

November 2013



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LAA 4, the nominees are...

LAA's up for election

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## Sonoma-Marín County News

USDA Farm Service Agency Urges Farmers and Ranchers to Vote in County Committee Elections Beginning Monday, Nov. 4

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### Sonoma-Marín County FSA Office

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**County Executive Director:**  
Lisa V. Velasquez

**Program Technicians:**  
Cecilia Medina

**Farm Loan Manager:**  
Karri Bartolomei  
Phone: 707-468-9225

**Next County Committee  
Meeting: December 9, 2013 at  
10:00 AM**

### 2013 LAA's Up for Election - Districts D(4) & E(5)

The Local Administrative Areas (LAA) up for re-election are District D(4) & District E(5), the elections alternate between 5 established districts that encompass all of Sonoma and Marin Counties. The representatives from these 5 areas sit on the County Committee Board, and oversee the day to day operations and the programs offered by the local county office. Maps are posted on the bulletin board in the county office to view and the following are descriptions of the boundaries:

District D-boundary description is East of Hwy 101, South of the Mendocino County Line, North of Rohnert Park Expressway, North of Roberts Road, Presley Road, Sonoma Mountain Road #2, and North of Trinity Road to the Napa County Line.

District E-boundary description is West of Hwy 101, East of the Pacific Ocean, South of the Mendocino County Line, North of Bodega Hwy through Hwy 12 up to Hwy 101.

At the end of 2014 only one District B(2) will be up for re-election, and announcements for the 2014 election will be made around June next year.

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### LAA D(4), the nominees are...

**JENNIFER CRANE** - My name is Jennifer Crane and I am a 6th generation Sonoma County farmer. I have a small pinot noir vineyard and assist my parents in growing and selling the Crane Melon. The Crane Melon was developed over 100 years ago by my great great grandfather and is grown on the 140 acre family ranch in Santa Rosa. I've been a 4-H Foundation of Sonoma County Director since 2006. I attended the University of Redlands and the University of Bristol, England where I received a degree in history. I also completed the Viticulture program at the Santa Rosa Junior College in 2002.

**MITCHELL BLACK** - Degrees: BS Chemical Engineering – Clarkson College of Technology 1978, MS Business Administration – University of Chicago 1984 Business Experience: Senior Engineer - Exxon Research and Engineering Senior Consultant – Cresap McCormick and Paget Vice President – Fidelity Investments Principle – M. Grant Management – Many years assisting small and medium companies needing turn-arounds and startups,

- Component Guard
- ADT
- Telecom
- Wells Fargo/ Borg Warner
- Various Internet Startups
- Viking Sprinkler
- Jessie's Grove Farm and Winery
- Assorted small vineyards / wineries

Farming Experience: Grew up in Upstate NY and work summers on Uncles farm. General Manager and Assistant Winemaker - Jessie's Grove Assorted financial assistance for small farmers Purchased ranch in Sonoma in 2007 – 60 acres now called Black Knight Vineyards.

Other Experience: Many years as an Elder in for the Presbyterian Church, Many years coaching travel soccer with a C license. Board for Santa Rosa United. USDA Involvement: I have both Direct and Guaranteed Loans, I have assisted other Farmers in obtaining FSA funding using a model I developed and a strong knowledge of the process to succeed. I have provided detailed financial models and projections for farmers seeking assistance from FSA Value Added Producers Grant, Various Rural Development Programs.

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## **LAA E(5), the nominee is...**

**ROBERT WEINSTOCK** - Born in Huntington, NY. Raised in the San Fernando Valley. Family bought first Vineyard and Prune Orchard in Dry Creek Valley 1970. Moved to Dry Creek Valley in 1974. Graduated Healdsburg High School 1978. Future Farmers of America American Farmer

Degree Recipient. Attended SRJC Viticulture Program. Managed Family vineyards in Dry Creek Valley and Alexander Valley and continue to farm the Family Vineyard in Dry Creek valley. Started Weinstock Cellar Wine Co. in 1983 and sold the company to Royal Wine Co. in 1993.

**Other Work Affiliations:** Vyd Manager & Grower Relation Represented, Alderbrook Vyd & Winery, Healdsburg. Director of Vyd Operations Brutocao Vyd, Hopland. Chief Viticulturist & Grower Relations Manager, Terlato Wine Group, Rutherford.

**Current Position:** Sr. Manager-Ranch Operations, Gallo Vyds. Inc., Healdsburg.

**Affiliations:** Member of Santa Rosa JC, Viticulture Advisory Committee for the last 13 years. Former President Dry Creek Agriculture Water Users Corporation. Former Vice President Sonoma County Vineyard Technical Group.

**Personal:** Married with 3 children, living in Dry Creek Valley. Enjoy family, cooking, wine and the outdoors.

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