



# TABC

TEXAS ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE COMMISSION

service ★ courtesy ★ integrity ★ accountability

# Today

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**Alan Steen**  
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Presiding Officer

Steve Weinberg, MD, JD  
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## Administrator's Corner - TABC Focus

### *Using Data to Work Smarter*

TABC continues to find new ways to use data to identify at-risk licensed locations so that we can focus our efforts where they will make the biggest difference. Even better, we can use data to determine which new initiatives are most effective.

We are using a new risk management tool to determine which businesses need a closer look, based on many factors including: protests, complaints, vice activity and calls for service. The assessment score and the sergeant's discretion will determine whether we conduct an investigation, offer free education, or take no further action. We are also using software to map local police department calls for service and identify "hot spots" or at-risk licensed locations. We can use this information to locate public safety concerns and bring businesses into compliance before there is a tragedy.

Our data shows that where our employees are conducting inspections has a direct effect on the outcomes. For instance, if only 40% of our inspections are at TABC-licensed locations, recidivism at licensed locations goes down because we are not looking for violations. Once the agency makes licensed locations a priority, recidivism goes up. When we stay after it, the recidivism goes down again, even though 86% of

inspections are now at TABC-licensed locations.

Our data shows that changes in the way TABC handles credit law delinquencies has made a significant impact on how many businesses pay their bills on time. TABC is now taking administrative action on credit law delinquencies after the seventh occurrence. The total number of delinquent accounts being reported to TABC was down 64% from Fiscal Year 2009 to 2010. The total amount of delinquent debt at the end of FY09 was \$599 million. At the end of FY10 it was only \$86 million. That is significant!

When we take administrative action for violations, we are using the process to prevent future bad behavior by reducing fines in exchange for a meaningful change in how the business operates. For example, we are working with businesses to reduce capacity, establish a minimum age for patrons, and/or set an earlier closing time – all in attempts to rehabilitate businesses through the administrative process instead of merely punishing the owners. Eventually, we will have enough data to determine how effective this really is. But for now, it makes darn good sense!

Alan Steen, Administrator

# Staff Retirements

## Rick Cruz and Renee Johnston Andrews Retire from State

### TABC TODAY



### *TABC Captain Rick Cruz Retired September 30*

After 25 years in law enforcement, Captain Rick Cruz of Houston retired on September 30, 2010. Prior to TABC, Cruz served in the United States Army from 1977 to 1984. During that time, he worked with the

Military Intelligence Branch and obtained the rank of Sergeant.

In 1984, he began his law enforcement career with the Harlingen Police Department as a warrant officer in the Traffic Division. In 1989, Cruz joined

TABC as an agent, and was stationed in offices throughout the state including El Paso, Harlingen, Lubbock, McAllen and Houston.

During his tenure with the agency, Cruz was awarded a Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) Master Peace Officer Certification and graduated from the Governor's Management Development program. "Rick was tough, dedicated, and a strong leader and he has proven he was the man for the job," said TABC Administrator, Alan Steen. "He has represented us all well out there when we needed leadership."



### *Executive Assistant Renee Johnston Andrews Retired*

August 31, 2010, was the end of an era in state government. Renee Johnston Andrews retired from the State of Texas after 31 years. She worked tirelessly for agency heads and board members

from three state agencies. The past seven years were with TABC as the Executive Assistant for Administrator Alan Steen.

Her duties required a high level of organization, excellent communication skills, sound independent judgment and the ability to do it all with a smile on her face. We will miss Renee's professionalism, her loyalty to her boss, her dedication to her agency, her thoughtfulness, her green thumb, her fancy office attire and her sense of humor. "She brought limitless energy, unsurpassed professionalism, unwavering loyalty and dedication to the Executive Office," said Administrator, Alan Steen. "She is a good friend and we wish her all the best."

## TABC Staff Retirements: April - August 2010

### April:

Diane Castellon      Licensing Div. - HQ  
Diana Gonzalez      Tax & Education Div.- HQ

### May:

Celso Machado      Brownsville Ports of Entry  
Marcos Ochoa      Hidalgo Ports of Entry

### July:

James Irvin      Business Services Div. - HQ  
Patricia Symolon      Information Resources - HQ

### August:

Pete Champion      Austin District Office  
James West      Odessa District Office  
Jana Worley      Lubbock Licensing Div.

# Staff Take On New Challenges

## Shelby Eskew and Steven Moore Welcome New Positions

TABC TODAY



### *Shelby Eskew Appointed Director of Business Services*

Shelby Eskew joined TABC in August 2004, to assist with the commission's budget administration. She has been involved in the budget, strategic planning process and legislative process for the agency. Prior to joining TABC,

Eskew graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from the University of Texas at Austin in 1990.

She has over 25 years of state experience in the financial arena beginning at KUT-FM, the National Public Radio Affiliate located on the University of Texas campus. Upon graduation, Eskew became the Business Manager of the radio station and was responsible for budget, payroll, and time/leave administration. In 1996, she

transferred to the Texas Youth Commission (TYC) as the grant accountant and was responsible for administration and financial oversight of over \$10 million in federal and state grants. She then became a budget analyst and assumed financial responsibility for additional TYC programs including correctional facilities and the residential contract program. In October 2001, Eskew was named Budget Director for TYC and was responsible for all aspects of the budget function for the agency including the Legislative Appropriation Request for a budget that totaled approximately \$250 million a year.

In 2008, Eskew graduated from the Texas Fiscal Officers Academy, a three-week professional development program for state agency fiscal officers. She brings a wealth of experience to the position.



### *Meet TABC Compliance Manager, Steven Moore*

Steven Moore will join TABC on October 18, 2010, as the new Compliance Manager of Field Operations for Region 2 in Dallas, Texas. Originally from California, he studied

business administration and marketing at California State University in San Bernardino.

With almost 20 years of hospitality experience in the food and beverage industry, Moore worked in a variety of alcoholic beverage environments. He is a seasoned manager with 15 years of experience including bartending, nightclub and restaurant management. In these positions, Moore developed strengths in financial management and

reporting, leadership skills, and problem solving. Throughout his career, Moore was recruited for his knowledge, team building skills, and ability to keep high volume establishments code compliant. For that reason, he acquired several certifications from the National Restaurant Association for advanced food safety management and alcohol service training.

Moore's experience in the food and beverage industry has provided him with the training, monitoring, and opportunities to obtain compliance of alcoholic beverage laws and health and safety codes, which makes him a great fit for TABC. He is excited about his new position and direction of his career.



# Strategic Planning Update

## Agency Priorities for FY 2011-2015

### TABC TODAY

### *Strategic Planning Goals for Fiscal Years 2011 - 2015*

Beginning in January 2010, the agency conducted strategic planning sessions involving headquarters and field staff, management and line staff, as well as external stakeholders. Supervisors across the state held staff meetings, presenting the results of the Survey of Employee Engagement and providing employees with the opportunity to brainstorm concerns and recommendations on how to improve their workplace experience.

In April 2010, division directors, field managers and ports of entry supervisors used employee feedback related to the Survey of Employee Engagement to develop management goals and strategies specifically related to the needs of TABC employees. Each region in the field developed management goals specific to the needs of their employees. The following are the management goals developed by division directors in headquarters:

1. **Fair Pay:** Investigate ways to improve employee pay incentives.
2. **Internal Communication:** Explore different methods of communication in order to enhance the understanding of agency decision-making.
3. **Climate/Feedback:** Improve the process for providing continuous feedback for job performance by reviewing the new evaluation process and making improvements.
4. **Employee Development:** Investigate ways to expand or improve training opportunities for employees.

**5. Information Technology:** Identify and review strategies to improve service and accessibility to information technology systems in a secure manner.

Additionally, a cross-section of agency employees worked alongside external stakeholders to develop management goals and strategies related to the agency's mission of regulating the alcoholic beverage industry. The following are the agency's priorities at this time:

1. Continue to improve communication with industry to facilitate education and voluntary compliance.
2. Work with stakeholders to continue prevention and education programs, including prevention of underage drinking and over-service.
3. Continue to streamline the licensing process to reduce cost and time involved.
4. Identify high-risk businesses by using non-public safety violations as an indicator that public safety violations may be occurring.

These goals will further the agency's mission in regulating alcoholic beverages within the state as well as contributing to the health, safety and welfare of our citizens. TABC's Strategic Plan for FY 2011-2015 can be found on the TABC website:

[http://www.tabc.state.tx.us/publications/agency\\_report\\_archives/strategicPlan11.pdf](http://www.tabc.state.tx.us/publications/agency_report_archives/strategicPlan11.pdf)

# TABC Turns 75!

## Anniversary Celebrations and Commemorative Badge

TABC TODAY

### *TABC Commemorates 75th Anniversary with Statewide Celebrations*

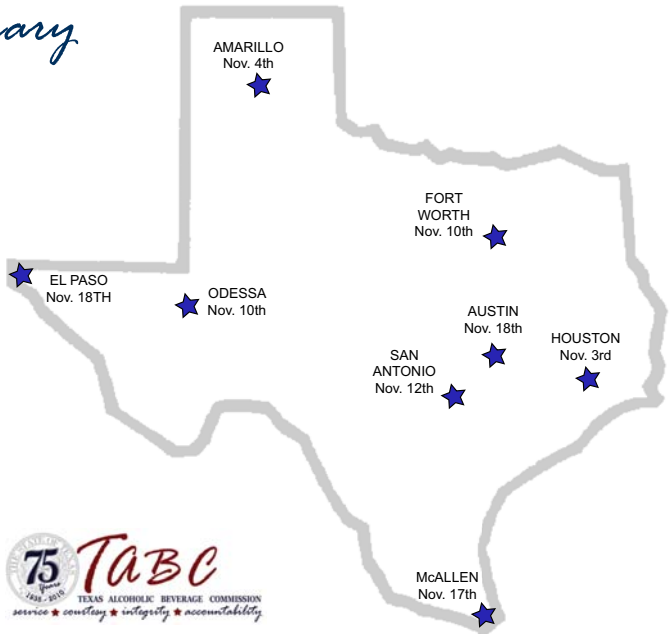
TABC is celebrating its 75th Anniversary with local celebrations throughout the state in November. Local offices will be inviting employees, former employees, industry and community members, elected officials, law enforcement, media and any persons interested in what we do.

The TABC was established on November 18, 1935 to regulate the alcoholic beverage industry in Texas after the repeal of Prohibition. Today, the Commission continues to regulate the retailers, wholesalers and manufacturers of alcoholic beverages. In addition, investigators work with local, state and federal authorities on a wide range of cases including alcohol-related fatalities, prostitution, narcotics, theft, organized crime, and human trafficking.

“TABC is celebrating this milestone with a tip of the hat to our retired employees who made this agency successful, while looking toward our future as one of the most cutting edge liquor law enforcement agencies in the world,” said TABC Administrator Alan Steen. “I am proud to be able to represent such a committed group of men and women who work every day to keep Texans safe.”

The agency’s 75th anniversary celebrations are scheduled to take place at TABC regional offices throughout the State of Texas.

The celebration at TABC Headquarters will take place on November 18, corresponding with a Commission meeting.



### *Agency Issues 75th Anniversary Badge*

In early 2010, personnel who currently carry a TABC badge were given the opportunity to purchase the new 75th anniversary badge.

Purchasing the 75th anniversary badge was optional, and personnel who choose not to purchase the new badge continue to wear their current badge.



TABC's Anniversary Badge



TABC's Standard Badge

The anniversary badge will only be worn this year, and TABC employees will resume wearing the standard badges in 2011.

# Compliance Division Update

## Collaborating with OAG

TABC TODAY

### *TABC Suspends Permits Held By Parents Who Owe Child Support*

On May 21, 2010, TABC began suspending licenses/permits held by sole proprietors who are delinquent on their child support payments, once a court order has been issued by a judge. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) has asked TABC to take action on those license and permit holders who owe more than three months of past-due child support and are not in compliance with an existing court-ordered or voluntary repayment schedule. As a regular part of their enforcement, the OAG already works with other state agencies to suspend professional licenses and driver's licenses of parents who owe child support.

In accordance with Texas Family Code Section 232.011, TABC will work in conjunction with the OAG to take action against those license and permit holders who have failed to pay child support. This law is not new; however, a computer interface was recently developed, finally allowing the OAG's Child Support Division to match its caseload with the TABC list of license and permit holders who are sole proprietors.

When the match shows an obligor who meets the statutory criteria for license suspension as holding one or more TABC licenses/permits, the OAG will provide the license/permit holder with a warning and an opportunity to resolve the outstanding delinquency. If the obligor



Texas Attorney General  
Greg Abbott

fails to respond, the OAG Child Support Division will ask a judge to issue a court order to suspend the TABC license or permit.

Upon receipt of a final order to suspend a license/permit for failure to pay child support, TABC is required by law to immediately implement the terms of the order. Once TABC serves the suspension, the licensed establishment must immediately stop selling alcoholic beverages. The suspension will be lifted when TABC is notified by the OAG that the permit holder is no longer delinquent.

The OAG Child Support Division assists parents in obtaining the financial support necessary for children to grow up and succeed in life. Dexter Jones, Assistant Chief of Field Operations said, "TABC strives to put responsible people into business and promote good business practices through integrated partnerships. Paying child support is among the most basic and important responsibilities of a non-custodial parent. If a parent has the ability, but refuses to pay child support, that person should not be trusted with the responsibility of selling alcoholic beverages in a safe and legal manner." TABC stands ready to assist the OAG in holding these parents accountable and promoting a safer and more secure Texas.

Photograph of Greg Abbott courtesy of the OAG.

# Compliance Division Update

## First Honorary Agent's Badge Awarded

TABC TODAY



Armando Medina  
1986 - 2010

### *TABC Posthumously Awards Armando Medina First Honorary Agent's Badge*

On July 23, 2010, TABC posthumously awarded Armando Medina an Honorary Agent's Badge, the first in the commission's 75th year history. TABC Administrator Alan Steen and Chief Joel

Moreno granted authorization to Assistant Chief Dexter K. Jones to hold a ceremony and present the honorary badge and a plaque to the Medina family in his honor.

Armando Medina had completed the Texas Peace Officer Academic Course through Austin Community College (ACC) in the fall of 2009. Subsequently, he earned a score of 93, the highest score held by an ACC student, on the Texas Commission for Law Enforcement Officers Standards and Education Certification Exam (TCLEOSE). Although Medina was certified as a Peace Officer in Texas, his dream was to become a Commissioned Peace Officer with TABC. Tragically while pursuing his dream, he was killed in a traffic accident on May 21, 2010, at the age of 24.

During the ceremonial address to the Medina family, Assistant Chief Dexter Jones said: "Today we embrace you and we open up our arms and our hearts as you mourn the loss of Armando Medina. We seek to comfort you, to tell you of our admiration for your grace, your

courage, and the way in which you raised and mentored him. He was a gifted and humble young man – the personification of what a young man should be in today's time. He worked hard and dedicated himself to the task of obtaining certification through TCLEOSE, and it is only fitting that we ensure that his dream is honored and recognized. We take pleasure in ensuring that the Medina family is always a part of the TABC family and we present you with a plaque in honor and memory of Armando's dedication and achievement."

Diana Medina, Armando's mother received his Honorary Agent's Badge and plaque. Both items were presented to her during the ceremony held at TABC Headquarters.



TABC Assistant Chief of Compliance Dexter Jones, Diana Medina (Armando's mother), Raymundo Medina (Armando's father) and TABC Chief of Field Operations Joel Moreno.



# Enforcement Division Update

## Bars Held Responsible After Assault

TABC TODAY

### *Permits Held By El Paraiso Tropical Ballroom and Club Bar-Rio Cancelled After Sexual Assault*

On May 18, 2010, TABC cancelled the wine and beer permit held by El Paraiso Tropical Ballroom Inc. and Club Bar-Rio located at 3211 Ayers in Corpus Christi, Texas (permit number BG560419).

In February 2010, TABC Lieutenant Larry Linscombe of the Corpus Christi District Office took an emotional call from a mother who described to him the sexual assault that her daughter had been a victim of in the men's room of the El Paraiso Tropical Ballroom Inc. and Club Bar-Rio.

The criminal sexual assault investigation was assigned to the Corpus Christi Police Department. They were well on the way to closing the case and seeking an indictment against the perpetrator when the TABC was notified of the assault. Agent Brian Tullis of the Corpus Christi District Office immediately began an administrative investigation as it was alleged that employees of the bar were either involved in the attack or permitted the assault to occur.

However, Agent Tullis' investigation was delayed as the criminal investigation took priority. Investigators with the Corpus Christi Police Department had difficulty in gathering evidence and establishing facts in the case because an employee of the licensed premises cleaned up the restroom after the attack. The investigation further revealed that an employee heard the assault from an adjoining restroom and did nothing to stop it.

investigations. We do not want to do anything that may hamper a criminal investigation. Our investigators work hand-in-hand with local law enforcement to ensure that the investigations are not compromised," said Lt. Linscombe.

After months of investigation, an indictment of aggravated sexual assault was handed down by the Nueces County Grand Jury against the suspect in this case. Agent Tullis was then able to actively work and pursue administrative charges against the permits held at this licensed location.

Agent Tullis learned that the probability was high that an illegal subterfuge ownership of the licensed location existed. Subterfuge is the use or display of a permit in the conduct of a business for the benefit of a person not authorized by law to have an interest in the license. Agent Tullis learned that the permit holder gave sworn testimony in a civil deposition that he was no longer in control of the licensed location and leased it and its operation to another person.

Allegations of aggravated breach of the peace, failure to report breach of the peace, and subterfuge were presented to Mr. Sabino Mendez, President of El Paraiso Tropical Ballroom, Inc. Mr. Sabino agreed to cancellation for cause on the allegations listed in the settlement agreement and waived his right to a hearing. Lt. Larry Linscombe said, "I am very proud of the hard work and diligence that Agent Tullis put into this investigation. A mother's plea for help was answered and justice was served in both the criminal and administrative systems."

"Criminal investigations of this nature take precedence over administrative





# Enforcement Division Update

## Bar Held Responsible After Minor's Death

TABC TODAY

### *Charges Filed Against Mynar's Bar Owner, Bartenders and Party Host After Death of College Student*

TABC has concluded its investigation into possible alcoholic beverage code violations following the death of Megan Helal, a 19-year-old Navarro College student. The investigation found that Megan Helal and other minors were illegally provided alcoholic beverages on the night of March 20, 2010, while they attended a Sigma Chi fraternity party at Mynar's Bar located at 121 Oak Street in the City of West, Texas, (TABC permit # BE563142).

Mynar's Bar will face administrative sanctions for failing to verify the ages of the individuals that were being served or allowed to consume alcoholic beverages in the bar, and for failing to monitor the consumption of alcoholic beverages at the party, which resulted in several individuals becoming intoxicated. The bar could face a fine, suspension or cancellation of the permit.

Arrest warrants were issued for the owner, Linda McWilliams for making an alcoholic beverage available to a minor. Two of the bartenders, Carol Baker and Amy Free, have also been issued arrest warrants for the sale, service, or delivery of an alcoholic beverage to a minor.

A warrant was issued for the coordinator of the party, 20-year-old Matthew Crowe, for the offense of purchasing, furnishing, or making an alcoholic beverage available to a minor. Crowe was also issued class C misdemeanor citations for the possession of an alcoholic beverage by a minor and purchase of an alcoholic beverage by a minor. The investigation also revealed that prior to Megan Helal attending the party at Mynar's,

she was furnished alcoholic beverages at another location by Brandon Bingham. An arrest warrant was issued for Bingham on the charge of purchasing, furnishing, or making an alcoholic beverage available to a minor.

Selling to a minor and furnishing alcohol to a minor are both class A misdemeanors, punishable by up to a \$4,000 fine and/or up to a year in jail. Making alcohol available to a minor also includes a driver's license suspension of 180 days. The penalty for a class C misdemeanor is up to a \$500 fine.

"Selling or providing alcohol to minors is dangerous and illegal, and those actions come with consequences," said TABC Administrator Alan Steen. "These laws are in place for a reason, and the obvious disregard by these individuals is what makes this incident such a tragedy. Well past the disposition of these cases, TABC will continue to work with the Baylor and Waco communities to help prevent any similar circumstances in the future."

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### *TABC Cancels Bar Permits*

What was first believed to be an accident caused by a distracted driver using a cell phone has since been proven to be a DWI fatality. The over-service of alcoholic beverages to the intoxicated driver has led to the cancellation of the TABC permits held by Sideline Sports Bar in Alice, Jim Wells County, Texas.

**Continued on page 10**

# Enforcement Division Update

## Bar Held Responsible After Fatality

TABC TODAY

### *Permits Held by Sideline Sports Bar Cancelled After DWI Fatality*

Continued from page 9

On March 14, 2010, at approximately 3:00 a.m., Pedro Ricardo Rodriguez of Alice, Texas, was killed in an automobile accident that was first believed to have been caused by his own inattention as he was talking on a cell phone. However after the post mortem blood tests were released several months later, it was learned his accident and death were caused by more than just driver inattention. Autopsy results revealed that Pedro Rodriguez had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.236, almost three times the legal limit for driving in Texas.

In June, TABC Lieutenant Larry Linscombe of the Corpus Christi District Office learned of the death of Mr. Pedro Rodriguez by receiving a complaint from his mother and brother. After a review of the complaint and surrounding circumstances, Agent Bobby Pickett was assigned to the investigation. He began the long and arduous process of trying to piece together an investigation that would be considered by many a "cold case" due to its age.

"Investigations such as these are extremely difficult to prove, and one that was several months old was even more complex. Witnesses were hard to locate, physical evidence was nearly impossible to find and it was more difficult to persuade people to share what they knew," said Lt. Linscombe.

With the assistance of Agent Brian Tullis, Agent Pickett began interviewing witnesses. They interviewed bartenders and employees of Sideline Sports Bar, the bar's owner, and the victim's girlfriend who was on the phone with him at the time of the accident. They left no stone unturned to uncover the truth in this case.

During the course of this investigation, Agent Pickett was able to collect evidence that included statements from the various persons interviewed, and the signed credit card receipt of the victim that was used to pay for the alcoholic beverages he was served. Not only were Agents Pickett and Tullis able to prove that Pedro Rodriguez was served while intoxicated, they uncovered other violations that involved the victim such as breach of the peace and failure to report a breach of peace. The investigation determined that there were at least two altercations involving Pedro Rodriguez inside the bar which culminated in a major disturbance in the parking lot of Sideline Sports Bar involving Pedro Rodriguez and several others. This large disturbance in the parking lot occurred several minutes before Pedro Rodriguez's fatal accident.

The TABC brought forth administrative charges of: sale/serve/or deliver alcoholic beverages to an intoxicated person, allowing breach of the peace, and failure to report breach of the peace against the permits held by Sideline Sports Bar and its permittee Mr. Richard Raymundo Soriano.

Due to Agent Pickett's hard work and determination, on August 2, the permittee agreed to cancellation of the TABC permits held at the licensed location. Lt. Larry Linscombe said, "Agent Pickett put many hours into this investigation. His dedication and commitment are to be applauded. Had proper procedures been followed by the employees at Sideline Sports Bar, perhaps Mr. Pedro R. Rodriguez would still be alive today."

# Enforcement Division Update

## Train-the-Trainer Program

TABC TODAY

### *TABC Hosts "Train-the-Trainer" to Teach Local Law Enforcement*



PIRE Instructor, Bill Patterson of OJJDP trains agency staff during the Mock Party Dispersal Exercise held at TABC Headquarters.

On May 24-27, TABC brought experts from out of state to Texas to instruct our agents on how to train local law enforcement officials. The Train-the-Trainer Enforcement and Education Strategy Initiative School,

funded by the federal Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), helps communities efficiently combat underage drinking by providing collaborative, continuing education training to local law enforcement.

The "Train-the-Trainer" program conducted by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), taught 22 TABC agents how to provide customized training to local law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Texas.

"TABC agents have always provided training and continuing education opportunities to law enforcement and community coalitions," said TABC Administrator Alan Steen. In 2009, nearly 15,000 peace officers and public officials were trained by our agents. Programs like 'Train-the-Trainer' have proven to be effective nationally by the OJJDP."

The four trainings offered related directly to the enforcement of laws designed to prevent underage drinking:

- **Dealing with False Identification.** Provided agents with a basic understanding of false and fraudulent identification and the tools necessary to recognize these forms of identification.
- **How to Conduct Compliance Check Operations/Minor Stings.** Provided guidelines and operational information on reducing sales of alcohol to underage purchasers through compliance investigations of alcohol retailers.

- **Operations to Reduce Third Party Sales of Alcohol to Underage Youth.**

Gave an overview of the strategies that can be used to prevent third party transactions of alcohol to minors and how to address these sales when they occur.



TABC Agent Shuddell Lindsey of San Angelo gathers information from volunteers during the mock exercise.

- **Dispersal Techniques for Preventing and Breaking Up Underage Drinking Parties.** Discussed the role of enforcement and community agencies in the prevention of underage drinking parties and how to safely disperse them when they occur.

Any law enforcement agency interested may contact a TABC District Office or visit [www.tabc.state.tx.us](http://www.tabc.state.tx.us) to find a TABC District Office nearest your community.



# Enforcement Division Update

## 2010 Bert Ford Commendation Recipient Awarded

TABC TODAY

### *TABC Recognizes Johnson County Sheriff with Annual Award*



Sheriff Bob Alford  
Johnson County

Johnson County Sheriff Bob Alford has been named the recipient of the 2010 Bert Ford Sheriff's Commendation by the TABC. Sheriff Alford was presented with the award at the Sheriff's Association of Texas 132nd Annual Conference in Fort Worth on July 27, 2010.

"Bert Ford was the administrator of our agency between 1936 and 1947," said TABC Administrator Alan Steen, "and during his tenure, he emphasized the importance of TABC employees maintaining a high level of cooperation with local law enforcement agencies. The Bert Ford Commendation is an opportunity for the TABC to recognize a sheriff who has demonstrated, through his or her resources and personal cooperation, the kind of working relationship that former TABC Administrator Bert Ford encouraged," he added. "I am proud to be able to recognize Sheriff Bob Alford with this award."

Sheriff Alford worked for the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for 27 years: six years as a State Trooper and 20 years in Criminal Law Enforcement, most of which was in narcotics enforcement working extensive undercover assignments.

He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy (124th session) and the National Sheriff's Institute (1997). Alford retired from DPS in 1996, and he was sworn in as Sheriff of Johnson County in 1997.

"When our outpost agent was displaced from Hood County, Sheriff Alford opened his doors to TABC," said Dallas Regional Captain Charlie Cloud. "He has provided us with free office space, phone service and access to the Law Enforcement Analysis Portal (LEAP) for Outpost Agent Jack Miller. He has always been an innovative person and a staunch supporter of TABC," added Cloud.

Agent Jack Miller said, "The Sheriff has always included our agency in training opportunities offered at his academy. He has always supported TABC Minor Stings in the county by providing at least one deputy and a marked patrol unit to transport arrestees and to file criminal cases. Support from the Sheriff in our mission is not just limited to assisting with our case work, but also in supporting us by trying to make our job easier and safer."

The Bert Ford Commendation recipient receives a handgun suitable for routine duties as well as a plaque. In addition, Sheriff Alford's name will be added to a plaque displayed at the headquarters of the Sheriff's Association of Texas, which identifies each Bert Ford Commendation recipient.

# Enforcement Division Update

## Illegal Still Seized and Partnering with Industry

TABC TODAY

### *Agent Seizes Illegal Still in Harris County*



TABC Agent Scott Burton pictured with seized still.

On April 29, 2010, TABC Agent Scott Burton of the Houston District Office received an anonymous complaint stating that an illegal still was in operation at 14250 Cypress North Houston Road, in Harris County. While investigating the complaint, Agent Burton discovered a 15.5 gallon beer keg with copper and brass tubing affixed and extending approximately four

feet up from the top of the keg. When Agent Burton asked what the contraption was used for the owner stated, "That's for water."

Sgt. Gabriel Ramos and Agent William Farquhar arrived on scene and assisted Agent Burton with the seizure of the illegal still. Also seized was an open 40-pound bag of barley, and a box of 24 empty wine bottles. The owner of the illegal still later admitted that he was using it to distill "grapa" which he described as a type of liquor distilled from wine. The owner added saying that he and his son, had been brewing their own beer and wine, and wanted to "kick it up a notch" by trying to distill "something harder."

### *Committee Established for Super Bowl XLV*

On June 3, 2010, TABC met with various members of the alcoholic beverage industry and community to take part in a TABC Super Bowl Committee meeting to prepare the North Texas region to host Super Bowl XLV. TABC, local government agencies, law enforcement officials, industry and community partners are working closely together to enable Super Bowl XLV to be a safe and fun experience that makes Texas proud.

TABC Chief of Field Operations Joel Moreno said, "The committee's goal is to identify public safety and industry marketing concerns up front, so that we can develop a plan of action that benefits the local economy, while making public safety the highest priority. We have created a resource guide specifically for the Super Bowl XLV event. It is our intent to educate the public,

local authorities, and industry stakeholders of TABC's plan of action as it relates to our regulatory authority during this event. We hope that our efforts can be used as a model for other states hosting events of this magnitude." To view the Super Bowl Resource Guide, visit our website: [http://www.tabc.state.tx.us/marketing\\_practices/super\\_bowl/super\\_bowl\\_resource\\_guide.pdf](http://www.tabc.state.tx.us/marketing_practices/super_bowl/super_bowl_resource_guide.pdf)



Stephen Jones, Executive V. P. for the Dallas Cowboys and TABC Administrator Alan Steen meet in Arlington, Texas, to discuss Super Bowl XLV.

# In The Community

## Staff Support Local Communities

### TABC TODAY

#### *Agent Rachael Harvey Supports MADD Youth Summit and 5K*



TABC Agent  
Rachael Harvey

In February, TABC Agent Rachael Harvey conducted one of the break-out sessions addressing the legal consequences of underage drinking at the MADD Youth Leadership Summit held in Dallas this year. Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) hosts the summit for students

in leadership roles from area high schools across the Dallas area. Students and their teachers attend presentations and programs to provide the students with knowledge, skills, and the vision to make healthy decisions and to impact their peers and campus cultures.

On April 24, 2010, approximately 3,000 participants showed up to support MADD North Texas at the 2010 Walk Like MADD Event. Funds raised through Walk Like MADD

support Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) North Texas, which provides 31 counties with community education, victim support services and youth programs.



Participants of the 2010  
Walk Like MADD 5K Event  
in Dallas, Texas.

This year, Agent Harvey set up an exhibit booth in the Health and Safety display area where she answered questions and distributed brochures.

The 5K walk, consists of teams of local law enforcement agencies, student groups, businesses, families of victims, and anyone else who forms a team to support the cause.



Agent Harvey seated  
at the TABC booth.



TABC Agent  
Jeff Farmer

#### *Dallas Agents Participated with Planning for Buzz Free PROMises Dress Giveaway*

TABC Agents Jeff Farmer and Rachael Harvey of the Dallas District Office participated on the planning team for the Buzz Free PROMises Dress and Tux Giveaway this spring. The Dallas Independent School District (DISD), the Dallas Police Department and Whatchamacallit Dresses started the event in 2001, to reward and reinforce young women's decisions for healthy behavior. Today, counselors and teachers at numerous high schools in

DISD nominate junior and senior students to complete a registration form, write an essay, and sign a pledge to be alcohol and drug free. Agent Harvey along with other planning team members spoke to students about the legal consequences of underage drinking. The day of the program, the students attended a series of workshops on alcohol, drug education, and leadership. Agents Farmer and Harvey conducted one of the workshops for the students. The students then chose from hundreds of new and gently worn prom dresses and tuxes.



### *Austin Employee Helps Govern New Texas.gov Website*



TABC Enterprise  
Development  
Manager  
David Brandon

In June, the new State of Texas website Texas.gov launched replacing TexasOnline.com, the statewide portal which began in 2000. TABC Administrator Alan Steen nominated David Brandon, TABC's Enterprise Development Manager in the Information Resources Division (IRD), to the Texas.gov Customer Advisory Council.

Most surprising to Brandon, though, was his nomination and election to Chair the Customer Advisory Council by the members (IT executives from state and local Texas agencies). As the Council Chair of the Customer Advisory Committee, Brandon serves on the Texas.gov

Executive Steering Committee, representing all state and local agencies. The Customer Advisory Council provides a continuing voice in the broad direction and quality of Texas.gov and helps Texas.gov identify statewide priorities. The Executive Steering Committee provides focus, oversight, strategic guidance and vision to the Texas.gov. This committee is responsible for guiding the overall implementation from an enterprise point of view, including priorities, contract compliance, budget, policy, and resources.

Texas.gov currently offers more than 850 services to 2.4 million visitors every month and has processed \$12 billion in transactions since inception in 2000. Texas.gov offers new services and "next-generation" web design and Web 2.0 tools to give citizens easier access to government services.

### *Agent Jennifer King Elected to Board of Directors*



TABC Agent  
Jennifer King

TABC Agent Jennifer King of the Houston District Office is active in her community and serves as a volunteer with several organizations.

Agent King has had a long standing record of service with Navidad en el Barrio, a non-profit organization that assists inner city children. In July 2010, she was elected to the Board of Directors for Navidad en el Barrio. Agent King is a life-long Houstonian, who is committed to making her community a better place through her work with TABC and volunteering.



## ★ philosophy

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission will:

- Apply the Alcoholic Beverage Code in a fair, consistent and timely manner;
- Exemplify courteous, ethical, and professional behavior;
- Be fiscally responsible and accountable to the people of Texas; and
- Be accessible, transparent, efficient and effective.

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. Support the agency and stay in the loop by becoming a fan!  
[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

## ★ mission

The mission of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission is to promote public safety and serve the people of Texas through consistent, fair and timely administration of the Alcoholic Beverage Code while fostering education, voluntary compliance and legal, responsible alcohol consumption.

## ★ vision

A safe and responsible Texas served by an Alcoholic Beverage Commission committed to innovative partnerships with our communities and the alcoholic beverage industry.

# You Asked . . .

## Questions about alcoholic beverage regulations

### Q: If I live in Texas, can I buy wine over the internet and have it shipped to me?

A: It depends on who is selling the wine. Texas wineries can ship wine directly to Texans. Texas liquor stores can ship wine to customers who are in the same city or county, or within two miles of the county limits. Out-of-state wineries that hold a TABC Direct Shippers Permit can ship wine directly to consumers in Texas.

However, no other businesses can obtain a TABC permit to legally ship wine to consumers in Texas – not out-of-state retailers, wholesalers, or wineries outside of the US. Many wine retail businesses have websites and will offer to send wine to Texans from out of state, but it is illegal.

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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).

**In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act**, this newsletter may be requested in alternative formats by contacting TABC at (512) 206-3220, (512) 206-3270 (TDD), (512) 206-3350 (fax) or writing P.O. Box 13127, Austin, Texas 78711-3127.

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