

## 2021 TWGGA Candidate Bio

### Region 4 - Winery Director Nominee

**Kalyn Hodges, Los Nopales Wine**

#### **What are your goals for TWGGA and how do you plan to achieve them?**

“In my completely biased opinion, Region 4 is home to some of the most interestingly diverse terroirs in the state. There is a great opportunity for wineries to explore and express these unique vineyards in the bottle. My involvement as a winery BOD with TWGGA will be to shine a light on the small producers that currently exist in the region. Given the current climate of our government and Covid-19, I look forward to having access to information and dialog that can help producers navigate these unprecedented times.”

#### **What is your professional experience, wine education/experience/achievements that would prepare you for this position?**

“What started as a Food & Wine festival in Dallas, Texas selling my family ranches meat to chefs, somehow turned into opening a winery in Sterling City. The chefs I met in the meat business introduced me to love of pairings, while my ranching background fostered an appreciation for how wine was made in the vineyard with farming.

After graduating from Texas, A&M University, my first real taste of the "wine business" began with a harvest internship with Orin Swift in Napa, California. Later I worked for Ron Yates Winery in the hill country as a harvest cellar hand, and then seasonally with Cathedral Mountain Vineyards of Alpine, TX.

Soon after I was back home taking over the ranch management of my late grandfathers' country. Not knowing any better and missing the vineyards, I planted two acres of Tempranillo and Cabernet Sauvignon. I have continued my viticulture education by completing the Texas Tech Viticulture Certificate. But as the saying goes, if you give a girl a vineyard, she is going to need a winery to go with it... That's my version at least.

So, I have since taken on the renovation of an 1880's build in the heart of my hometown to produce wine made from the area I love, west Texas. My goal is to release my first vintage soon, late January 2021. When time and seasons allow, I take the Wine Production courses through the University of California Davis Extension.”

