



For Immediate Release:

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The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association Announces: *2021 Alcohol Law Enforcement Award Recipients*

The NLLEA is a nonprofit membership-based association with more than 1,500 members. Membership represents federal, state and local law enforcement agencies from more than 40 states and the District of Columbia. The NLLEA is governed by a member elected Executive Board. Part of the mission of the NLLEA is to improve the standards of liquor law enforcement and foster an environment of collaboration between law enforcement agencies. One way the NLLEA strives to do this is by providing best practice recommendations and guidance on alcohol policies, procedures and protocols.

At their Annual Conference held November 15, 2021 in Montgomery, Alabama in collaboration with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) and the Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, several agencies received awards for the hard work and dedication to the field of alcohol law enforcement. Over thirty agencies were represented at the Conference to include state, federal, local and campus law enforcement along with vendors and public health partners.

The theme of this year's conference was: A New Decade of Alcohol Law Enforcement. The general sessions and workshops focused on the ever-evolving alcohol market place with increased alcohol access points, compliance and the technology needed for real solutions.

NLLEA President, John Yeomans, welcomed attendees to the conference and thanked his fellow board members; Todd Merlina, Vice President, Tom Kirby, Secretary/Treasurer, Israel Morrow, Sergeant-at-Arms, Greg Croft, Immediate Past President and Executive Director, Carrie Christofes, for their hard work throughout the year.

"During these challenging times alcohol licensees and regulators must remain vigilant in their efforts to ensure responsible alcohol service and keep public health and safety at the forefront" said NLLEA President John Yeomans as he applauded the NLLEA membership in facing challenges head-on by thinking outside of the box through collaboration and implementation of real solutions.

The National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) is pleased to announce the recipients of the Annual NLLEA awards given in 4 categories: *Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency of the Year, Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year, Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year, John W. Britt Community Service Award and the Meritorious Service Award.*

North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division, was selected for this year's *Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency of the Year* award. The NLLEA Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency of the Year award is given to an agency that has demonstrated agency effectiveness through the implementation of innovative programs, community and media recognition, and model training programs, practices and strategies.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division has demonstrated this through the implementation of proactive enforcement targeting illegal alcohol outlets, performing licensee inspections, maintaining training for licensees through web-based platforms, sharing training with colleagues on alcohol home delivery compliance, securing partnerships for the investigation of fraudulent identifications, and the use of two specialized units to target nuisance locations and illegal gambling.

Sarah Jones, GIS Specialist Senior, Alabama Law Enforcement Agency was selected for this year's *Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year* award. The NLLEA Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year award is given to an agent for acts of heroism or bravery, creativity resulting in innovative programs, recognition by peers and/or the local community, or other actions that enhance the image of an agency or alcohol law enforcement in general. GIS Specialist Jones developed a revolutionary tool to track, monitor and maintain data collected during alcohol and tobacco compliance operations. This new tool provides agents in the field a user-friendly experience from a mobile device to digitally capture compliance checks at the 10,300 licensed locations statewide. This digital workflow drastically reduced redundant paperwork and increased the efficiency of operations. The hard work, dedication and innovative thinking used by GIS Specialist Jones to create this new platform of data tracking for ALEA makes her the ideal recipient of the *NLLEA Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year* award.

Idaho State Police Alcohol Beverage Control was selected for this year's *Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year* award. The NLLEA Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year award is given to an agency that demonstrates program effectiveness through exemplary practices and enforcement. The forward and innovative assessment to implement the use of body worn cameras, paperless inspections through the use of iPads and the use of drone surveillance for alcohol law enforcement that was instrumental in winning a court case involving a liquor license revocation makes the Idaho State Police Alcohol Beverage Control the ideal recipient of the *NLLEA Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year Award*. Their multi-pronged enforcement approach has proven effective in several high-profile cases of illegal sales and importation of beverage alcohol and illegal gambling.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving-MADD Tennessee State Office was selected for this year's *John W. Britt Community Service* award. The NLLEA John W. Britt Community Service award is given to a non-law enforcement agency/entity that makes a significant contribution to the efforts of liquor and/or tobacco enforcement and demonstrates program effectiveness through underlying efforts and practices. The mission of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) is to eliminate drunk driving, fight drugged driving, prevent underage drinking, and support the victims of these crimes. The MADD Tennessee State Office has partnered with the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) on the compliance of curbside, to-go and delivery of alcoholic beverages at restaurants. This was an area of great concern for MADD as they saw the potential danger of alcohol being more readily available to underage patrons. They were grateful that the TABC shared their concerns and had already begun efforts to monitor the situation. TABC conducted minor compliance checks at 350 curbside/to-go/delivery establishments in 2020 and confirmed that closer monitoring would be necessary as compliance rates were less than 50%. MADD TN began sharing these results through social media which eventually lead to the establishment of responsible alcohol beverage training requirements for staff of restaurants

providing these new services of alcohol delivery to avoid sales to minors. The type of partnership and support that MADD TN has provided for the TN ABC makes their organization a well deserving recipient of the 2021 John W. Britt award.

NLLEA 2020-2021 President, John Yeomans, received the *Meritorious Service Award* for his four-year dedication to the association. John resides in Delaware and is the Director of the Division of Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement (DATE). Prior to his appointment, Director Yeomans retired as a Captain from the Delaware State Police after 25 years of service. During his tenure with the Delaware State Police, Director Yeomans served in a number of different units including, Troop Commander, Director of Human Resources, Director of Public Information Office, Internal Affairs, Homicide, Executive Staff Support, Criminal Investigations and Patrol. Director Yeomans also founded and was team coordinator for the State Police Critical Incident Stress Management Team, which provides support for both sworn and civilian personnel who are involved in a traumatic job-related episode.

Award recipients were honored at the 2021 NLLEA Annual Conference held in Montgomery, Alabama.

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