



News Briefs

Promoting
Responsible
Alcohol
Sales and
Service

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For immediate release:
Thursday, Aug. 9, 2007

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Volunteer alcohol servers must learn laws, safety rules before pouring

When volunteering to serve alcohol at your non-profit or charitable organization's community event this summer, remember to "read, sign and then pour," says the Oregon Liquor Control Commission

The OLCC-required reading is the pamphlet "What Every Volunteer Alcohol Server Needs to Know." It must be signed and carried by servers at these events to help ensure that alcohol is served safely and lawfully.

"Serving alcohol is serious business and can impact the success of your organization," said Steve Pharo, OLCC executive director. "Serving irresponsibly can lead to violations of the law, bringing fines or the future denial of a liquor license for your organization."

Only servers who dispense alcohol at events covered by a temporary sales license qualify for the brochure-signing option. Alcohol servers at other events must have an OLCC service permit.

The brochure lists tips for serving alcohol responsibly, penalties for serving minors or visibly intoxicated persons, and a number of signs to help identify persons who may have had too much to drink.

The key thing a volunteer must remember is "when in doubt, don't serve."

A copy of the brochure is included in the publications section of the OLCC's Web site, www.olcc.state.or.us.

Compliance rate up as more liquor sellers say 'no sale' to minors

Liquor licensees are doing slightly better this year when it comes to passing Oregon Liquor Control Commission minor compliance checks.

So far, OLCC inspectors and local law enforcement officers have checked 723 licensed premises, with a 78 percent compliance rate. Last year, inspectors participated in 1,600 checks with an average compliance rate of 76 percent.

One of the OLCC's most important responsibilities is prevention of underage drinking, which remains a serious problem in Oregon and throughout the country. A key way to prevent alcohol from slipping into the hands of minors is through compliance checks of licensees.

In a compliance test, a minor volunteer attempts to buy alcohol from licensees or their employees to determine if they are properly checking identification and obeying state law prohibiting alcohol sales to anyone under 21. During the test, minors are supervised by OLCC inspectors or other law officers, carry their own legal ID and are advised not to disguise their age or encourage the sale of alcohol.

OLCC issues 463 more liquor licenses than last year, says report

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission issued 12,917 licenses in fiscal year 2006-07 – 463 more than the previous year.

Here is a breakdown of the totals: off-premises sales (packaged beer, wine from stores), 4,047 licenses, up 92 from 2005-06; full on-premises sales (beer-wine-spirits by the glass), 3,545, up 90; limited on-premises sales (beer-wine by the glass), 2,482, up 82; manufacturers (brewery, distillery, winery, grower sales privilege), 670, up 22; wholesale malt beverage and wine, 151, up 7; miscellaneous (warehouse, wine shipper, etc.), 2,022, up 170.

The total number of liquor licenses (new and renewals) in Oregon has increased steadily over the past two decades – along with population growth, additional restaurants and grocery stores, and more wineries and similar licensees. The OLCC issued 7,349 licenses in 1990; 8,108 in 1996 and 8,589 in 2000.