



Minutes: Meeting of the Bourbon Republic, March 26, 2023. Athens Grill.

Before the meeting was called to order, our Social Hour was highlighted by lively conversation and yummy hors d'oeuvres, provided by Bee. Tonight's meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Bourbon Republic Club President, Andy Ziegler.

Our single barrel bottle pick (New Riff) was used to call the meeting to order. The bottle – literally – was pounded on the table to attract attention and quiet the group. The agenda tonight involved tasting various varieties of Redwood Empire Bourbon. There will be 7 whiskeys, after sampling there was dinner provided by Bee, and we ended with an allocated raffle. Redwood Empire Bourbon cask bottles were offered at market standard rate (MSR).

To review, Andy announced that members of the club board: John Zimmerman and Bee, co-vice presidents; Alan Garfield, communication and web; Brandon Trefey and Mike Schumaker, social media; and Jonah Nelson, treasurer; Andy Ziegler, president.

We will have July 9 and December 10 club meetings. In the Fall (sometime in October), we will plan a whiskey row trip: Angel's Envy, Peerless, and others. That will include a barrel pick team. If you have ideas for reps (or wish to join in) please let Andy know.

There were questions about going on field trips - more like social trips. Also, Andy announced that the club is partnering with 7 Acre Diary for the Sugar River Bourbon Festival which will occur sometime in October (at this point either the 8th or 14th of October, a Sunday). This will be a premier 7 Acre event with 7-10 distilleries represented with a tasting tent along with blue-grass music. It was agreed that safe transportation would be needed.

There was a question from a member. "What exactly are the benefits of membership?" Andy answered: (1) discounts of 10% off whiskey on the shelf; (2) discount of whiskey presented during the meeting of 10% over club cost; (3) appetizers; (4) limited run t-shirt (for members only, not for sale); (5) travel to Kentucky and being part of the barrel-pick team; (6) raffles of whiskey at the club meetings; (7) great socialization..

The max for the meetings will be 30 people, since over 30 becomes a bit overwhelming.

Whiskey tasting time. Andy gave a history and rundown of the distillery for the club. For today's meeting, the focus was on the whiskeys offered by Redwood Empire. This distillery's speciality is a range of whiskeys inspired by the great redwoods of Northern California. While most bourbons are Kentucky based, Redwood Empire is located in the wine region of California, named after the famous redwood trees. In fact, the first taste - Pipe Dreams - was named after the 14th tallest tree on the planet. Named in memory of the early 20th century naturalist, environmental philosopher, and author John Muir, the distillery was founded with sustainability in mind. "The spiritual union of man and nature" is one of their tag lines. While they do not specify, Redwood is a 4-5 year old whiskey. Brand names are Pipe Dream (bourbon whiskey), Emerald Giant (rye whiskey), and Lost Monarch (a blend of whiskeys).

Everyone was given a raffle ticket before dinner. The meeting ended with two raffles and everyone went home happy at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Garfield