



SVVGA New Board & President

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SVVGA Office: 707-935-0803

Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Elect New Board, President

(SONOMA, Calif.) -- Incoming Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance President Ned Hill announced the organization's 2002 Board of Directors consisting of ten membership-elected directors and two board-appointed members-at-large. Officers include President Ned Hill, Parmelee-Hill Vineyards; Vice President Peter Wellington, Wellington Vineyards; Treasurer, Steve Dale, Buena Vista Carneros and Secretary Michael Sangiacomo, Sangiacomo Vineyards. Directors include Julie Atwood, Atwood Ranch; Mike Benziger, Benziger Family Winery; Peter Haywood, Haywood Winery; Domenic Paino, Rancho Salina Vineyard; Ben Sessions, Hanzell Vineyards and Pat Stornetta, Leveroni Vineyards. Richard Dale of the Sonoma Ecology Center and Former California State Assembly Representative Valerie Brown are the 2002 members-at-large.

As president of the SVVGA, Hill's goals can be summarized as outreach and education. He is focused upon increasing vintner and grower involvement in the community and emphasizing the importance of communication which includes the development of a vineyard educational program.

"I realize the importance of communication," said Hill, "and I have personally tried to open up the lines of communication with neighbors outside the agricultural community." As a representative of the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Hill has been involved in meetings with the environmental community and has worked on an elementary-level vineyard curriculum. He also makes a point to talk regularly to neighboring property owners to keep them in the loop on vineyard activities. "As a grape grower I have found that being proactive benefits everyone and prevents misunderstanding," said Hill.

Hill, 25, was raised in Sonoma Valley and is a graduate of Justin-Siena High School and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Fruit Science and minor in Plant Protection. He returned to Sonoma to work with his father Steve Hill managing their Parmelee-Hill property as well as a number of additional vineyard properties including the Durell Ranch which they have managed since it was planted in 1979.

The Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance is located at 17964 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. For more information or to become a vintner, grower or associate member call 707.935.0803 or visit www.sonomavalleywine.com.

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