

## NEW IN BUSINESS

### Realtors Association elects officers

UNION — George Lucas, a licensed associate broker with RE/MAX Harbor Country in Union Pier, was named as the 2017 President of the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors Inc. and the Real Estate Information System of Southwestern Michigan Inc. at a recent installation event.

Lucas has been licensed since 1999, receiving his broker's license in 2002 and holds the National Association of Realtors professional designations of Graduate Realtors Institute and Certified Residential Specialist. Lucas has served on the Board of Directors for the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors and the REIS of Southwestern Michigan in 2007-09 and 2012 to present.

Prior to serving as 2017 president, Lucas served as treasurer in 2015 and president-elect in 2016. He served on the Finance Committee in 2015 and 2016, the Standard Forms Committee for seven years and the MLS Committee for two years, serving as its chairman in 2012. George is a two-time recipient of the Educational Achievement Award and honored as the Most Effective Committee Chairman in 2012 and was 2013 Realtor of the Year.

The following Realtors were installed as officers and directors of the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors Inc. and the Real Estate Information System of Southwestern Michigan Inc. for 2017:

■ President-Elect: Robert Kaufman, @properties Harbor Country, New Buffalo

■ Treasurer: Mark Vandusen, Cressy & Everett Real Estate, Edwardsburg  
Directors included the following:

■ Karin Buda, Berkshire Hathaway HomeService, Edwardsbrug

■ Tina Thornton, Realty Executives Pro Brokers, St. Joseph

■ Jaimie Lenardson, Cressy & Everett Real Estate, Stevensville

■ Carol Wight, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, New Buffalo

■ Linda Johnson, Integrity Real Estate Professionals, Niles

■ Bert Peters, Friendly-Appraiser.com LLC, Stevensville

■ Renay Suseland, Cressy & Everett Real Es-

tate, Edwardsburg

■ Amanda Soukup, Coldwell Banker Weber-Seiler, South Haven

■ Dan Stacey, Stacey Appraisal Service, Berrien Springs

■ Lars Petzke, RE/MAX by the Lake, St. Joseph

### Julian Winery returns to wine trail

PAW PAW — The Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail announced St. Julian Winery, a founding member of the wine trail, is returning to the organization. The trail now has 21 wineries.

St. Julian Winery is located in Paw Paw with tasting rooms in Dundee, Frankenmuth and Union Pier. The roots and vines of St. Julian Winery date back to 1936, when the Merconi family moved to Paw Paw and began cultivating its wine.

The Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail recently dedicated a French Oak barrel to Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor as a tribute to the contribution that St. Julian Winery and Dave Braganini, President of St. Julian Winery, made in bringing recognition of wines produced in Southwest Michigan.

The Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail is a not-for-profit organization that promotes the development of wine producing and tourism industry in Southwest Michigan.

### Peterson to head wine trail association

COLOMA — Tony Peterson, owner of Contessa Cellars in Coloma, was named president of the Lake Michigan Shore Wine Trail Association for a one-year term that began Jan. 1.

In addition, the LMSWT membership re-elected Joe Herman, owner of Karma Vista Vineyard and Winery in Coloma, as treasurer. Herman has held the post since LMSWT was founded in 2002. The membership re-elected Scott Soethe of Lemon Creek Winery as recording secretary.

Peterson, a third-generation wine maker, has served as president before.

Chris Moersch, owner of Round Barn Winery, Brewery & Distillery in Baroda, served as president in 2016. The new board officers began their term in January as the LMSWT elections are held each year during the December meeting.