



Dedicated to Improving the Standards & Practices of Liquor Law Enforcement

August 11, 2021 Vol. 28

If you have Alcohol Law Enforcement news to share please send it to
Carrie Christofes, Executive Director at carrie.christofes@nllea.org

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



Registration Open!

The 2021 Annual Conference, will be held **November 15-17** in Montgomery, Alabama at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center, in collaboration with the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) State Bureau of Investigation. Conference registration and hotel accommodations are now open!

[Watch Video](#)

[*CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE AGENDA*](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



NLLEA Awards

The **NLLEA Awards** recognize leaders and outstanding programs in the field of alcohol law enforcement. Annual awards are given in the following four categories: **Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency of the Year, Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent of the Year, Innovative Alcohol Law Enforcement Program of the Year, and the John W. Britt Community Service Award**. For more information on each award, visit the awards page at nllea.org. **You may self-nominate or you may nominate someone in your agency or another agency.** Please fill out the form below for the appropriate category in which you wish to nominate yourself, your agency, another agent, or another agency. The deadline for receiving nominations is **August 31, 2021**. Please email this document along with any

supporting documentation to carrie.christofes@nllea.org

[Link to Awards Nomination Form](#)

Get more involved in the NLLEA!!

The Board is accepting self-nominations for the **Sergeant-at-Arms** position,



and will be holding elections at the annual board meeting at the conference in Montgomery, Alabama **Nov. 15-17**. The NLLEA's Sergeant-at-Arms participates in NLLEA Board meetings, reviews workshop abstracts submitted for the Annual Conference, reviews nominations for the annual NLLEA Law Enforcement Awards and helps with NLLEA publications. The Sergeant-at-Arms position is a first-year position on the Board. In the subsequent four years, the Sergeant-at-Arms will serve as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, and President, before serving their final year as Immediate Past President.

If you would like to declare your candidacy for the Sergeant-At-Arms position, please submit:

A picture of yourself for the nominees' bio email.

A brief statement (no more than 500 words) detailing your background and qualifications, why you would like to hold this office, and your vision for the future for the NLLEA.

Candidates for the Sergeant-at-Arms position should submit their information to carrie.christofes@nllea.org by **August 31, 2021**.

Vermont to receive \$165,000 from online vaping retailers

Attorney General T.J. Donovan today announced that his office has reached settlements with three different online sellers of electronic cigarettes for violations of Vermont's Delivery Sales Ban and Consumer Protection Act. Under the settlements, the companies resolved claims that they sold electronic cigarettes, e-liquids, or other tobacco paraphernalia to individual consumers. As of July 1, 2019, it is illegal to sell electronic cigarettes and related vaping products over the internet to individual Vermont consumers. In total, the companies will pay \$165,000 in civil penalties to the State of Vermont. The three settlements come on the heels of announcements in December 2020 and May 2021 that the Attorney General's Office reached settlements with 10 other online sellers of electronic cigarettes, totaling \$307,500 in civil penalties. Since 2008, Vermont's Delivery Sales Ban law has prohibited cigarettes, roll-your-own tobacco, little cigars, and snuff, ordered or purchased by telephone, mail order, or through the internet, to be shipped to anyone in Vermont other than a licensed wholesaler dealer or retailer. This law was expanded in 2019 to include tobacco substitutes (including electronic cigarettes), substances containing nicotine or otherwise intended for use with a tobacco substitute, and tobacco paraphernalia. **The Vermont Department of Liquor and Lottery** conducts compliance checks of online retailers to determine compliance with this law.

[Link to Article](#)

TN-State alcohol agents recommend suspension of water park's license, citing fatal shooting, other incidents

Additional disturbances at Soaky Mountain Waterpark in Sevierville, including a fatal shooting, are prompting the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission to recommend suspension of its alcohol license, records show. State regulators on Aug. 6 recommended the suspension, according to a regulatory citation. Last month, \$1,500 civil penalties were recommended in separate citations issued before the killing.

[Link to Article](#)

Alcohol, Tobacco Compliance Slips As Checks Resume In Washington

In the months since Washington's Liquor and Cannabis Board resumed compliance checks, state officials have announced that more alcohol and tobacco vendors are failing to verify buyers are of age. The board resumed its random checks in May after pausing them for a year due to the pandemic. The LCB said its initial findings showed "mixed results" from its licensees, with the biggest dip among tobacco vendors. Pot shops, however, increased their compliance rates.

[Link to Article](#)

The FAA Wants Police to Arrest More Unruly Passengers As Most Avoid Criminal Charges

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) administrator Steve Dickson has implored airport police to arrest more unruly airline passengers as it becomes increasingly apparent that despite a huge surge in the number of

disruptive behavior, the vast majority of unruly passengers don't ever face any form of criminal charge for actions that include assaulting and threatening flight attendants. The FAA has the power to slap unruly passengers with a civil penalty of as much as \$37,000 but the agency doesn't have the authority to bring criminal proceedings meaning that despite a highly publicized 'zero tolerance' campaign, in many cases the FAA is reliant on local police departments.

[Link to Article](#)

National authorities share Opson results

Authorities in Spain and Germany have provided additional details about their involvement in Operation Opson X. The annual crackdown is **coordinated by Interpol and Europol** with police, customs, national food authorities and private sector companies. From December 2020 to June 2021, the focus was on wine and alcoholic beverages, honey, horse passports and meat, and seeds and plants. European customs and police also seized nearly 1.8 million liters of wine and alcohol in an action involving 22 countries led by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). Officials seized more than 215,000 liters of counterfeit alcoholic drinks, mostly wine and vodka. Food safety frauds were also uncovered by the OLAF-led operation, resulting in seizures of 460,000 liters of alcoholic beverages and wine and more than 1 million liters of beer.

[Link to Article](#)

CA-1 dead, 1 injured after Airbnb house party in Sunnyvale

Two people were shot late Saturday night at a house party involving a home that was rented out on Airbnb, the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety said. One person was pronounced dead at the hospital while another is recovering and expected to survive. Officers arrived after neighbors called in complaining of loud noise. As they arrived, gunfire erupted at about 10 p.m. at the party on Navarro Drive, near Marion Way, according to authorities.

[Link to Article](#)

PA-State Police to Increase Awareness on College Campuses

As students head back to campus for the fall semester, Pennsylvania State Police are aiming to increase college enforcement and public awareness surrounding alcohol consumption. To do this, the PA State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement will be teaming with local law enforcement to target alcohol related crimes on and around campuses across the Commonwealth. Officers will meet with liquor licensees in college and university areas to promote awareness and reinforce the importance in preventing the use of alcohol by minors, along with other alcohol violations and target those who provide minors with alcohol. The Bureau will also be investigating the use and manufacture of fraudulent identification (Fake IDs)

[Link to Article](#)

Massachusetts sees renewed efforts to reverse state prohibition on happy hour

Efforts to bring back happy hour in Massachusetts are gaining steam as lawmakers, restaurants owners and residents who haven't been able to buy a discounted beer since 1984 say it's time to reverse the draconian ban. But Gov. Charlie Baker isn't all-in. His office declined to comment about the efforts, but referred to the governor's remarks at a news conference in Sandwich on July 23 where he voiced skepticism.

"That law did not come about by accident. It came about because there was a sustained series of tragedies that involved both young and older people, in some terrible highway incidents, all of which track back to people who'd been over-served as a result of happy hours in a variety of places," Baker, a Republican, said. "I'd be hard-pressed to support changing it."

[Link to Article](#)

How dark markets could impact booze's biggest players

Alcohol advertising is a highly regulated form of marketing. While regulatory bodies preside over the majority of the alcohol industry's marketing, a large number of countries face greater government restrictions than others – or a complete ban altogether, known as a dark market. Dark markets exist in Sri Lanka, where public advertising on alcohol was prohibited in 2006, and Russia, which adopted a ban on alcohol advertising across multiple platforms in 2013. Turkey also forbade all alcohol advertising a year later. The rules in other countries are slightly blurrier, particularly in parts of Europe. Sweden's national law bans ads for all alcohol

that is not included within the 'class 1' category (beer under 2.25% ABV), yet this clashes with the EU legislature, which only recommends that brands attach health-related warnings to alcohol advertisements. In June, London-based marketing consultancy Brand Finance released a report suggesting the **global spirits sector risks losing up to US\$168 billion** if marketing restrictions are generally imposed on the alcohol category.

[Link to Article](#)

Florida Moves Forward With Digital Driver's Licenses and IDs

Digital driver's licenses and identification cards could soon be available for Florida residents later this year after a recently passed bill authorized the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) to develop a uniform system for issuing **digital licenses** and IDs. According to the **agency's website**, residents will be able to use a Florida Smart ID Verifier app to share their Florida Smart ID through a scannable QR or barcode. Once a user's barcode is scanned, their information will be read and shared with the appropriate individual. Right now, a limited group of participants is testing out this process. "For stronger privacy, Florida Smart ID users control what information is displayed from the app depending on the context," an FLHSMV spokesperson said. "For example, to purchase alcohol, it only needs to show that the individual is 21+ and the Florida Smart ID will just display that information — not the individual's name, date of birth or address." What's more, the smart device does not need to leave the owner's hand when being verified by a retailer or law enforcement, making Florida Smart ID a contact-free and convenient way to display proof of identity or age.

[Link to Article](#)

The NLLEA provided a letter in response to the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) Commerce Insurance and Economic Development (CEID) Task Force Committee concerning the introduction of a model for Direct To Consumer shipping of spirits based on: Statement of Principles on Direct-To-Consumer Shipping of Spirits - a set of principles for shipping distilled spirits directly to consumers – see link for principles, **Statement of Principles on Direct-To-Consumer Shipping of Spirits - American Legislative Exchange Council (alec.org)** It is important that the CEID Task Force hear from Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) and the challenges ALE have with direct shipping, as these principles could become the basis for a model law. At the July 30th meeting of the CEID Task Force the vote failed for the principles as proposed.

[Click here for a link to the letter](#)



The Responsible Retailing Forum (RRForum) is developing a series of Research Briefs for retailers, public health and law enforcement officials charged with achieving compliance with the age 21 alcohol sales laws in their

businesses and communities. These Research Briefs distill insights from 25 years of research on barriers to compliance and strategies for consistently high compliance at the level of store, chain and community.

To read the first in this series, *Why Do Underage Sales Occur?*, use the following link:

<https://rrforum.org/project/rb1/>

To read the second in this series, *How to improve compliance rates – Part 1*, use the following link:

<https://rrforum.org/project/rb2/>

2020-21 NLLEA Board Members:

John Yeomans, President - DE - john.yeomans@delaware.gov

Todd Merlina, Vice President - PA - tmerlina@pa.gov

Thomas Kirby, Secretary/Treasurer - VA - thomas.kirby@virginiaabc.com

Israel Morrow, Sergeant at Arms - NC - israel.morrow@ncdps.gov

Greg Croft, Immediate Past President - OH - gacroft@dps.ohio.gov

nlea.org

FOLLOW US

