



# TABC

TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

service ★ courtesy ★ integrity ★ accountability

# Today

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Spring 2010



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## Administrator's Corner - TABC Agency Focus

### *Agency Upholds Commitment to Keeping Texans Safe*

In 2005, the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission recommended the **modernization of TABC agency operations** and a **focus on public safety concerns**. Although the Sunset bill did not pass until 2007, we began to strategically implement the recommendations almost immediately.

Now three years later, we continue to find newer and better ways to harness our strengths to align our training, our human resources, and our information technology so that we can successfully achieve those two basic recommendations. I feel strongly that the foundation is in place that will enable us to take another leap forward. We have new technology, competent and motivated employees, and new infrastructure in the training, legal and internal affairs divisions. We are able to combine all the building blocks to really "take it to the next level."

It's time to place TABC agents' expertise as regulators and investigators first, and to leave local enforcement and patrolling of public parks, streets and parking lots to the local police and sheriff deputies. It's a strategy that makes sense when you look at state resources invested in arresting a person for a crime like public intoxication or minor in possession. By allowing local authorities to handle Class C misdemeanors, we can be more focused and effective in dealing with bad actors that are involved in more serious crimes like organized theft rings, human trafficking, and drug dealing on licensed

premises. We'll also be laser focused on investigating DWI fatalities and on investigating those businesses who are serving alcoholic beverages illegally.

Our agents are by no means prohibited from making arrests for class C misdemeanors. However, I can't support patrolling for these criminal cases while allowing a bar's illegal behavior to go untouched. If an agent makes an arrest or issues a citation for a class C misdemeanor, I want to understand how the agent ran out of options and how the agent will deal with the administrative violation by the permit holder.

I support our employees and the mission of this agency, and I have a great deal of respect for what our agents do every day. They take an oath to enforce the laws of this state, and willingly place themselves in dangerous situations in order to protect the people of Texas, including my own family. I believe that TABC employees strive to make decisions based on common sense and reason and that we do what's right for the people of Texas.

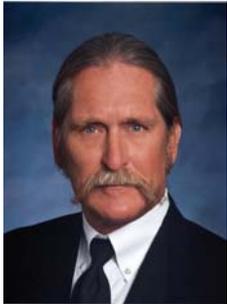
In summary, I feel confident that we have the people in place to take the next leap forward. There will be bumps in the road ahead, but if we stay loyal to each other and committed to our mission, and we continue to follow the agency's cornerstones and guiding principles, we can only succeed in making Texas a better place to live and work.

Alan Steen, Administrator

# TABC Farewell

## Lou Bright and Diana Gonzalez Retire from State

### TABC TODAY



### *Lou Bright Retires Leaving A Legacy*

A chapter of the TABC closed on January 31, 2010, when General Counsel, Lou Bright, retired after 14 ½ years of service with the agency. Mr. Bright began his legal career in 1981, in private practice engaging in civil rights, criminal and employ-

ment litigation. After six years in the private sector, he moved to public service with the Texas Attorney General's office, where he engaged in employment, civil rights and constitution litigation defending state officials.

In September 1995, Bright joined TABC as general counsel and during the summer of 2005, he became director of the Legal Services Division. Bright was on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Liquor Administrators and served as the President of NCSLA, during his 2006-2007 term. Bright has been a popular speaker at many industry conferences, and taught classes at the new agent's academy as well as the Austin Police Department academy. Bright was considered by many the alcoholic beverage code's walking encyclopedia.

He befriended many in the industry while representing the Commission. "When I dealt with Lou, I always knew I was dealing with a straight shooter, who would tell me just what I needed to know, even if he knew I wouldn't like the answer," said Steve Gross, director of State Relations with the Wine Institute in San Francisco. Fred Niemann, Jr., general counsel of the Texas Package Stores Association recalls, "His colorful, common sense of style and presentation made him a great ambassador for Texas and TABC." Anheuser-Busch lobbyist, Jack Roberts added, "You would win some and lose some with Lou, but at the end of the day you always knew that he fully understood your side and arrived at his conclusions in an even-handed and unbiased way." Lynne Omile, general counsel of DISCUS (Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S.) remembers, "His unique style of leadership and his special command of the English language." Many TABC staff already miss the balanced, professional and ever-entertaining Lou Bright. Administrator, Alan Steen said, "TABC could not have asked for anyone more knowledgeable about the history of alcoholic beverage regulation in the U.S." "I learned a lot from Lou, and I wish him continued success in his post-retirement career."

### *Tax and Education Division Director Diana Gonzalez Retires April 30*



Diana Gonzalez transferred to TABC with the Bingo Division in 1990. After three years, she was offered and accepted a transfer to be the assistant director of the Compliance Division. During the fifteen years Gonzalez worked in the Compliance Division, her

leadership skills and positive attitude guided the division through many changes. She successfully supported the division as they went from 12 auditing district offices to four and later five regional offices.

In 2005, after the 79<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session granted TABC 35 additional compliance staff members, Gonzalez provided support and assistance to the field as the Compliance Division assumed a major role in the licensing application process, including conducting new location inspections of prospective permittees and licensees. In February 2008, Gonzalez was presented with a new opportunity, as she was promoted to the director of the Tax and Education Division. Retiring is the beginning of many new opportunities for Gonzalez. After 20 years of dedication and commitment to the State of Texas, she has earned the right to pursue other interests. TABC staff wishes her all the best in her retirement.

## Emily Helm and Charlie Kerr Take On New Challenges

TABC TODAY



### *Emily Helm Appointed New General Counsel and Director of Legal Services Division*

Emily E. Helm joined TABC in March 2008, as a Staff Attorney prosecuting Code violations. On February 15, 2010, Helm was promoted as the new general counsel and director of the Legal Services Division for TABC.

Born in West Texas and raised in Fort Worth, Helm graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington earning her bachelor's of liberal arts degree in history with a minor in Spanish. She received her juris doctorate degree from Baylor Law School three years later. As Helm's legal career began, she worked as the Assistant Criminal District Attorney for Gregg County in Longview, Texas. Responsible for prosecuting Title II - child protective cases with Child Protective Services (CPS), and Title III - juvenile cases for Texas Family Code in the Family District Court, she also pursued misdemeanors and felony

cases. While working in East Texas for the County, she obtained a Legal Specialization in Family Law.

By 1983, Helm dove into private practice engaging in criminal defense, probate, family law litigation, court appointments and civil litigation. After a year, she moved to public service with the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS), and was appointed as their Assistant Regional Attorney in Paris, Texas. In 1988, she promoted to assistant general counsel with TDHS and relocated to Austin, Texas.

In 1995, Helm acquired her master's of business administration degree from the University of Texas at Austin. At the time, she was working for the Texas Youth Commission as director of Legal Services and promoted to deputy general counsel prior to arriving at TABC. Helm is excited in regards to her new position as general counsel. She looks forward to the future of TABC.

### *Meet Charlie Kerr, TABC's New Tax and Education Division Director*



Charlie Kerr joined TABC in December 1981, as a field auditor in the Houston office. Kerr left the agency in 1984, to work in private sector, but returned to the Houston office in 1986, where he was assigned as a special investigative auditor.

During his career, he was appointed to the Commission's first Organized Crime Task Force, and relocated to Austin, Texas. In 1988, Kerr was appointed as the agency's internal auditor. He held the position until 2000.

In 2000, Kerr was promoted as the director of Fiscal Services, which later merged with the General Services Division. He later became the director of Business Services and chief financial officer for TABC. On April 1, 2010, Kerr was appointed as the new director of the Tax and Education Division.

Kerr holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting. He is also a certified internal auditor, as well as a certified fraud examiner. Kerr maintains memberships in various professional organizations, such as the Institute of Internal Auditors, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Texas State Agency Business Administrator's Association and the USA Triathlon Association.

# Enforcement Division Update

## Human Trafficking in Texas

### TABC TODAY

#### *El Paraiso Night Club's Permit Canceled for Human Trafficking*

On February 19, 2010, TABC canceled the wine and beer permit held by El Paraiso Night Club, located at 5001 N. Bentsen Palm Drive in Mission, Texas. The cancellation took place five weeks after federal investigators arrested the owner for allegedly smuggling undocumented women into the United States for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.

McAllen TABC Agent Ricardo Balli Jr. contacted federal investigators with McAllen Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after hearing that Beleal Garcia-Gonzalez, owner of El Paraiso Night Club, had been arrested at a residence on Lusby Street in Mission, Texas on January 13, 2010. Investigators also discovered several undocumented Mexican Nationals and three undocumented Honduran girls, ages 14, 14, and 17 who were all living at the Lusby residence. Investigators were told that Garcia-Gonzalez had arranged to smuggle these young women from Honduras to Mission, Texas under the guise that they would be well-provided for and given jobs in a local restaurant. However, after the teenagers arrived in the states, they were indebted to Garcia-Gonzalez for between \$4,000 and \$4,500 and forced to work ten-hour days, six days a week, and were paid \$20.00 per day to settle their debt.

According to one witness, these teenage girls were also prostituted to the patrons of El Paraiso Night Club. A portion of this money was purportedly applied to their smuggling debt, while Garcia-Gonzalez kept the remainder. These three young girls were guarded at all times and only allowed at the Lusby residence or the bar. Permission to go to any other location had to be requested specifically through Garcia-Gonzalez.

The Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition reports that, "The perpetrators of these crimes instill fear in their victims in order to keep the victims from leaving or reporting the crimes they

endure. Tactics for enslavement include debt bondage, isolation from the public, isolation from family and ethnic or religious community, withholding legal documents, use or threat of violence against the person or the person's family, threat of imprisonment or deportation, denial of medical care, rape, control of the person's money, and manipulation and psychological abuse." (Human Trafficking: The Invisible Slave Trade, April 2007).

Approximately 600,000 to 800,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders worldwide, and between 14,500 and 17,500 of those are brought into the United States, according to the U.S. State Department. Many victims do not speak or understand English and end up isolated and unable to find assistance when they need it the most. If you have information concerning human trafficking in your area, please contact local law enforcement or the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888.

#### *TABC Sergeant Speaks at Texas Summits On Human Trafficking*

TABC's own Sergeant Michael Barnett presented at the Texas Summit on Trafficking and Exploitation of Children in Dallas on February 23, 2010, and in Houston on April 15, 2010. Barnett presented on how TABC collaborates with community partners and enforces the sign posting law in bars. In 2005, Barnett worked a case that resulted in the rescue of about 120 women and girls, who had been enslaved, forced into prostitution, and were being physically abused and psychologically tortured. This horrendous activity was taking place in TABC-licensed cantinas in Houston. TABC co-sponsored the event held by Children at Risk.



# Enforcement Division Update

## Bars Held Responsible for Alcohol-Related Fatalities

TABC TODAY

### *McGilligutty's Permit Revoked After Investigation into Fatal Crash*

On March 18, 2010, TABC canceled the Mixed Beverage permit for McGilligutty's, also known as the Three Dogs Pub and Grille, which was located at 9806 Quaker Avenue in Lubbock, Texas. Rajeev Gill, president of McGilligutty's, agreed to waive his right to a hearing and surrendered the permit effective immediately.

On January 3, 2010, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Chastity Killian went to McGilligutty's with friends. At 5:48 p.m. that evening, the Lubbock Police Department responded to an automobile accident in the 9500 block of Quaker Avenue. Upon arriving, they found Killian had been involved in a two-vehicle collision that ultimately resulted in her death.

Due to alcohol being a factor in the accident, the TABC Lubbock office was contacted, and a source investigation was initiated to determine where Killian had been served alcoholic beverages to the point of being intoxicated. Agent Chris Shultz was assigned the case, and through his investigation, determined

that Killian had not only been over-served alcohol to the point of intoxication at McGilligutty's on January 3, 2010, but had left McGilligutty's, and was involved in an accident which resulted in her death.

With the evidence that Agent Shultz discovered, and through the many witness statements he obtained, Agent Shultz determined that Killian, and those in her party, were served 23 beers and a Long Island Iced Tea in the span of about four hours. Toxicology reports later confirmed Killian's blood alcohol content to be .135, well over the legal limit of .08. At this time, no criminal charges are pending for the individual who over-served Killian, but should new information come forward, the investigation will be re-opened.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission continues to investigate all incidents when alcohol is found to be a factor in the case. TABC will cancel permits and prosecute as necessary, when new findings or information is discovered.

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### *Intoxicated Patron's Death Reveals Over-Serving*

TABC canceled the Mixed Beverage permit for He's Not Here Saloon, on April 1, 2010, which was located at 3703 Ave Q, space B in Lubbock, Texas. Brian Burns, owner of He's Not Here, agreed to waive his right to a hearing and surrendered the permit effective immediately.

On January 18, 2010, at approximately 12:00 p.m., Jose Ursua went to He's Not Here to watch a football game. Around 9:15 p.m., Ursua left He's Not Here to walk home when he was struck by two vehicles as he stepped off the curb in front of the saloon. Ursua died as a result of the injuries he sustained. Due to the location of the accident, and witness statements taken by the Lubbock Police Department from staff at He's Not Here Saloon, the Lubbock TABC Office was contacted and a source investigation was initiated.

Agent Anthony Bates determined that Ursua had been over-served at He's Not Here on January 18, 2010, and upon leaving, was involved in a motor vehicle/pedestrian accident resulting in his death.

Agent Bates conducted a joint investigation with the Lubbock Police Department and concluded: Jose Ursua had been at He's Not Here for approximately nine hours before his death, Ursua had been served numerous beers by two separate bartenders and that at the time of his death, Ursua's blood alcohol content was .315, which is four times the legal limit for driving in Texas. At this time, two criminal charges for selling alcoholic beverages to an intoxicated person have been filed with the Lubbock County District Attorney's Office.

# Enforcement Division Update

## Spring Break 2010 - Partnering Efforts

### TABC TODAY

### *TABC Partners with Law Enforcement and Retailers To Enforce Alcohol Laws During Spring Break*

TABC agents along the Texas Gulf Coast concentrated their efforts on the beaches of Galveston, Port Aransas, Corpus Christi, and South Padre Island during Spring Break, March 8-21, 2010, in an effort to increase law enforcement. TABC agents worked alongside the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Parks and Wildlife and local police to deal with violators and problems normally associated with Spring Break revelers.



A total of 1715 citations were issued during the two-week period, with the majority of these being for minors in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

A TABC Agent writes a citation for unlawful activity.

In addition to checking the beaches, hotels and other locations which minors are commonly found, TABC agents also conducted other pro-active operations such as Cops-in-Shops, Operation Fake-Out and Minor Stings. Immediately prior to the onset of Spring Break, TABC agents conducted Minor Stings along highways and corridors that many spring breakers use to travel to the beaches. The stings were conducted from Dallas to South Padre Island along the I-35 corridor and other major arteries leading to the Coast, including I-37, I-45, US Highway 59 and US Highway 77, with a total of 780 locations being checked along the way. Of the 780 licensed locations checked, 80 locations sold to minors partnering with TABC in the stings. Making this year's outcome a



Minors in possession of alcohol dispose of beer from a cooler during a routine beach check in Aransas Pass.

compliance rate of 89.74%. This clearly shows a continued improvement of years past. The end result demonstrates that continued education of retailer employees, along with working hand-in-hand with them, leads to high voluntary compliance rates.

While the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is focusing its efforts more and more on investigative and regulatory type functions, the agency continues to concentrate on licensed locations throughout the state that are contributing to alcohol-related problems. It is understood that Spring Break is a time at which underage drinking laws are commonly broken in large numbers, and enforcement efforts to minimize these violations are necessary. The TABC will continue to be a part of Spring Break enforcement activities in order to regulate responsible alcohol consumption, promote public safety and protect all people of Texas.

# Tax & Education Update

## New POE Bridge Joins Texas and Mexico

TABC TODAY

### *POE Staffs Anzalduas International Bridge Between Texas and Mexico*

TABC has hired personnel to staff the Anzalduas International Bridge, Rio Grande Valley's newest bridge and port of entry (POE), which connects the border cities of Mission, Texas and Reynosa, Tamaulipas. TABC now provides representation at 20 of the 27 border crossings along the Texas/Mexico border.

The Anzalduas International Bridge officially opened on December 15, 2009. It was built as a partnership between the cities of McAllen, Mission and Hidalgo, Texas. The bridge is now open daily from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for business.

At the bridge inauguration conducted on January 12, 2010, the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Relations, Patricia Espinosa Cantellano attended the ceremony and spoke to the audience about the importance of bridges linking the two countries. The Anzalduas International Bridge is the first bridge to open between the two countries in over 10 years, and



TABC POE Taxpayer Compliance Officer, Monica Armendariz checks and collects the tax for alcohol and cigarettes being brought into Texas at the Anzalduas International Bridge.



The Anzalduas International Bridge between McAllen, Texas and Reynosa, Tamaulipas. (The U.S. is shown on the right.) Photograph courtesy of a staff photographer with the Anzalduas International Bridge.

will be a valuable asset to both the Rio Grande Valley and Mexico. The bridge itself is unique in that, it is the longest bridge, a length of 3.4 miles, connecting Mexico and the United States. It is open to vehicles and buses, providing another route linking major cities and roads to facilitate tourism and commercial traffic into the area.

As TABC personnel in the POE program continue to monitor and ensure that persons importing alcoholic beverages and cigarettes into Texas along the Anzalduas International Bridge meet all of the legal requirements for importing, they will also collect the appropriate fees and taxes. The next port scheduled to open is Donna POE in the summer of 2010.

# In The Community

## Response In Our Communities

### TABC TODAY

### *San Marcos Staff Participate in University Alcohol Awareness Program*

The Texas State University Police Department recently thanked TABC Agent Russell Moore and Compliance Officer Stephanie Rangel for their participation in the Texas State "Know Your Dreams, Know Your Limits, Know the Consequences" Pre-Spring Break alcohol awareness program.

TABC has assisted with this pre-spring break program for the last eight years in an effort to curtail the rising rates of drinking and driving during this time of year. In this year's scenario, a vehicle accident scene was set up near the campus quad similar to the Shattered Dreams program where education materials were distributed to students.



TABC Agent Russell Moore and Compliance Officer Stephanie Rangel.



TABC Agent Ron Clinton

member of the Clayton District VFD received the award for his courage in the line of duty. Each year, the Firefighter of the Year award is presented to a member who responds to fire and medical calls, helps with fundraising projects and equipment maintenance in their personal time.

### *Agent Ron Clinton Awarded Firefighter of the Year 2009*

TABC Senior Agent Ron Clinton of the Longview District Office was recently named Firefighter of the Year 2009, by the Clayton District Volunteer Fire Department. Agent Clinton a two-year

Clinton has been a certified firefighter for over 25 years. This is the second time he has received the award. The first time was in 1982, prior to joining TABC. At the time, he was a member of the Carthage Volunteer Fire Department and received the award for his bravery. Agent Clinton comes from a family with a history of fighting fires. His father was a volunteer firefighter who served over 45 years, and his brother is also a volunteer firefighter.

### *TABC HR Director Honored As City of Pflugerville's Personnel Appeal Board Member*



TABC Human Resources Director, Loretta Doty.

On January 12, 2010, Loretta Doty, TABC's Director of Human Resources was recognized at the Pflugerville City Council Awards Appreciation and Oath of Office reception, as a new board and commission member.

During the ceremony Jeff Coleman, the Mayor of Pflugerville, Texas administered an oath of office to the newly inducted members. Doty will serve a three-year term on the Personnel Appeal Board.

The Personnel Appeal Board conducts hearings and renders decisions regarding employee appeals to suspensions, demotions, and terminations. All board members serve on a volunteer basis.

### *Dallas/Fort Worth Employees Donate To Resource Center Dallas Food Pantry*

In early December 2009, TABC's Dallas Regional Community Relations Liaison, Agent Staci Ducote, set up collection boxes at TABC's Dallas and Fort Worth offices to gather food donations for Resource Center Dallas' (RCD) Food Pantry. The organization was having economic struggles to provide meals and staples to HIV patients in need.

Agent Ducote received an outpouring response from fellow TABC Dallas and Fort Worth employees. On December 11, 2009, Ducote donated on behalf of TABC between \$300-\$400 dollars worth of food including canned and non-perishable food items to the RCD.



TABC Agent Staci Ducote and Agent Leigh Ann Wiggins.



# In The Community

## Supporting Children In Our Communities

### TABC TODAY

### *Austin Employees Donate Coats, Supplies and Food*

In the spirit of giving, TABC Austin Headquarter staff examined several charitable opportunities last fall to encourage employees to make a difference in the quality of life for others. In November, TABC joined the Junior League of Austin and Jack Brown Cleaners to gather gently used coats for the Coats for Kids campaign. The coats were distributed to eligible Central Texas children and teens this past winter.



Items donated included: diapers, wipes, socks, onesies, sleepers, a bunting outfit, winter coats, infant food, cereal, formula and toys.



TABC Austin HQ employees, Richard Maness and Pat Symolon with two bins of coats collected for the Coats for Kids campaign.

TABC also provided an early Christmas to ten babies between the ages of newborn and nine months and their mothers enrolled in the American Youth Works of Austin (AYW) Charter High School Child Development Center.

TABC Austin employees ended their holiday season by conducting a food drive for the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB). On December 2, 2009, a weigh-in was held at TABC headquarters. TABC staff donated 952 pounds of items in high demand, including non-perishable food, baby food, formula and hygiene items. TABC employees also gave a \$547 cash donation to CAFB which was used to make 1,641 meals.



Capital Area Food Bank personnel with TABC donated non-perishable food, baby food, formula and hygiene items.

### *Lubbock Office Supports Toys for Tots*

TABC employees of the Lubbock District Office recycled aluminum cans that would have otherwise graced a landfill to make the past holiday season a brighter one for children in need. The \$105 in proceeds along with staff donations, added up to a \$350 donation to the Toys for Tots campaign, conducted each year by the United States Marine Corps Reserve.



TABC Lubbock District Office staff (back row): Sergeant Michael Lockhart, Deon Turner, Agent James Martin, Agent Bobby Castillo, Senior Agent Doyce Vandivere, and Agent Chris Shultz; (front row): Jana Worley, Agent Anthony Bates, Agent Graig Francis and Lieutenant Brian Williams.



# In The Community

## Staff Contribute To Charities

TABC TODAY

### *McAllen Employees Participate in Crime Stoppers Toy Drive*

Employees with the TABC McAllen District Office participated in the annual Hidalgo County Crime Stoppers Toy Drive. Hidalgo County Crime Stoppers collects new, unwrapped toys during the holiday season and distributes the toys collected as Christmas gifts to needy children in the Hidalgo County Colonias. Their mission is to help put a smile on the face of a child in need of joy and comfort.

### *San Marcos Accounts Examiner, Eleanor Ramirez Raises Funds for Students*

Eleanor Ramirez, TABC Accounts Examiner in the San Marcos Licensing Office, is a member of Nosotros La Gente which contributed \$18,000 to San Marcos CISD to purchase shoes for students in need. Ramirez has been a member of Nosotros La Gente, a San Marcos community based non-profit organization for the past three years.

## *TABC Employees Break Agency Record In Support of SECC*

During the months of September and October, TABC employees state-wide donated over \$23,000 in payroll deductions and one-time monetary gifts to aid local, national and world-wide charities in the State Employees Charitable Campaign (SECC).

The SECC, which began in 1993, has collected more than 9.5 million from state workers over the past 16 years. The campaign supports a wide variety of vital health and human services as well as environmental and conservation causes.

This past year, TABC reached an all-time agency record when Austin headquarters staff achieved a 91% participation in the campaign. HQ employees donated \$5,627 in payroll deductions and one-time monetary gifts. They also raised an additional \$1,400 through an employee sponsored silent auction and local merchant book fair. The additional money collected was designated to Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) of Central Texas, which received the donation in March 2010.

### *Carolyn Beck Named New SECC LEC Chair for 2010*



Carolyn Beck, TABC Director of Communications, has been appointed 2010 Chair of the Capital Area SECC Local Employee Committee (LEC).

TABC's Director of Communications, Carolyn Beck, has been selected Chair of the Capital Area SECC Local Employee Committee for the 2010 campaign. Each region of the state has a Local Employee Committee (LEC) served by state employees who manage the annual campaign. Beck was an ex-officio member of the Capital Area LEC during the 2009 campaign which raised over \$2.2 million for local charities.



# TABC

TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

*service ★ courtesy ★ integrity ★ accountability*

**P.O. Box 13127**

**Austin, Texas 78711**

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## You Asked . . .

### Questions about alcoholic beverage regulations

**How many feet must an establishment that serves alcohol be from a school or church to be issued a permit?**

The Alcoholic Beverage Code authorizes a city or county to enact distance requirements between the sale of alcoholic beverages and schools, churches, public hospitals, day care centers or child care facilities. In order to find out what the distance requirements are in your area, contact your city or county or review local ordinances.

In November 2009, TABC launched a new Facebook page, joining the ranks of many state agencies who use the social networking tool to reach out to a broader community, announcing events, providing information, and promoting the agency's activities. As of May 1, 2010, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission has over 550 "fans." Support the agency and stay in the loop by becoming a fan!  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

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**TABC Today** is an external publication of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission. We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. You may contact us via e-mail at: [questions@tabc.state.tx.us](mailto:questions@tabc.state.tx.us).

**To report a possible violation** of the Alcoholic Beverage Code, call toll-free 1-888-THE-TABC (Voice/TDD).

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