



Arizona Wine industry elects new leadership

By Marina Renneke /For the Range News

The Arizona Wine Growers Association elected its new officers at its quarterly membership meeting held Feb. 1, 2011, in Willcox, Ariz.

Incorporated in 1983, the Arizona Wine Growers Association serves grape growers and winemakers in Arizona, allying its members for representation, promotion and education. The association strives to advance with integrity the sustainable growth and production of authentic Arizona-grown wines.

The newly elected leadership for the association's Executive Committee are:

- President: Peggy Fiandaca, Lawrence Dunham Vineyards
- Willcox Regional Vice President: Robert Carlson III, Carlson Creek Vineyards
- Sonoita Regional Vice President: Fran Lightly, Sonoita Vineyards
- Verde Valley Regional Vice President: John McLoughlin, Jerome Winery/Bitter Creek Winery/Odyssey Cellars
- Treasurer: Rob Hammelman, Sand-Reckoner Vineyards
- Secretary: Casey Rooney, City of Cottonwood Economic Development
- Past President: Todd Bostock, Dos Cabezas WineWorks

"I am excited to be leading the association and to work with my committee members to help Arizona's wine industry continue to grow and thrive," said Peggy Fiandaca, the new President and owner of one of Arizona's newest wineries Lawrence Dunham Vineyards. "Arizona wineries have shown they can compete with big-name wineries and continue to impress wine critics."

Arizona has 45 licensed and bonded wineries - up from nine in 2004 -- and many more are being developed. Most of Arizona's vineyards can be found in northern Arizona's Verde Valley, in Sonoita and Elgin in southern Arizona and in the greater Willcox region in southeastern Arizona.

Arizona wines have been highly regarded by Robert Parker and the Wine Spectator. Arizona wines have been served at the White House on many occasions and in 2010 at three James Beard House dinners. For more information about the Arizona Wine Growers Association and events, visit www.ArizonaWine.org.