

Oct 24, 2023 | 📅 VBA Board Meeting

Attendees: Emma Arian Heather Kraemer Geoffrey Sewake Joe Lemnah
Kara Pawlusiak Matty O Bob Grim Scott Gawitt Seth Howard

Notes

Exit executive session.

Motion - Seth : adjust AD salary change to be effective starting 7/1/23.

Second - Kara

All in favor : Scott, Joe, Geoff, Bob, Heather, Kara, Seth

Abstain : Matt

Against : none

Legislative doc. Issues for consideration.

Chart at bottom of document, bills we oppose, the rest we have no position on currently.

Q. At what point do we take action?

If the majority of the board feels a certain way, we can take a strong position.

Matt. can see both ways, trying to get the full consensus. If you want your voice heard, they need to participate. It is important to hear everyone but we need to keep our board positions filled.

H225 - Jessica says it probably won't go anywhere, Emma reached out to membership.

Membership was against.

Language supporting our reasoning why we might oppose.

VBA to oppose H225

Motion : Scott . VBA in opposition to H225 to raise the minimum wage.

Second : Seth

In Favor : ALL

Opposed : none

H417

Discussion on benefits/drawbacks.

Our industry partners are struggling

Do we need to give our on premise and partners this option?

How does this impact breweries? Feels restrictive, businesses should get to choose whether they participate or not.

Arguments against. Safety concerns, maad, encourage binge drinking.

Where is the data that supports those claims? 40+ states with happy hour in place do not support claims that it significantly elevates the safety risks.

Members have strong opinions on both sides. Joe briefs on the history of happy hour. In effect until the 1980's when the practice was banned in 1986.

Motion - Matt : motion to support happy hour H417

Second : Scott

Approved : Bob, Seth, Kara, Joe, Geoff, Matt, Scott

Abstain : Heather

Oppose : none

Tiered registration for **Tiered Distribution License**

How is this tiered? # of kegs per year?

If you are a small brewery trying to move a small number of kegs but will not net enough to justify the license.

What are the parameters? How will it be built?

Conversation on agreement versus opposition. This will create greater complications in the tiered system. There are barrelage allowances and

Emma to communicate to Jessica that she can drop this as a priority.

Tied house.

How is this manifesting in the beer industry?

We can not have tasting rooms on church street. We want to play in the same arena as spirits and wine.

Historically, the reason it is in place is not our breweries opening up on church street, it is the big out of state player coming in and setting up shop.

Membership, is this something our members want? Should we be fighting for this? Is this where we want our legislative muscle to be?

Is this outdated? Can our breweries have multiple locations?

In the state of Vermont, you can have manufacture and 1st class at two different locations, no more.

The movement of beer can only go one direction? Is this true?

Call to question at the meeting: is this an unnecessary barrier to entry into the industry?

Need to have more discussion at the annual meeting!

Because of the historic value and the creation of the VBA around this issue

Members may be operating outside Tied house law. Let's get to the issue!

Info to members prior to the Annual Meeting.

What are other states doing?

What is the historical context of tied house Law?

Clarification on the law and how they have changed?

Space can be made in the annual meeting. Emma needs assistance in gathering the materials to be shared with membership.

Conversion of law to application language for our membership. Decode, how does it apply?

We have members that will be strong in both directions, this is a conversation to best gauge our membership and how we can best proceed.

Is there a board member that can chair the GAC meeting? We need a chair for the GAC.

Conference.

Help needed to communicate with brewery buddies to invite breweries to encourage them to register.

Board members do pay for their registration.

There are 2 grants available to attend the conference. Register and contact Emma for scholarship submission.

Moderators for sessions.

Request to moderate.

Seth will be resigning from the board and leaving the industry.

Sold out all of our booths and we have a waitlist.

We went over our budgeted sponsorship by 10k but need registrants to sign up.

Emma has reached out to all neighboring guilds to have them share the conference information, with exception of Mass. Their conference is the same weekend.

As well as the Canadian guilds.

We need more brewery shares to help promote.

Financial overview.

We are in a better position fiscally than last year this time.

Emma is canceling unnecessary services that VBA administration doesn't need/use anymore.

No Killington this year and introduction of conference(possible loss) we are still ahead of 2022.

Emma and Seth to get together and sort out reports prior to annual meeting.

Board goes over budget in comparison to 2022 in discussion format around line items.

Emma filled non profit 990 taxes.

Board members to exit the board.. Seth and Scott.

There is strong concern about membership engagement. The lack of interest as we look forward.

What are we really bringing to our members?

Another great topic for discussion at the annual meeting.

Annual meeting overview.

Agenda.

How do we make more time for discussion with members? There are concerns to be addressed and members need to speak their thoughts on any legislative issues and challenges faced.

Large papers with sticky notes for questions

Straw poll?

Adjust scheduling to accommodate discussion. Tied house

Utilized lunch to discuss

Joe/Bob to inform membership of executive director candidate search.

Time for larger discussion is critical and we need to bring this to the membership. We are at a

What is standing in the way of more people becoming involved?

Direct contact(cold calls) to find out why people are not engaged.

More frequent gathering for listening sessions. Regional meetings/town halls.

Continued discussion around marketing of the conference and additional

Motion to adjourn.

Seconded and all are in favor.