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Ocean Isle Beach Chapter of the American Wine Society Announces “Cheers to 10 Years” an enormous success.

Ocean Isle Beach — December 13, 2021 — Ocean Isle Beach Chapter of the American Wine Society is pleased to announce, that the Chapter celebrated 10 years of operation with its “Cheers to 10 Years” gala held at the Silver Coast Winery. Stan Barwikowski, OIB Chapter Co-chair told the gathering that, “it was hard to image how successful the Chapter has been since its start in August of 2011 with only 2 members.”

The OIB Chapter was founded on August 25th, 2011, with the help of Dana Keeler, Silver Coast winemaker and the support of Maryann Azzato, Silver Coast owner. From its early start with only 2 AWS members and the support of friends and neighbors the Chapter has grown significantly to more than 100 members and is one of the largest in the state and in the top 10% of all AWS chapters nationally. It has also spawned 3 other area chapter located in Shallotte, Southport, and Myrtle Beach.

The “Cheers to 10 Years” celebration had several guests of note in attendance. Winemaker Dana Keeler and Events Coordinator Susan Barnes of Silver Coast were in attendance and received a gift for Silver Coast from the OIB Chapter as recognition of Silver Coast’s support over the years. David Falchek, Executive Director of the American Wine Society, congratulated the Chapter for its success over the past decade and noted that this was the first celebration of its kind that he has had the privilege to attend.

Over the past decade the Chapter has also had the support of several wineries and businesses. Raylen Vineyards & Winery provided wine for the very first Chapter tasting and did so again by pouring their Petit Verdot at one of four tasting stations. Reustle Prayer Rock Vineyard of Roseburg, Oregon have made the trek from Oregon on several occasion to present at Chapter meetings, were unable to attend, but shipped their highly sought white wine blend called “Matrix.” Petrea Imports who have also presented at many Chapter meetings poured their Gigi Rosso Nebbiolo wine. And finally, Steven Taylor, a talented local amateur winemaker poured his latest Old Vine Zinfandel.

Following the wine tasting and appetizer course, the attendees dined on a buffet dinner provided by Chance’s Steak and Seafood. The evening also included a video history of the Chapter’s 10 years of operation that ran continuously, a photo booth, a sparkling wine station, a challenge activity and dancing to the music of DJ butch Barnes.

The “Cheers to 10 Years” celebration was a wonderful evening that left smiles on the faces of the nearly 100 in attendance. “Cheers to 10 Years”!

American Wine Society

The American Wine Society is the largest and oldest consumer-based wine education organization in North America. AWS is well respected in the wine industry and has tremendous relationships with domestic and international wineries and winemakers.

AWS membership is for anyone who enjoys wine and wants to learn more about it. Members include wine lovers from novice to expert, amateur and professional winemakers, wine educators, and people in all aspects of the wine industry.

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For more information on the American Wine Society or Ocean Isle Beach Chapter:

<http://www.americanwinesociety.org> On Facebook: **Ocean Isle Beach Chapter AWS** or on the Chapter’s website: <http://oibaws.org>