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Leadership Changes for the Virginia Wine Board

Richmond, VA – On Thursday, August 20, 2009, at the Virginia Wine Board's quarterly meeting, John H. “Rock” Stephens of The Vineyard at Point Breeze, located on Virginia's Eastern Shore, was elected Chairman of the Virginia Wine Board. Jennifer “Jenni” McCloud of Chrysalis Vineyards, located in Middleburg Virginia was elected Vice Chairman, and Marcie Siegel of Sweely Estate Winery in Madison Virginia, joined the Board after being appointed by Governor Timothy M. Kaine on July 20, 2009.

Rock Stephens, along with his wife Kris, own The Vineyard at Point Breeze, a twelve-acre vinifera vineyard, located on Virginia’s Eastern Shore. A graduate of Purdue University, Rock also has a Masters in Business Administration from Michigan State University and is a graduate of The Executive Program (TEP), Darden Graduate School of Business Administration, at The University of Virginia. After serving in the United States Navy, he retired as a Captain. He has been an active member of the Virginia Vineyards Association (VVA) since 1997 and just completed his second two year term as President in December 2008. In 2005 he was appointed by Governor Warner as a member of the Wine Board and was elected as Vice Chairman in 2007. In July 2009, he was reappointed to the Wine Board by Governor Kaine. He is a member of the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Vineyards Association, and the Virginia Farm Bureau. He has been making wine for over ten years and has won numerous amateur winemaking awards in international competition.

Jenni McCloud owns and operates Chrysalis Vineyards on her 412-acre Locksley Estate / Caeli Farm in Middleburg Virginia. In addition to farming 71 acres of grapevines, she also raises American Milking Devon cows, a critically rare heirloom dairy cow (and the breed that inspired the creation of the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy). Described as one of the most formidable vineyard operators in

the Commonwealth, Jenni's mission is to "proudly restore Virginia wines to world renown." Established in 1998, Chrysalis Vineyards grows unusual Spanish and French varietals, as well as the world's largest planting of Norton, the *Real American Grape!*® Jenni became a member of the Wine Board in 2003 and she is also an active member of the Virginia Vineyards Association (VVA). Prior to opening Chrysalis Vineyards she established three hi-tech companies, bringing each to multi-million dollar sales status. Through her work in the hi-tech industries, Jenni was recognized as one of the "Top 100 Young Entrepreneurs" by the Association of Colligate Entrepreneurs. She was also honored as a semi-finalist in the Chivas Regal Young Entrepreneur Awards.

Marcie Siegel is the President of Sweely Estate Winery and has an extensive corporate background, with over 30 years in business, project management, construction and sales. Her entrepreneurial skills were proven at Gilbane Corporation (the largest family-owned construction company in the US) where, responsible for sales and operations, she led a start-up consulting division to national success. A Penn State graduate, Marcie continued to expand her education and in 2004 completed the University of California-Davis Graduate School of Management Wine Executive Program. Marcie also serves as the Vice President of the Virginia Wineries Association (VWA).

The Virginia Wine Board was created by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004 to replace the Virginia Wine Advisory Board, which was originally created in 1984 as part of Virginia's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The purpose of the board is to allocate funds to projects that expand viticultural and enological research, education, and promotion of the growing of grapes and the production of wine in the Commonwealth. The Wine Board consists of ten members who are all appointed by the Governor. Six of the members are owners or operators of wineries or farm wineries in Virginia, three members are grape growers, and the remaining member is the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Other existing board members include: Dean Triplett of Willowcroft Farm Vineyards, Luca Paschina of Barboursville Vineyards, Mills Wehner of Chatham Vineyards, Patrick G. Duffeler Sr. of Williamsburg Winery, and Ruth Saunders of Silver Creek Orchards.

For further information about the Virginia Wine Board Marketing Office, please contact Annette Boyd at (804) 344-8200 or Annette.Boyd@VirginiaWine.org.

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