information and social interaction.

Section 3: The Guild does not serve as an advertising agency or promotional organization.

Section 4: The North Texas Winemakers Guild Officers and members are non-commercial home winemakers and do not serve as business, wine making or vineyard consultants.

Section 5: The North Texas Winemakers Guild is organized and operated by volunteers, who are voluntary members of The Guild. All Guild positions Official or Unofficial are voluntary uncompensated positions. Since the North Texas Winemakers Guild does not serve as an advertising agency or promotional organization, and Guild Officers, Official or Unofficial do not serve as advertisers, promoters, business, winemaking or vineyard consultants, members of The Guild should not expect The Guild to provide them with monetary gain through being a member.

Article 4 – Members , Dues, Guests, Events

Section 1- Qualifications: Membership in The Guild is open to any person age 21 or older who completes a membership application and pays the required membership dues. Membership dues shall be determined by the Officers at the December meeting. The Officers have the authority to accept or reject any candidate for membership in their sole discretion.

Section 2 - Membership: Accepting membership status in The North Texas Winemakers Guild automatically means that the member agrees and accepts to abide by the By-Laws of The North Texas Winemakers Guild, The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, U.S. Department of the Treasury and The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission rules and regulations. These rules and regulations can be found on The Guilds website at www.northtexaswinemakers.org.

Section 3– Membership Term: The membership term extends from the date that a candidate for membership satisfies the Membership Requirements to December 31st. Failure to satisfy the Membership Requirements by the March Meeting shall cause membership status to terminate. Should any individual membership status lapse due to failure to satisfy the Membership Requirement by the March Meeting, said individual may regain their membership status by satisfying the Membership Requirement again.

Section 4 - Benefits of Membership: While both Members and Non-Members may participate in most Guild functions, only Members may enjoy the benefits of those Guild functions designated by the Guild Officers as Member-only events or Guild functions, such as voting.

Section 5 – Guests of Members and Visitors:

Members of The North Texas Winemakers Guild acknowledge that consumption of alcoholic beverages is an individual responsibility, and in Texas, an adult is 21 years old or more; Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 26 U.S.C. 5042 and Federal Wine Regulations at 27 CFR 24.75. Members, take full responsibility for their actions and for the actions of their guests.

Members, guests and visitors, will never hold another member, guest, visitor, meeting hosts, Officers, Official or Unofficial, responsible or liable for their own actions, accidents or injuries. Members take full responsibility for the actions, accidents or injuries of their guests and or visitors.

Participation in The North Texas Winemakers Guild is voluntary. Through The Guild we provide the tools that enable members, guests and visitors to participate in meetings at venues that include, but are not limited to, private homes or private enterprises (such as wineries, vineyards, restaurants, and retail stores). Because we do not supervise or control physical transportation to or from meetings and events, nor do we supervise or control interactions among or between members of The North Texas Winemakers Guild, we request that our members, guests and visitors exercise caution and good judgment when attending meetings and events and agree to abide by the By-Laws of The North Texas Winemakers Guild, The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, U. S. Department of the Treasury and The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission rules and regulations, which can be found at The Guilds website www.northtexaswinemakers.org. The member, guest, or visitor acknowledges and takes full responsibility for his or her own actions, and the member, guest, or visitor will not hold another member, guest, visitor, meeting host, Officer, President, Vice President, Treasurer, or other Officers, Official or Unofficial, of The North Texas Winemakers Guild responsible or liable for his or her own actions, accidents or injuries.

Section 6– Membership Revocation: Membership may be revoked by The Guild Officers for failure to comply with the By-Laws of The Guild or any conduct detrimental to the objectives and purposes of The Guild.

Section 7– Membership Reinstatement: Any member whose membership was revoked for failure to comply with the By-Laws of The North Texas Winemakers Guild, or for conduct detrimental to the objectives and purposes of The Guild may be reinstated the following year by Officers discretion.

[Article 5 – Meetings](#)

Section 1 – Regular Meetings: Regular meeting of The Guild will be held the third Saturday of March, June, October and December, unless it has been determined and approved in advance by The Guild Officers that another date is more appropriate because of a holiday, conflict or other extenuating circumstance.

Section 2 – Edibles: Guild members and each person in their party are expected to bring either an appetizer, hors d’ oeuvre, side dish or dessert and a bottle of wine to meetings that they attend.

Section 3 – The Guild Group Events: Special meetings or events may be called by the President at any time with sufficient notice given to the members. Anything pertaining to meetings, special meetings and events will be at the discretion of Guild Officers.

Section 4 – Officer Meetings: The Guild Officers may meet other than at a regular quarterly meeting of The Guild as necessary to fulfill their duties to The Guild.

Article 6 – Officers and Elections

Section 1 – Positions: The elected Officers of The Guild shall be a President, a Vice –President and a Treasurer.

Section 2 – Qualifications: Qualifications to serve as a Guild Officer is open to any member. All Guild positions Official or Unofficial are voluntary uncompensated positions.

Section 3 – Election of Officers; The election of officers will take place annually during the December, Guild meeting. Nomination of an individual for candidacy for a position as Guild Officer may only be made by a Guild member. Nominations may be made and accepted at the December meeting up to the time that the voting for the officers takes place. Nominations may also be made via email, up to five (5) days prior, to the election. The Guild member submitting the nomination email (if unable to attend the meeting) also places vote for said nominee. Candidates may be nominated for more than one office, but no Officer may serve in more than one elected position at the same time. The nominated candidate must be willing to fulfill all responsibilities and obligations of the position if elected. Uncontested positions may be confirmed by voice vote by those members attending the meeting. Contested positions will be voted by secret ballot. The winner of a contested election is the person who receives the most number of votes of those members present and voting for that position. Should a tie occur, a second and possible third round of secret voting will occur until a winner is proclaimed. The new Officers assume their duties at the conclusion of the December meeting.

Section 4 – Terms: All Officers shall serve a term of one (1) year.

Section 5 – Vacancy in Elected Office: When a vacancy in office exists, a new Officer will be appointed within thirty (30) days by Guild Officers.

Section 6 – Duties: The duties of the Officers of The Guild are;

The **President** shall conduct and preside over regular club meetings, officer meetings and other Guild events. Establish committees as needed for special projects: present initiatives and ideas for club activities, review and approve the content of The Guild Web site, prepare the annual Guild calendar, delegate club business to appropriate officers, conduct all voting and represent The Guild in any business or other activity with other organizations. The President is also responsible for Public Relations for The Guild, included but not limited to distributing information about The Guild, soliciting new members for The Guild, and identifying opportunities for advertising and exposing the presence and purpose of The Guild to the public.

The **Vice President** shall assist the President in all described duties and may have his/her own duties as designated by the President, such as Educational Coordinator. The Vice President shall also act on behalf of the President in Guild activities or business when the President is absent.

The **Treasurer** shall collect, record and deposit annual membership dues and other collected funds related to The Guild. The Treasurer shall also disburse funds for routine and special Guild business. The Treasurer shall maintain The Guild bank account, keep an accounting of Guild monies, provide financial summaries, and keep a current financial status of The Guild and be able to present it at the President's request. The Treasurer shall also maintain a directory of member information, including name, address,

phone and email addresses. The Treasurer shall also act on behalf of the President and Vice President in Guild activities or business when the President and Vice President are absent.

Section 7 – Powers: The Guild Officers shall have the authority to take any and all actions consistent with these By-Laws that are necessary to fulfill their duties or otherwise further the purpose of The Guild. The Guild Officers shall have the right to share or delegate any powers or obligations imposed upon said Officer set forth in this Article 6 to any individual, individuals or committees formed to further The Guild purposes as set forth in these By-Laws.

Section 8 – Expenditures: For any Guild expenditures \$100.00 or less, the President and Treasurer must approve the expenditure. For Guild expenditures greater than \$100.00 to \$500.00, the President, Vice President and Treasurer must approve the expenditure. For any Guild expenditure greater than \$500.00 the expenditure must be approved by a majority Vote of the Members.

[Article 7 – Amendments to By-Laws](#)

Section 1 – By-Law Review: The Officers shall review these By-Laws periodically to determine whether or not amendments are necessary.

Privacy Statement:

Your contact information is only for Guild purposes. We do not sell, rent, or exchange your information.

Revised January 29, 2014