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WINE INDUSTRY GROUP ELECTS BOARD, OFFICERS

John Derrick of Mercer Canyons was elected to serve a three year term on the Board of Directors for the Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers by the voting membership that includes vintners and grape growers during their Annual Convention in February held in Kennewick.

Ken Lewis of Trail View Farm and Patrick Rawn of Two Mountain Winery were re-elected to serve three year terms as well on the nine member board.

Derrick is the Vice President of Vineyard Operations for Mercer Canyons Inc. of Prosser where he has worked for 23 years holding positions in management, development, production, and purchasing. Since 2009 he has managed development and staffing of 2300 acres.

Lewis is a Certified Public Accountant and worked for a range of companies before returning to the family farm in Prosser to manage 600 acres of diversified crops including 120 acres of wine grapes. Lewis has served on the WAWGG Board since 2008.

Rawn owns and operates Two Mountain Winery and Copeland Vineyard in Yakima Valley with his brother. He is General Manager for Two Mountain and serves as Vineyard Manager 130 acres including Copeland and other area vineyards. Rawn has been on the board since 2009.

Officers were also elected with Todd Newhouse as Chair, Patrick Rawn as Vice Chair, and Ken Lewis as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Board includes: Todd Newhouse of Upland Vineyards, Lynne Chamberlain of Spofford Station Vineyards, Shane Collins of Tsillan Cellars, Julia Kock of Klipsun Vineyards, Scott Williams of Kiona Vineyards, and Mike Means of Ste Michelle Wine Estates.

During the Convention, Chair Todd Newhouse lauded retiring board member Jason Schlagel who served on the board for three years. Schlagel was presented a plaque for his outstanding and dedicated service to the Washington wine industry. Schlagel is the Chief Agriculture Officer for Taggares Fruit Company of the Tri-cities.

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The Washington Association of Wine Grape Growers serves as the synergistic leader and unifying voice – through advocacy and education – for growers, vintners, partners, and policymakers.