



Winter 2025

Don't Let Your Membership Expire!

Click [HERE](#) to pay your 2026 membership dues to continue taking advantage of all benefits!



Raising a Glass to Michael Shaps

Michael Shaps Wineworks is proud to share that Michael Shaps has received national recognition from the American Wine Society for his outstanding contributions to American winemaking. This honor places him among a distinguished group of winemakers shaping the future of American wine and brings well-deserved attention to Virginia's growing prominence on the national stage.

The official release from the American Wine Society is linked [HERE](#) with full details, and the VWA is delighted to see Michael's decades of dedication to both Virginia and Burgundy winemaking recognized at this level.

THANK YOU to our 2025 Meeting Sponsors!





**WINE & BEER
SUPPLY**

Looking ahead to 2026, we're excited to announce that the Virginia Wineries Association has partnered with the Eastern Winery Exposition to jointly host our conferences **March 24–26, 2026, in Richmond, VA.**

The program will feature dedicated VWA sessions and workshops, along with collaborative enology, viticulture, and marketing content. Highlights include:

- An industry celebration dinner with awards recognition
- Opportunities to connect with exhibitors
- A chance for all attendees to taste the newly revealed 2026 Governor's Cup Case®

Mark your calendars now! Registration is open, with an early-bird deadline of December 5. VWA members can use code 26VWA for 10% off.

Register [HERE!](#)

Preferred Partner Member Highlight:



Towne Insurance – A nationally recognized, full-service insurance and risk management agency that partners with leading carriers across the country to support all aspects of your insurance needs. Ranked in the top 1% of more than 45,000 insurance firms nationwide, Towne is the largest bank-owned agency in the United States. With a team of more than 500 experienced professionals, Towne delivers customized coverage solutions by collaborating with top-rated insurance companies to provide comprehensive protection at competitive prices.

Offer to VWA Members: Towne Insurance's agribusiness team offers VWA members an on-site visit and thorough risk assessment spanning commercial, farm, personal, health and benefits, and crop insurance needs. Their team is committed

Fred Reno's Fine Wine Confidential Podcast Now in the UVA Library

We're excited to share that *Fine Wine Confidential*, Fred Reno's renowned podcast launched five years ago, is now live and accessible through the UVA Library's digital collection.

To explore episodes and dive into the modern history of Virginia winemaking, click [HERE](#).



Tax Implications of the Federal Omnibus Bill

**Tuesday, December 2
1:00pm-2:00pm
via Zoom**

Join us to discuss the tax considerations brought about by the federal legislation. As

to ensuring you have the right protection and tailored support for your operation.

Contact: Trent Blythe at (757) 504-8559
atblythe@manryrawls.com

Help Shape the Future of Virginia Wine

To best serve the vineyards and wineries in our region, the Virginia Wine Coalition needs your participation in a confidential benchmarking survey, aimed at establishing a crucial reference point for future growth. This data will help us:

- Understand current industry challenges and opportunities
- Identify areas where collective action can drive the most impact
- Create benchmarks that will guide our strategic initiatives
- Better advocate for Virginia wine across all market channels

Your input is invaluable – and it directly shapes how we support your business and the growth of Virginia wine.

Click [HERE](#) to begin survey.

VWA Upcoming Events:

December 2, 2025: VWA Regulation & Rules Round Up (Taxes), 1:00 p.m., via Zoom

December 9, 2026: VWA Legislative Webinar, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

January 11-13, 2026: Governor's Cup® Preliminary Round, Purcellville, VA

January 22, 2026: VWA Board Meeting, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

January 25-27, 2026: Governor's Cup® Final Round, Purcellville, VA

March 12, 2026: Governor's Cup® Gala, Main Street Station, Richmond, VA

we've touched on in the past few Reg Roundups, there are a number of tax implications arising from the federal omnibus bill that may impact the way wineries do business going forward. We'll talk about those tax credits and changes, as well as give you a better understanding of what "no tax on tips" means for your business and payroll.

Click [HERE](#) to register!

Previous recordings of Regulation & Rules Round Up sessions can be viewed [HERE](#).

VWA Legislative Update Webinar

Tuesday, December 9, 2025
10:00–11:00 a.m. (Via Zoom)

All members are invited to join us for an important update covering the recent election and its impact on our industry, the upcoming 2026 legislative session, and key changes taking place across state government.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Who's My Legislator?

The Who's My Legislator? service is an online tool where the public at-large can determine which legislators represent them. Just enter your home address or use map based navigation to see your Virginia House and Senate representatives, as well as those in the U.S. House and Senate.

Please click [HERE](#) to locate your representatives.

Thank You for Attending the **VWA Annual Meeting!** We appreciate everyone who joined us this year.

Click [HERE](#) to view photos from the event.

**March 24-26, 2026: VWA / Eastern
Winery Exposition & Conference,
Richmond, VA (Registration open)**

Join a Committee!



VWA Job Bank - Post your Open Positions!

SEND US YOUR NEWS! We're always interested in hearing updates from our members:
New staff, new programs, recent news, community service projects, awards, etc.
Photos are encouraged!



Virginia Wineries Association | 250 West Main Street | Charlottesville, VA 22902 US

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