This ballot is intended for LIVE members to vote for their choices for the Board of Directors. Vote for no more than five choices by selecting a checkbox or writing candidate names in the blank space provided. Each member serves a two-year term.

This slate of nominees was selected by the LIVE Board of Directors and is intended to be fair and representative of the demographics and geography of the membership and the interest of organizational mission. Any member interested in serving on the Board of Directors may contact our office with a letter of intent. LIVE members may also nominate a director from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Any nomination from the floor must be seconded to be added to the ballot for the full vote of the membership.

Deb Hatcher | A to Z Wineworks/REX HILL Winery

Luisa Ponzi | Ponzi Vineyards

Dr. Russell Smithyman | Ste Michelle Wine Estates

Leigh Bartholomew | Results Partners

Jess Sandrock | Chemeketa Community College

Write-in up to five candidates
Please be sure to indicate the vineyard or winery each write-in represents
Second generation winemaker Luisa Ponzi graduated from Portland State University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science. She continued her education in viticulture and enology in Beaune, France and was awarded the Certificate Brevet Professionnel D’Oenologie et Viticulture in 1993. Luisa was the first American woman to earn such distinction. Returning to the family winery that fall, she took the reins from her father, winery founder Dick Ponzi, and completed her first vintage as head winemaker.

Over the next two decades, Luisa proceeded to make her mark through innovative viticulture techniques and winemaking practices. Her dedication to crafting wines of the highest quality and commitment to sustainability are ever-apparent. Luisa has been honored with awards and accolades; all contributing to Ponzi’s heightened stature in the national arena. Luisa currently sits on several advisory and wine organization boards.

Jessica Sandrock | Re-Election

Current Director of Wine Studies at Chemeketa Community College, Jessie is charged with providing leadership for planning, implementation, and maintenance of the Wine Studies program while also working with the Oregon Wine Industry to provide needed workforce training. Her service at Chemeketa bridges more than 15 years. Starting as an adjunct instructor while working on my Master of Science degree at Oregon State University, Jessie quickly fell in love with teaching and working with adult learners. She has developed and taught classes at Oregon State University, Linn Benton Community College, and for various community education programs as well. Most recently, Jessie was the full-time Winemaking Instructor at Chemeketa.

Dr. Russell Smithyman | Re-Election

Dr. Russell Smithyman received his PhD in horticulture from Washington State University, and his MS in horticulture from Michigan State University. He currently is the Director of Viticulture for Ste Michelle Wine Estates in Prosser, WA. Prior to this, he held the position of Research Viticulturist and then Director of Research at Ste Michelle. Dr. Smithyman’s research interests include irrigation management, vine stress management, vineyard mechanization, varietal and clonal evaluation, and precision viticulture.

He frequently guest lectures at universities and industry seminars, and has reviewed manuscripts and proposals for the American Journal of Enology and Viticulture, the American Vineyard Foundation, and the Northwest Center for Small Fruits. He is a graduate of the Washington AgForestry Leadership Program and frequently participates in lobbying to congress for research funding for the Northwest Center for Small Fruits. He has been actively involved in the National Grape & Wine Initiative since its inception.