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WINE INDUSTRY GROUP ELECTS BOARD, OFFICERS

Patrick Rawn of Two Mountain Winery was elected as Chair and James Mantone of Syncline Wine Cellars was newly elected to the Board of Directors for the Washington Winegrowers Association by the voting membership that includes vintners and grape growers during their Annual Convention in February held in Kennewick.

Rawn, on the Board since 2009 and past Vice Chair, 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 for 130 acres including Copeland and other area vineyards.

Mantone is the winemaker, vineyard manager, and co-owner with his wife Poppie of Syncline Wine Cellars in Lyle, Washington. Originally from the Midwest, Mantone graduated with a degree in Microbiology and Organic Chemistry before moving to Oregon to pursue wine making. First hired as a cellar master, James worked his way to winemaker of a custom crush house, LaVelle Vineyards before founding Syncline in the Columbia Valley.

Additional officers were also elected with Shane Collins of Tsillan Cellars, Chelan as Vice Chair and Ken Lewis of Trail View Farms, Prosser as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Board includes: Todd Newhouse of Upland Vineyards, Julia Kock of Klipsun Vineyards, Scott Williams of Kiona Vineyards, Mike Means of Ste. Michelle Wine Estates, and John Derrick of Mercer Canyons.

During the Convention, Rawn lauded outgoing Chair Todd Newhouse and retiring Board member Lynne Chamberlain of Spofford Station who served on the board since 2008. Chamberlain was presented with a plaque for her outstanding and dedicated service to the Washington wine industry.

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*The Washington Winegrowers Association serves as the synergistic leader and unifying voice
– through advocacy and education –
for growers, vintners, partners, and policymakers.*