

ABL WEEKLY

POLICY, INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS NEWS FOR BEVERAGE RETAILERS

Friday, September 27, 2019

Issue 400

MEETINGS & EVENTS

[October 2 – UBRA Board & General Membership Meeting | Little Rock, AR](#)

[October 9 – NYSLA 10th Annual Albany Holiday Trade Show | Albany, NY](#)

[October 10 – IABR Annual Meeting & Board of Directors Meeting | Indianapolis, IN](#)

[October 14-17 – TLW 84th Annual Fall Convention | Green Bay, WI](#)

[October 15 – NYSLA 10th Annual Buffalo Holiday Trade Show | Buffalo, NY](#)

[October 21-23 – ABL Fall Board Meeting & Industry Meetings | Washington, DC](#)

[March 29-30 – 2020 ABL Annual Meeting](#)

ABL & PUBLIC POLICY NEWS:

[House Passes Marijuana Banking Bill with Bipartisan Support, Amid Uncertain Prospects in Senate](#)

The House of Representatives passed a bill Wednesday that provides safe harbor to banks that work with legal marijuana businesses, removing a significant roadblock to growth in the budding cannabis industry.

[Missouri Congresswoman Wins Annual Craft Brewing Competition for Lawmakers](#)

Rep. Ann Wagner (R-Mo.) won the third annual Brew Across America competition Wednesday night, beating out nine other lawmakers with her Big House Brew blonde ale.

[FDA Discloses Criminal Probe into Vaping Health Crisis, Putting Added Scrutiny on Cannabis Industry](#)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched a criminal investigation into the vaping health crisis, bringing added scrutiny to the state-legal marijuana industry and potentially exposing companies to federal legal action.

[SESAC Completes Capital Structure](#)

[Refinancing](#): SESAC successfully completed a refinancing of its capital structure last month, selling \$530 million in bonds and gaining commitments for a \$30 million revolving credit facility.

[Restaurants Face Workplace Hair-Bias Laws](#)

Hairstyles in the workplace are getting renewed attention, and restaurant grooming policies are going to come under increased scrutiny as new natural-hair discrimination laws go into effect, an employment lawyer warns.

[Two Members Abruptly Depart the Mechanical Licensing Collective \(MLC\)](#)

Earlier this week, the recently-named Mechanical Licensing Collective requested \$66.25 million — just to get off the ground. That included a \$37.25 million tranche of cash before the MLC's opening day.

[Labor Department Issues Final Overtime Rule](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor on Tuesday issued the long-awaited final rule on overtime, making an estimated 1.3 million more American workers eligible for time-and-a-half pay.

[Interest Rate Cuts Are Good for Small Business](#)

At its two-day Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) policy meeting last week, the Federal Reserve approved an expected quarter-point interest rate cut. The central bank is lowering its benchmark overnight lending rate – the Federal Funds Rate – to a target range of 1.75% to 2%.

INDUSTRY NEWS:

Alcohol & Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB): [TTB Newsletter – Weekly News \(September 27\)](#)

3x3 Insights: [Retail Untapped Newsletter](#)

Alcohol Law Advisor: [Learning from Recent Trademark Cases](#)

American Enterprise Institute: [A Fixable Mistake: The Tax Cuts & Jobs Act](#)

Beer Business Daily: [Diageo Beer Co. Doubling Down on Recent Growth, New Seltzer](#)

Breakthru Beverage Group: [Breakthru Strengthens Innovation Commitment with Key Leadership Appointment](#)

Brewbound: [Boston Beer's Jim Koch on How to Grow the Beer Category](#)

Brewers Association: [To Tax or Not To Tax: The Case For \(and Against\) Including Tax in Your Beer Prices](#)

NACS: [Keeping Up With POS Technology](#)

National Beer Wholesalers Association: [NBWA kicks off 82nd Convention and Trade Show in Las Vegas](#)

National Restaurant Association: [Association Works with Lawmakers to Educate Industry on Single-Use Plastic Ban](#)

Nations Restaurant News: [Bon Appetit and Grubhub Partner](#)

Nielsen: [The U.S. Retailer Path to Winning Brick and Mortar](#)

SevenFiftyDaily: [The Science of Sale in Cocktails](#)

Wine & Spirits Daily: [DISCUS Chief on Tapping into Broader Audience to Advocate for Industry Issues](#)

AFFILIATE NEWS:

Illinois Licensed Beverage Association
[Local Bars Deserve Seat at Sports Betting Table](#)

Larry Johnson is on the right track. Johnson, of downtown Ottawa's JJ's Tap, attended the recent Illinois Licensed Beverage Association state convention in Utica and talked with Shaw Media about fears the addition of legalized sports betting in Illinois will put a further squeeze on the bar business, much the same way widespread video poker expansion put complicated wrinkles in liquor license procedures.

CANNABIS NEWS:

[Pot Investors and Consumer CEOs Are on Different Trips](#): The pot industry hasn't experienced the global takeover wave many investors were hoping for-and probably won't for the foreseeable future. Next month, Canada lifts restrictions on cannabis-infused food and drinks, one year after it legalized sales of the dried plant.

[House Marijuana Banking Vote Officially Scheduled](#): House leadership confirmed on Friday that a bipartisan marijuana banking bill will receive a floor vote next week despite objections from several leading advocacy groups who want broader justice-oriented cannabis reforms to advance before what they see as an industry-focused proposal.

Envisioning the Future of the Cannabis

Interstate Commerce: Today, cannabis remains a Schedule I controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act, and states that permit the cultivation, production, and sale of cannabis do not allow the transport of products across state lines.

Cannabis Vaping Products Thrive Online: As the U.S. discusses the health hazards of vaping, the Wall Street Journal finds that an online market is thriving for illegal cannabis vaping products and the tools to create counterfeits.

State Attorneys General Ask Congress to

Pass Cannabis Bill: Twenty-one state attorneys general sent a letter urging congressional leaders to pass the STATES Act, which would exempt state-legal marijuana activity from the federal Controlled Substances Act.

The “Vapocalypse” Has Begun: The news that New York and Michigan will ban most flavored e-liquids used for vaping, along with the Trump Administration’s plans to do the same nationwide, have some vaping enthusiasts stocking up on flavors like Dinner Lady Lemon Sherbet and Aqua Sweet Cereal Milk.

ASSOCIATE SPOTLIGHT:



Wine Institute is the voice for California wine representing 1,000 wineries and affiliated businesses from the beautiful and diverse wine regions throughout the state. As the largest advocacy and public policy association for California wine, and the only group representing the industry at the state, federal and international levels, Wine Institute’s Officers, Board of Directors and professional staff work to create an environment where the wine community can flourish and contribute in a positive fashion to our nation, state and local communities.

STATE & LOCAL NEWS:

Alaska: Marijuana Control Board Proposes Amending Regulations on Application, Renewal Date of Marijuana Establishment License:

The Alaska Marijuana Control Board Sept. 20 proposed amending regulations on the application and renewal date of a marijuana establishment license for excise tax purposes.

Alaska: Brewery and Distillery Supporters Sign Petition Against Regulation Change:

A group of supporters against a proposed regulation change to the brewery and distillery industry are raising awareness about how they think it would hurt small business — and they have the support of a well-known PAC with deep pockets.

New York: Total Wine Mega Store Denied in Bid to Build in Hartsdale:

Total Wine & More, one of the nation’s largest family-owned liquor retailers, has been denied approval to build a 21,000-square-foot mega-store in Hartsdale.

New York: NYSLA Partners with ShipCompliant by Sovos to Expedite Alcohol Product Registrations Online:

Global tax software provider Sovos today announced that the NYSLA has selected ShipCompliant PRO, an online submission and approval system for state alcohol agencies, to digitize its brand registration and renewal process for the sale of beer, wine and spirits.

New York: New Study on Cannabis Use in NYC Could Pave Way for Legalization:

A new study on marijuana usage in New York City

Florida: Selling Alcohol Online Isn't Easy:

Wine enthusiasts in Florida received cheers-worthy news in June when state regulators ruled out-of-state retailers can now ship wine to Sunshine State residents. The decision does not affect beer or spirits.

Florida: St. Augustine Businesses Unsure of Possible New Late Night Permit Fee:

Making the night life in St. Augustine safer. That's what city officials are after with their proposed changes. Some changes dozens of stakeholders, businesses, city officials and neighbors voiced their concerns about Tuesday evening.

Illinois: Vaping, e-Cigarettes Under Fire at House Committee Hearing:

Illinois' chief public health official testified Monday the vast majority of recent vaping-related illnesses in the state have been attributed to the use of marijuana-based products.

Maryland: Liquor Control Board Asked to Amend Server Policy for Nonprofit Events:

"For the past five years, I feel that the health department and the board have made great strides to find and reduce underage and binge drinking for our citizens in the county," GCHD Alcohol and Drug Prevention Coordinator Brenda Sisler said at the liquor board's meeting last week.

Massachusetts: Gov. Signs Law Granting Additional Wine, Malt Beverages License:

The Massachusetts Governor Sept. 12 signed a law authorizing the town of Milford to grant an additional license for the sale of wine and malt beverages not to be drunk on the premises for excise tax purposes.

Michigan: Local Liquor Stores Could Be Hurt in Potential Government Shutdown:

If lawmakers can't reach a budget deal before the end of the month, and the state government shuts down, the Liquor Control Commission won't be working. That impacts liquor stores across the state, including the Corner Grocer in Petoskey.

Missouri: Kansas City Officials Could Decriminalize Marijuana Possession Up-To

100 Grams: Kansas City could get more weed-friendly. A proposed city ordinance would decriminalize possession of up to 100 grams of marijuana. It was originally 35 grams.

found that over 1.3 million New Yorkers reported using cannabis in the past year and many of them are residents younger than 34 years old.

Pennsylvania: Legislators Take Step Toward Repealing Flexible Pricing Program:

On Thursday, the Pennsylvania House Liquor Control Committee passed a bill (HB 1512), sponsored by state Rep. Jesse Topper, to repeal the state's flexible pricing model for alcohol in a 15-10 vote.

Pennsylvania: State Advances Tobacco 21 Bill:

A bill that would increase the tobacco-buying age to 21 has passed the Pennsylvania Senate, with strong indicators that the House would support it as well, WITF-FM reports.

Pennsylvania: PLCB Update: Acts 45, 48, and 57 Make to Sound, Local Option, and More:

Recent history has taught liquor licensees and their attorneys to not get comfortable with current liquor law or regulation for too long without expecting change.

Tennessee: TABC Approves TIPS Online Alcohol Server Training Program:

Health Communications, Inc. today announced that eTIPS On Premise, an online responsible alcohol server training program, was reviewed and approved by the TABC.

Texas: TABC Hosts Class on New Alcohol Delivery Law:

With the new alcohol delivery law passing on September 1, the Texas Restaurant Association and TABC are partnering to teach restaurant owners across the state how to safely and legally home deliver drinks.

Utah: A Tavern Inside a Grocery Store Is Giving Liquor Control Commissioners a Little

Heartburn: Smith's Food & Drug is asking Utah's alcohol control commission to allow it to build a beer tavern inside the Park City store. But the idea of a tavern — next to a Starbucks — made some Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control commissioners nervous.

Virginia: Hosting While Drunk Not Allowed by Virginia ABC:

The Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority expects license holders to refrain from drinking during the events they are hosting. Whenever someone

New Mexico: Alcohol Death Rate Rises in

N.M.: New Mexico has had the country's highest rate of alcohol-related deaths for more than 20 years. And last year it only got worse.

applies for a banquet special event license from the Virginia ABC, the first page of the application lays out 11 responsibilities of the license holder on the day of the event.

BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE NEWS:

More Than 70% of Beer Drinkers Have Taken Time to Go on a 'Beercation':

Beer and wine tourism is on the rise, as seven in 10 Americans have traveled to a destination specifically to sample the alcohol in the region. From the third of Americans who ventured to France for the wine to the 47 percent who embraced beer in Germany.

Pumpkin Beer Season Gets Closer: It's hard to believe that we are already in September, but as fall approaches and we head into October and November, a growing selection of pumpkin beers will start appearing at your local breweries and on retail shelves.

Which NFL Stadium Has the Biggest Beer and Wine Selection? : Bud Light is the official beer sponsor of the NFL, and not that long ago, it seemed like mass-market beers were all you could find at games. But times have changed: Many stadiums have embraced craft beer and improved their wine selection.

Pernod Ricard's Craft-Loving CEO Is Buying Up America's Whiskey: At consumer-goods companies across the developed world - from AB-InBev to Kraft Heinz Co. - established brands such as Budweiser beer and Oscar Mayer hot dogs are being pummeled by cooler upstarts. The same is happening in the spirits industry.

The Future of Wine: Very, Very Dry: In the Negev Desert, the sun beats down on a parched landscape of brown, undulating hills. But on a parcel of land here in southern Israel, trees grow in green rows, and fat bunches of grapes dangle amid lush leaves.

18 Classic Cocktails Everyone Should Know How to Make: It's 4 o'clock somewhere, right? When it comes to cocktails, the classics are time-honored for a reason. Take, for instance, the gin martini, or the Old Fashioned—not to mention margaritas, mojitos, and real, classic

Coors Enters CBD Market with New Distribution Deals:

I love all things food and beverage. As CBD continues to hit fever pitch with consumers, Molson Coors Brewing Company is entering the business. The company recently inked distribution deals with Colorado's Best Drinks and DRAM Apothecary.

The Most Popular Cocktail in Every State: To find out what the most popular cocktails were in each state Versus Reviews used Google to search for data and analyze each state's interest in cocktails that included trendy and classic drinks.

Craft Beer Added \$79 Billion to Economy in 2018: The days of eye-popping growth for the craft beer industry might be behind it, but that doesn't mean things are fading away. The craft beer industry contributed \$79.1 billion to the U.S. economy last year and was responsible for 559,545 jobs, according to the BA just-released 2018 economic impact report.

New Book Reveals Surprising Data on Size of Luxury Wine Market: The Wine Business Institute in the School of Business and Economics at Sonoma State University is pleased to announce the release of a new book, *Luxury Wine Marketing: The Art and Science of Luxury Wine Branding*.

Online vs. Stores: Where Will Consumers Buy Which Products?: A survey shows shoppers will increasingly go online to purchase mobile phones, computers, consumer electronics and sports equipment, but will go to stores for food, household and gardening products, and alcohol.

An Official White Castle Beer Is in The Works: Pennsylvania's Weyerbacher Brewing Company has undergone some pretty heavy blows as of late, even filing bankruptcy earlier this year. Yet, as the old proverb goes, "in

daiquiris (not the strawberry slushy kind, delicious though those might be).

We Asked Bartenders to Name the Cocktail Ingredients They're Bored to Death Of: The cocktail renaissance of the last decade has given rise to wild bouts of creativity in the bartending world. From coast to coast, bartenders are inventing new and exciting drinks utilizing unique, previously unheard of ingredients.

order to rise from its own ashes, a Phoenix first must burn," and burn they did.

Craft Beer and Big Beer Finally Agree: Everyone Should Drink More Beer: Like plenty of beer fans, I drink both craft beer and "macro" beer. My fridge is mostly stocked with local craft beer, but there's also a six-pack of Coors Light and a rogue Naturdays in the back somewhere.