

## **NGWB Grant Final Report (FY18-19)**

**Contract** 18-13-283  
NWGGA – NWGGA National Professional Development

**Grant Amount**  
\$5,000

### **Contact Information**

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### **Issue of Interest**

The national organization which represents the wine industry as well as provides a forum for executive directors from associations like NWGGA is WineAmerica. Membership with this organization allows for information regarding national initiatives which could impact every grape grower and winery. It also allows for networking with other similar state Associations to share ideas and initiatives and to assist the NWGGA and its members in finding innovative ways to solve problems and improve the Nebraska wine industry.

With increased legislative threats at the state and local level, having the ability to glean information from Wine America as well as other states is an important tool in avoiding reinventing the wheel and finding proven solutions to issues.

### **Approach to Problem**

This grant allowed for the NWGGA's Wine America's State and Regional Association dues as well as travel expenses for the NWGGA Executive director to attend the 2018 Wine America Fall Policy and Membership Meeting in Fredricksburg, TX and the annual policy meeting in April 2019 in Washington, DC. By attending these meetings, the NWGGA monitors issues occurring in other states that could also occur in Nebraska as well as being abreast of national issues for the industry.

### **Goals/Achievement of Goals**

The Executive Director Lori Paulsen attended the State Association meeting at the WineAmerica Fall Policy and Membership Meeting and Spring Policy Meeting. This allowed her to learn about the federal efforts to improve the issues with excise tax, web site ADA compliance, ongoing music licensing issues.

In addition, being able to network with other state's regarding herbicide drift has been a key help in gathering information as we put together our own Herbicide Drift Protocol.

And finally, we could hear reports from other states about legislative issues that have come up including tax changes, license changes, and other regulatory issues. This allows us to keep our eyes open for these kinds of issues in Nebraska. Other states shared detailed information that allowed our members to pursue state legislation.

Due to this project, the Nebraska Grape industry has gained national attention for their participation in Wine America and Federal issues that trickle down to Nebraska growers and winemakers.

## **Results, Conclusions, Lessons Learned**

Due to this project, the Nebraska Grape industry has gained national attention for their participation in Wine America and Federal issues that trickle down to Nebraska growers and winemakers.

Important issues have included work to make permanent the Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Act which will expire at the end of 2019 and will then increase excise taxes for Nebraska wineries.

Other issues important to Nebraska growers include immigration, spray drift, music licensing and TTB efficiency.

Nebraska has been dealing with spray drift issues for many years and now other states have had their troubles with this and therefore WineAmerica is looking at what can be done federally.

Results: Nebraska growers and winemakers have a voice at the federal level and have representation on WineAmerica.

Conclusion: NWGGA has become more proactive to propose and work to pass local legislation in the past few years. With awareness of the national issues, the industry will be helped to grow and thrive and to navigate potential threats to the industry.

## **Progress Achieved According to Outcome Measures**

### **Financial Report**

The total grant amount was \$5,000. Total expenditures were \$2,896.66 for travel to WineAmerica meetings.