

NGWB Grant Final Report (FY19-20)

Contract #18-13-283 - NWGGA – Wine America

Grant Amount \$4,500

Contact Information

Group: Nebraska Winery and Grape Growers Association
Contact: Kathi Schildt
Phone: (402) 761-2216
Address: P.O. Box 10
Milford, NE 68405
Email: kathi@nebraskawines.org

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 and was budgeted to cover travel expenses for the NWGGA Executive director to attend the 2019 Wine America Fall Policy and Membership Meeting and the annual policy meeting in April 2020 in Washington, DC. All travel was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Goals/Achievement of Goals

By obtaining a Wine America membership, 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.

More information and networking is hoped to be obtained at the rescheduled events or by attending the next year's events pending COVID-19 restrictions.

Results, Conclusions, Lessons Learned

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

The use of this grant helps in the long-term sustainability of the wine and grape industry in Nebraska. Given the overall size and number of wineries, growers and tasting rooms across the state, centralized communication between the the NWGGA and other state and national associations is crucial in coordinating events, mitigating and managing federal to local level issues, and working together to expand the industry within the state.

Financial Report