



# Lodi District Grape Growers Association *Update*

Spring-Summer 2018

## LDGGA Members Welcome Amgen Tour Back to Lodi Wine Country



The Amgen Tour of California, a Tour de France-style cycling road race, made its way through the Lodi area as part of a seven-day race covering more than 600 miles. On May 17, Stage 5 of the men's event began in Downtown Stockton and

sent riders on a flat course towards the foothills to the east on the way to Elk Grove

LDGGA members and their guests gathered at Northern Interior Wine Partners on Clements Road for a barbecue lunch and to cheer on some of the world's

top professional cycling teams. Lunch and refreshments were sponsored by LDGGA Associate Member Big Valley Tractor.

This is the third time in the past four years that the Amgen Tour of California route has included the Lodi area.

## Lodi Area Winegrape Growers and Wineries Concerned About Tariffs



*Aaron Lange of LangeTwins Family Vineyards & Winery speaks at a Farmers for Free Trade event held in Acampo.*

This spring, China imposed an up to 15% tariff on a number of American agricultural products, including wine. The new tariff on products exported to China is in retaliation to U.S. tariffs imposed on steel and aluminum imports. These actions have local grape growers and wineries concerned that trade wars will harm wine exports to a growing Chinese market.

According to the Wine Institute, United States wine exports totaled \$1.53 billion in 2017. U.S. wine exports to China and Hong Kong were up 10% in 2017 to \$196 million. China is one of the fastest growing wine markets in the world and will soon be second only to the U.S. in value. The value of U.S. wine exports to China alone have increased 450% in the past decade.

Local wineries have already seen the negative impact that these actions are having on the ability to sell California wine overseas. At an April 26, agribusiness roundtable event in Acampo hosted by the California Farm Bureau Federation and Farmers for Free Trade, Aaron Lange of

LangeTwins Family Vineyards and Winery in Acampo, joined California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, and a number of California ag leaders to discuss the serious implications that the retaliatory tariffs will have on agriculture. Lange shared that their winery's export program has been directly impacted by the new tariffs. "We had an order with an importer in China immediately canceled. We have another order of 700 cases that has been put on hold." They now must negotiate who will pay the additional tariff.

Lange explained how the tariff increases and ensuing trade war hurt California's ability to compete in the world market. "With the 15% increase, total tariffs and tax paid on bottled U.S. wine imported to China has increased from 48% to 67%. Other countries such as Chile and New Zealand, do not pay tariffs, but only a 27% combined tax rate. Australian wines will be tariff free in 2019."

Dave Phillips, co-owner of Michael David Winery in Lodi, agrees. "California *Continued on page 7*



## The President's Message

Jason Eells,  
LDGGA President

Well, it finally came, some summer heat! Our mild spring temperatures, although enjoyable, will likely push grape harvest to a later start date. Crops are looking lighter across the board. As farmers, we have become accustomed to constant change in supply and demand. At this time, Zinfandel is still taking its turn as the

“unpopular one.”

It seems as there are always hot button issues to discuss that are facing agriculture. These issues expand well beyond harvest dates, crop sizes, and price per ton. With looming tariffs on agriculture products, an ever-scarce labor force, water issues, and increasing interest rates, there is plenty on the table to discuss and worry over. In talking with some “old timers” who have seen many a harvest, the issues

through the years have changed, but the importance of such issues at the time is always the same. We may feel our struggles are so much greater as grape growers now, and in some ways they are, but what does the future hold for the farmers to come? We don't really know, but what we do know is farming isn't easy.

Hopefully this summer and fall stay consistent weather-wise and 2018 should shape up to be a great vintage.

## Notes from the Executive Director

Amy Blagg, LDGGA Executive Director

The Association has had an active spring and early-summer hosting and participating in a number of industry events and keeping tabs on a variety of issues.

Thank you to all who joined us at the Amgen Tour event and a special thank you to Big Valley Tractor who sponsored lunch and refreshments for those in attendance. The Amgen Tour get-togethers have become a fun way to socialize with members and show our Lodi wine country hospitality on years that the race comes through our district.

We had a good turn out at our recent breakfast meeting focused on labor and employment laws. Thank you to Michael Saqui of The Saqui Law Group for presenting on a number of important items including wage and hour and what to do when a governmental agency shows up.

I hope to see you and your employees at the Harvest Safety Seminar on July 19th. (Details on page 11.) The Harvest Safety Seminar has grown in participation each year. It is a free event, but be sure to RSVP so we can

plan accordingly.

A local issue that we have been monitoring is proposed changes to the SJ County Winery Ordinance. Under direction of the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, a Text Amendment application has been submitted that would amend various sections of the San Joaquin County Winery Ordinance pertaining to accessory winery events, parking attendant requirements, and wine release events. The LDGGA Board of Directors will be reviewing the Text Amendment and will comment as necessary. LDGGA has also met recently with members concerning other aspects of the winery ordinance that could use revision.

LDGGA is also engaged in the PG&E transmission line project that is proposed for the Lodi-Lockeford area. At this time, little detail is known, but the Cal ISO has recommended a 230kv line from the Lockeford Substation to Lodi Industrial, as well as looping in the Brighton-Bellota line with the Lockeford Substation. As more information becomes available we will be working with our members in the affected

area to provide comments and help determine the route with the least impact on agricultural land.

One of the strengths of LDGGA is our Associate Member support. We are grateful for the many members that lend their expertise by speaking at a breakfast meeting, providing newsletter content, or through sponsorship support throughout the year. If you are an Associate Member that would like to get more involved, give me a call (209) 339-8246 or send an email to [info@ldgga.org](mailto:info@ldgga.org) and we can discuss one of the many opportunities available.

With the arrival of summer, harvest will be here before we know it. Although Association activities typically slow down for the harvest season, feel free to contact me or any LDGGA Director with suggestions for future programs or with any concerns.





## News Briefs

### Air Resources Board FARMER Program

The California Air Resources Board is making \$135 million available under its Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions, or FARMER, program. The funds available through the FARMER program provide significant assistance to California farmers who face the most stringent air quality requirements in the nation. Farmers can apply to their local air districts to receive funding for voluntary agricultural vehicle and engine replacements.

The FARMER program provides funding for: Heavy-duty truck replacements; Mobile off-road farm equipment replacements; Agricultural irrigation pump replacements; Zero-emission agricultural all-terrain vehicles (ATVs); Off-Road Mobile Agricultural Equipment Trade-Up Pilot Project (only available in the San Joaquin Valley).

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District will receive 80 percent of the funds, with the remaining 20 percent

of funds shared between air districts in the rest of the state and distributed based on ag equipment emissions and basin attainment status. Applications will be accepted by local air districts. There are 18 air districts with less than 1 percent of emissions from ag equipment that have been grouped together and will all apply for funds through one air district, which will be announced shortly. Some air districts will fund applications on a first-come-first-served basis, so interested farmers should contact their air districts.

### PD Assessment Rate Unchanged for 2018

The PD/GWSS Board voted during its June 19 meeting to recommend the winegrape assessment for the 2018 harvest be set at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of value. Following the meeting, the recommendation was forwarded to and approved by CDFA Secretary Karen Ross.

The assessment is used to fund research on Pierce's disease and, beginning in 2010, can also be used to fund research and outreach on other pests and diseases of winegrapes. For more information about the PD/GWSS Board and how assessment funds are used, visit [www.pdgwss.net](http://www.pdgwss.net).

### Ag Hall of Fame Seeks Nominations

The San Joaquin County Agricultural Hall of Fame is requesting nominations for outstanding agricultural leaders and mentors in our community. Now in its 34th year, the Agricultural Hall of Fame honors those individuals who have contributed to agriculture and to their community in significant ways. Each year, awards are given to at least three living recipients, as well as posthumous ones.

All those previously recognized in the Agricultural Hall of Fame have their photographs and biographies on display at the San Joaquin Historical Society & Museum in Mickle Grove Park and in the lobby of the Robert J. Cabral Ag Center. They are also listed on the Chamber Website on the Ag Hall of Fame page. <http://stocktonchamber.org/ag-hall-of-fame/>

Nomination forms are available from the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce website, and need to be submitted by 3:00pm, Friday, August 10, 2018. For more information, please call Timm Quinn at 292-8423 or visit [www.stocktonchamber.org](http://www.stocktonchamber.org) website and click on the Ag Hall of Fame link in the events drop down menu.



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Sales Account Manager

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## Meet the 2018-2019 Jim Kissler Memorial Scholarship Recipients

The Lodi District Grape Growers Association Scholarship Committee awarded \$23,000 in Jim Kissler Memorial Scholarships to ten local students. The Jim Kissler Memorial Scholarship is available to students pursuing a career in agriculture, with an emphasis on viticulture, enology, agribusiness, agricultural engineering, or agriculture education. Students must have attended and/or graduated from a high school in Crush District 11, or have a relationship with a farming operation in the District.

### Hannah Brady Cal Poly SLO

After I graduate from Cal Poly, my career goal is to work in the marketing field and promote California agriculture.

As I complete my third year, I have been heavily involved in Ag Ambassadors and am also a member of the Agribusiness Management/National Agri-Marketing Association Club. Through these clubs, I have found a real passion for talking to people and spreading my knowledge of agriculture. I also give tours of all of the agriculture units on campus and love to excite perspective students in their decision to choose Cal Poly and pursue a career in agriculture. These opportunities have helped me with my communication skills which will be very important in my future career.



### Emily Canepa Cal Poly SLO

Throughout my childhood, agriculture has been very influential. For as long as I can remember, agriculture has greatly contributed to my lifestyle and decisions. Many significant memories have been present within the agriculture field. These memories are bonding experiences that contribute to our tight-knit family. As I continue to grow in my education within the viticulture and winemaking community, my background in the agriculture field and my driven, determined attitude will continue to make me successful.

I am particularly interested in the viticulture and winemaking field as a means to further my education and love for vineyards. As I further my education, I hope to use my agricultural knowledge to better the environment, and eventually start a winery, providing internships and jobs for young adults interested in winemaking. Through my past experiences and drive to improve myself, my passion for the viticulture industry continues to grow.



### Brooke Dondero Oklahoma State

Coming from a small community I have gotten so many different opportuni-



ties to get involved. My high school years mostly revolved around sports as I played volleyball, basketball, and softball all four years. When I wasn't on the field or court, I was participating in FFA activities or serving the community through CSF. My senior year of high school, I served as the Associated Student Body President as well.

Currently, I am attending Oklahoma State University, where my major area of study is Agriculture Business with an emphasis in Farm and Ranch Management. I am also working towards a double minor in Accounting and Agricultural Land Appraisal. At Oklahoma State University I am involved with the Dairy Science Club and serve as the Alpha Class President for Beta Psi Chapter of Sigma Alpha. Upon completing the appropriate degrees at OSU, I plan to return to California in hopes of going to work for a farm credit company.

### Mary Jane Gwerder Chico State

I'm Mary "Jane" Gwerder and currently I'm a junior at California State University Chico studying Agriculture with an option in Agriculture Education. I am actively involved in the Collegiate FFA. Previously, I've worked on the Chico State Farm in the Organic Dairy and Sheep units. I've been an Agriculture Ambassador for CSU Chico for two years. For the past three years, I've been on the FFA Field Day Leadership



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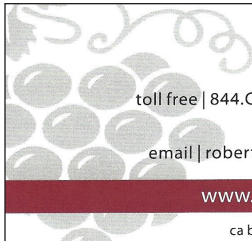
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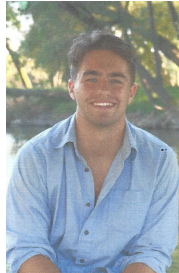
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Team. I am looking forward to sharing the wonderful hands-on experiences that I have gained through Chico State with my future students. Hopefully, someday I will be sharing my passion for agriculture with students in the Lodi area.

### Harrison Heath Cal Poly SLO

I'm Harrison Heath, a senior at St. Mary's High School. It is with great excitement that I have been accepted into Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. My college interests are in Bio-Resource and Agricultural Engineering (BRAE) with a minor in Geographical Information Systems; Water Science and Agri-Business.



My first experience at St. Mary's was being involved in the football program. Being involved in football provided me with long lasting friendships, most of my friends were from Lodi. The first time I went to Lodi I clearly remember Turner Road. This exit off the freeway is a country road with miles of wine country and crops growing. I was astounded by the sheer beauty of it all. As years progressed I realized along with the great opportunity a career in agriculture could provide, there is a huge responsibility and necessity for those who are farmers to provide the food and crops that are needed in everyday life. My career and educational goals focus on ways to find efficient ways to farm and sustain crops. While in college, I hope to intern with my advisors, affiliated organiza-

tions and partnering businesses connected with Cal Poly that will best fit my educational and career goals.

### Hannah Murphy Cal Poly SLO

At California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo, I plan on receiving a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications. After graduating I will pursue a career in my family's business growing almonds, wine grapes, and walnuts. I will use the knowledge gained at Cal Poly to help manage and expand my family's farming operation while promoting the California Ag industry as a whole.



A fourth-generation family farm, my father and his brother began to run the business years ago after their father passed away. As each generation expands, their goal was to grow the business large enough so that their children would one day each have the same opportunity they did. Realistically I know that they are not going to work forever. Therefore, I want to educate and train myself so when they plan on retiring I am prepared to manage, grow, and expand the family business for the next generation. I am beyond excited to have an amazing career that I am passionate about, while continuing their legacy.

I am also passionate about a career that benefits society as a whole. People need food and world hunger is a major global issue. With the world's population rapidly growing, the need for expanding

and improving agriculture is becoming more urgent. Yet, each year farmland is decreasing while urban development is on the rise. Through my work I will strive for improved farming practices and seek affordable ways to bring nutritious foods to our growing population for future generations to come.

### Francesca Petersen Chico State

I was born and raised in Lodi in a big loving family. My parents raised me to work hard and have integrity. I have lived on a farm since I was born which has taught me many life lessons that I will never forget. It has also influenced many aspects of my life, including my college major and high school activities such as raising lambs at the fair. Being raised around agriculture influenced me to pursue a career in agriculture because I enjoy it so much. Next year I will attend Chico State University and major in Ag Education and minor in special needs. I want people with special needs to get farm experience to help cope with their disabilities and differences.



### Christopher Shoup San Diego State

My name is Christopher Shoup and I am currently a senior attending Lodi High School. I am planning to attend San Diego





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## Scholarships

State University in the fall semester to study Engineering and potentially become a machinist or designer. Through this, I would be able to further society's advances and contribute more as a leader for younger individuals to look up to. I was first interested by joining an engineering/design class at my school, where I furthered my interest by local competitions and moving on to state championships.

I have learned to become a strong leader by being the President of my 4-H Club and teaching younger members how to raise pigs for nearly ten years. Through community outreach, I had success carrying out integrity and commitment through other clubs at school and I hope to further it on with my next step into my higher education.

### Jasmine Toledo CSU Stanislaus

My name is Jasmine Toledo and I am from Lodi, California. I am a freshman at California State University, Stanislaus and I am majoring in Agriculture with a concentration in Economics.



About ten years ago, my family began a small farming business, Toledo Farms. Growing up with the unique bond of a family business has increased my knowledge and experience by helping me learn what responsibility, hard work, and humbleness truly means. As I grew up, my

passion for agriculture also grew. My career goal is to work at an agricultural firm to gain more knowledge and experience.

My long-term goal is to enlarge my small family business. I hope to provide fresh, high-quality produce to the communities of California. I have various ambitions, goals, and dreams. As long as I stay dedicated and work hard, I can accomplish anything I put my mind to.

### Kenneth Watkins Oklahoma State

Kenneth Gwynne Watkins IV is currently a sophomore at Oklahoma State University majoring in Agribusiness- Farm and Ranch Management.



He attended school in the Linden Unified School District, in Linden, California where his family lives on a farm and ranch. He was a member of the Linden-Peters 4-H club for nine years participating in projects like beef and welding. Kenneth participated in Linden High's FFA Chapter where he served as their reporter and vice president. He was a finalist for the National Agriculture Sales Proficiency Award with his hay sales business. Kenneth also received both his State and American FFA Degrees. At Oklahoma State he is a member of the Cowboy Motorsports club and Collegiate Farm Bureau.

After he graduates from Oklahoma State, Kenneth plans on coming back to Linden to work on his family farm and ranch.

## Michael David Family Foundation Awards Scholarships

LDGGA administers the Michael David Family Foundation Scholarship which awards scholarships to students who either have a relationship with a farming operation in Crush District 11 or will be majoring in an agriculture related field of study. This year, over \$26,000 in scholarships to the following students:

### Gabriella Borra

University of Alabama

### Haley Boynton

Chico State

### Hannah Brady

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

### Allison Canepa

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

### Emily Canepa

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

### Brooke Dondero

Oklahoma State University

### Helene Dondero

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

### Mary Jane Gwerder

Chico State University

### Matthew Hashimoto

UC San Diego

### Harrison Heath

UC Davis

### Halley Lauchland

Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

### Evan Oneto

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### Brooklyn Petersen

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### Francesca Petersen

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## Nutria Identified in San Joaquin County Delta



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has confirmed the presence of nutria on agricultural land west of Stockton in San Joaquin County, which makes the fifth CA county (Fresno, Merced, Stanislaus, and Tuolumne) where the destructive rodents have been detected since their reappearance in California in spring of 2017. Their burrowing and capacity to reproduce exponentially jeopardizes the Delta's network of levees, water conveyance systems and flood-control protections.

Nutria are large, semi-aquatic rodents that reach up to 2.5 feet in body length, 12 to 18 inch tail length and over 20 pounds in weight. Nutria strongly resem-

ble native beaver and muskrat, but are distinguished by their round, sparsely haired tails and white whiskers.

CDFW is collaborating with other agencies and local partners to develop the most effective strategy for eradicating nutria from California. Please report any sightings of Nutria. Nutria survey teams have been deployed. CDFW needs written access permission to enter or cross private properties for the purposes of conducting nutria surveys and, where detected, implementing trapping efforts.

CDFW has classified nutria as a nongame mammal. Property owners or their agents may take nutria at any time by any legal means to address damage to crops or property. Any nutria taken on private or public land should be reported to CDFW as soon as possible for purposes of delineating the extent of the infestation.

CDFW has a website dedicated to nutria identification and information at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Species/Nutria/Infestation>. A hotline is available at (866) 440-9530.

## Tariffs Continued from page 1

California agriculture relies on export markets for billions of dollars in revenue. In the wine industry we are losing business to our competitors who have forged free trade agreements, especially in Asia."

In addition to the impact of retaliatory tariffs on wine exports, the U.S. tariff on steel from China will impact grape growers on the farm as well. "A large portion of our vineyard establishment budget is for steel stakes, end posts, and wire. These products have absolutely been affected by these tariffs and will hurt our ability to be successful" added Lange. "This hurts not only the California farmer, but those that we employ. It affects the ability to offer jobs, remain profitable, and the long-term success of the agricultural sector."

"It is essential that we work together to reduce trade barriers and eliminate tariffs whenever possible," added Phillips. Trade is vital to the success of California and American agriculture. A trade war and increased tariffs will harm not only the markets of impacted commodities, but farmers and rural communities.

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## Farm First Aid – Safety and Compliance *By Anna Genaci, AgSafe*

Agriculture is one of the most dangerous industries in which to work. According to the National Ag Safety Database (NASD), injuries on farms range from minor cuts and scrapes to amputations and death. Being prepared and informed in how to address this risk is key to both safety and compliance.

Before reviewing basic first aid essentials, first aid preparedness is a requirement. The California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 3439 outlines these requirements:

- There shall be adequate first-aid materials immediately available at the farm headquarters and/or on worker transportation buses. Such materials shall be kept in a sanitary and usable condition. A frequent inspection shall be made of all first-aid materials, which shall be replenished as necessary. In the case of employers whose workers are widely scattered in small crews that are contacted by a traveling foreman, adequate protection may be accomplished by having a first-aid kit in the foreman's car or vehicle.

- At remote locations, provisions must be made in advance for prompt medical attention in case of serious injuries. This may be accomplished by on-the-site facilities or proper equipment for prompt transportation of the injured person to a physician or communication system for contacting a doctor or combinations of these that will avoid unnecessary delay in treatment. There shall be at least 1 employee for every 20 employees at any remote location with training for the administering of emergency first aid.



*Kits should be stocked with tape, bandages, alcohol wipes, gauze and disposable gloves at the very least. First aid kits need to be replenished and inspected frequently and as with any inspection, it should be documented."*

- For the full regulations visit, <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3439.html>

The first section of the regulation requires first aid materials. Kits should be stocked with tape, bandages, alcohol wipes, gauze and disposable gloves at the very least. First aid kits need to be replenished and inspected frequently and as with any inspection, it should be documented. The documentation can be something simple like a log sheet kept in the kit itself. Some larger farming operations may want to utilize a service that maintains the kit and the inspection documentation.

The second section of the regulation outlines that, in remote locations,

one employee for every twenty need to be trained in administering first aid. While the regulation only requires one trained employee, it is best practice to have at least two. What if it is the trained employee who has the injury? It is important that employees receive their training from an authorized trainer every other year to stay in compliance. AgSafe is Medic First Aid provider and offers an agriculture-specific First Aid/CPR course in both English and Spanish.

Having the regulation provides a starting point for emergency preparedness, but when a farm injury happens, do you know what to do?



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## First Aid- Continued from page 8

**Control Bleeding:** 1. Apply direct pressure after quickly inspecting the wound; 2. Using a clean absorbent pad, apply direct pressure with flats of fingers directly on point of bleeding; 3. If a pad is not available apply direct pressure with just your gloved hand; 4. Wrap a rolled gauze bandage around the limb to provide continuous pressure to the wound; 5. Include enough pressure to control the bleeding, avoid wrapping so tight that skin beyond the bandage becomes cool to the touch, bluish or numb. Make sure a finger can be slipped under the bandage; 6. If blood soaks through the pad, apply another pad, leaving the initial pad in place, apply more pressure with the palm of your hand. Call emergency medical services (EMS).

**Minor Burns:** 1. Cool the burn with cool water as soon as possible. Continue cooling until the pain is relieved. This will reduce pain, swelling, and the depth of injury. Do not apply ice directly to cool a burn; 2. Leave any blisters intact. Cover the burn with a loose sterile pad. Minor burns usually heal without further treatment; 3. Deep burns over a large area of the body are the most severe. These burns often result in extensive blistering and destruction of skin tissue; 4. Make sure the situation is safe for you to help. Contact EMS immediately. Expose the affected area by cutting or tearing away clothing. If any clothing is stuck to the burn, do not remove it. If present, remove any jewelry near the burned area; 5. Separate fingers or toes with dry, sterile, non-adhesive dressings. Do not apply butter, ointment, lotion, or antiseptic.

Loosely cover the burn area with a dry, clean pad or clean sheet, if the burned area is large.

The final element of emergency preparedness is to have an actual plan. At a minimum, a farm emergency plan should include:

- Emergency escape procedures and routes.
- Procedures to account for workers.
- Procedures for workers who remain on site after the alarm sounds.
- Duties for workers designated to perform rescue and medical functions.
- The preferred means for reporting emergencies.
- Contact(s) for further information or explanation of duties under the plan.
- Employees should receive training on farm emergency.
- Conduct an emergency response drill to ensure employees remember how to execute the plan.

For a quick guide on farm emergency plans visit, <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3870.pdf>.

This is merely a brief overview of employee safety requirements. If you have questions about the specifics, including a sample farm emergency plan, visit [www.agsafe.org](http://www.agsafe.org), call (209) 526-4400 or send an email to [safeinfo@agsafe.org](mailto:safeinfo@agsafe.org).

*AgSafe is a 501c3 nonprofit providing training, education, outreach and tools in the areas of worker safety, human resources, food safety, and pesticide safety for the food and farming industries. Since 1991, AgSafe has educated nearly 75,000 employers, supervisors and workers about these critical issues.*

## Unions Lose Big in Supreme Court Case

By Michael Miller, CAWG

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Janus vs. AFSCME* that teachers, police officers and other public employees cannot be forced to pay dues or fees to support their unions. As these moneys are often used for political purposes, this ruling could change the political landscape currently dominated by public labor union campaign spending.

Reporting on the decision, the LA Times stated, "For the unions, which traditionally support Democrats, the ruling will mean an immediate loss of some funding and a gradual erosion in their membership. Union officials fear that an unknown number of employees will quit paying dues if doing so is entirely optional. The ruling is likely to have a political impact in many states where these unions have been strong supporters of the Democratic Party."

Anticipating that labor unions will try to pass state laws to circumvent this decision, the court issued a tight ruling. Specifically, the decision referred to involuntary union fees as "compelled subsidization of private speech" and stated, no "form of payment to a public-sector union may be deducted from an employee, nor may any other attempt be made to collect such a payment, unless the employee affirmatively consents to pay."

Nonetheless, there are several labor-sponsored bills pending in the California Legislature that will no doubt be amended soon in an attempt to get around this ruling.

**John Moso**

t 661.792.6468  
c 209.602.8855  
f 661.792.6891

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## LDGGA Directors, Members Participate in Zinfest Vintner's Grille



Kyle Collins, Kelly Devine, and Mike Stokes pour during the Lodi Zinfest Vintner's Grille event at Lodi Lake.



LDGGA Board President Jason Eells serves Zinfandel to a guest during the social hour.



Lodi Zinfandel is the focus of the Zinfest Vintner's Grille at the Lake which drew nearly 700 guests this year. In addition to local growers and vintners, Lodi wine fans attended from as far as Canada and the East Coast.




Each year LDGGA Directors and members volunteer to serve wine during the Vintner's Grille event. Pictured are Joel Burns, Tyler Blagg, and Jason Eells

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## LDGGA Events

### Lodi Grape Harvest Safety Seminar

**Thursday, July 19, 2018**  
**7:30 Registration; 8:00 Meeting**  
**Lodi Grape Festival Grounds**

The Lodi District Grape Growers Association and the Lodi Winegrape Commission are once again partnering to host the Lodi Grape Harvest Safety Seminar. The half-day seminar will be held on Thursday, July 19th at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds located at 413 E. Lockeford Street, Lodi. The English Session will be held in Burgundy Hall, while Spanish will be held in Jackson Hall. Registration will begin at 7:30 am, with the seminar beginning at 8:00 am.

The seminar is offered free of charge to District 11 grape growers and their employees. Coffee, donuts, as well as a complimentary lunch will be provided.

Topics in both the English and Spanish programs will include Mechanical Harvester Safety presented by Cal Ag Safety; Heat Illness Prevention and First Aid Procedures presented by Pan American; Night Work Considerations presented by Zenith Agribusiness Solutions and Tractor Safety presented by Ag Safe.

Please RSVP to LDGGA by July 16th by calling (209) 339-8246 or email [info@ldgga.org](mailto:info@ldgga.org). Please indicate English or Spanish session.

## Other Events

### "Crushers" to Feature Women in Wine & Ag

**Wednesday, July 11, 2018**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Wine & Roses**

On July 11th, The Eleanor Project, a partner of The United Way of San Joaquin County, will hold their "Crushers" event, an inspiring and educational evening featuring women leaders in wine and agriculture. LDGGA Executive Director Amy Blagg and numerous LDGGA members will participate in the panel discussion.

The event is \$35 per person and includes music, appetizers, a silent auction, and no-host bar. For details visit [www.theeleanorproject.com](http://www.theeleanorproject.com).

### CAWG Summer Mtg.

The California Association of Winegrape Growers will meet July 18-19 at the Silverado Resort in Napa for their Summer Meeting. A Speaker Program will be held on July 17th, followed by the Awards of Excellence Program & Dinner where Grower of the Year Steve Schafer, of Schafer Ranch and San Joaquin Wine Company and Leader of the Year Karissa Kruse, Sonoma County Winegrowers will be honored. On July 18th, the CAWG PAC Golf Tournament will be held. For information, visit [www.cawg.org](http://www.cawg.org).



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