



ILCC News

Volume XIX
Fall 2006

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www.state.il.us/lcc

Don't Be Sorry goes to college...

Drunk driving simulator visits state universities

High school and college students are experiencing the devastating effects of drinking and driving as part of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission's (ILCC) *Don't Be Sorry* public education campaign to reduce underage drinking.



The next stop on the *Don't Be Sorry* tour will be Wednesday, October 18 at Southern Illinois University. During this day, Jackson County high school and college students will enjoy a fun atmosphere, but receive a sober message.

"The event features music, free beverages, and other activities designed to appeal to this particular age group," says Ted Peneis, ILCC Industry Education Manager. "But they are also exposed to messages, materials, and activities—such as a drunk driving simulator—that illustrate the dangers of alcohol consumption."

The first *Don't Be Sorry* event was held at the University of Illinois-Springfield this past August. A high-tech drunk driving simulator—along with the musical stylings of singer/entertainer Dave Rudolf—were presented to UIS students, thanks to a grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation's Traffic Safety Division. Over 200 students experienced the drunk driving simulator, which featured state-of-the-art technology that exposed students to different levels of impairment.

In addition to a drunk driving simulator, the SIU event will include local celebrities, a live radio station broadcast, free "mocktails" for all attendees, NASCAR simulator, and more. For more information about this, and future, *Don't Be Sorry* events, visit the Liquor Commission's website at www.state.il.us/lcc.

University of Illinois-Springfield students watch as one of their classmates experiences different levels of impairment during a "drunk driving" simulation on the UIS campus August 29.



A Letter from the Chairman

As you are all aware, holding a liquor license is a tremendous responsibility. As liquor licensees, you and your employees represent the “last line of defense” in ensuring the safety of our community when it comes to alcohol consumption.



One area where the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC) continues to place an emphasis is on underage drinking. In this issue of *ILCC News*, we focus on how you—the business owner—can play a role reducing the amount of alcohol that ends in the hands of our youth.

The ILCC has instituted several programs to reach this goal: Our cover story (“*Don’t Be Sorry* goes to college...”) reports on how the ILCC is educating those who are underage; on page 3, we explore our BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training) program and how you can assist in the important alcohol training vehicle; and, finally, we discuss our newest initiative—*TrAIL: Tracking Alcohol in Illinois*—on this issue’s back page.

In the final analysis, a short review of the above programs will allow your establishment to avoid any unnecessary penalties. If you have further ideas about how we, as an agency, can reduce underage drinking in Illinois, please do not hesitate to contact the ILCC staff. By working together as a team, we really CAN make a difference.

Sincerely,

Irving J. Koppel
Chairman
Illinois Liquor Control Commission



Order your FREE Special Event DVD

A question we frequently receive from our licensees is: How do I apply for the needed licenses when hosting an event away from our licensed premise? The answer to this question is easier than you think. To make the process less intimidating, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission has produced a DVD entitled *How to Apply For a Special Event License*.

Designed to assist both current licensees (who require a Special Use Permit) and non-profit organizations (Special Event License), this short video presentation provides step-by-step instructions and tips on how to stay within the law.

To order your FREE copy, please visit our website at www.state.il.us/lcc and click on the “FREE Special Event DVD” link, located on the right side of the screen. If you have any additional questions regarding the licensing process, please call 312.814.2206.

ILCC News

Article suggestions are welcome!

The Commission welcomes your input to enhance the *ILCC News* publication. If you have a suggestion for an article topic or a helpful hint to share with other licensees, please contact the Commission’s Chicago Office.

ILCC News is published by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission for state liquor licensees, local government officials, industry associations and related government agencies.

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Who are BASSET trainers?

By: **Lee J. Roupas**
ILCC BASSET Program Manager

For six years the BASSET (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training) program has been under the regulatory authority of the Illinois Liquor Control Commission (ILCC).

There is no state law requiring BASSET training, however, local municipalities and businesses may require owners, managers, sellers and servers to be BASSET certified in order to be granted a liquor license or employment at a licensed liquor establishment. Municipalities and businesses must use an ILCC-approved and licensed BASSET program.

The ILCC administers, sets policy, regulates and issues BASSET cards and BASSET licenses. In order to conduct BASSET courses in the State of Illinois, an individual trainer or business establishment must have a BASSET license.

When the BASSET program was legislatively transferred to the ILCC, there were 77 licensed BASSET providers throughout Illinois. Now there are approximately 200. BASSET providers must comply with the ILCC Rules and Regulations, which require courses to be six hours in length for on-premise establishments and four hours for off-premise businesses.

BASSET providers come from a wide range of backgrounds. Trainers consist of independent contractors, businesses, hotel/restaurant chains, police departments, insurance agencies, colleges and universities.

Server training programs and companies that specialize in seller/server training must have their program approved by the ILCC by following the standardized curriculum found in the Rules and Regulations (*see box at top for web links to BASSET-related materials*).

BASSET on the web

Visit the Liquor Commission on the web www.state.il.us/lcc for the following BASSET-related materials:

- BASSET Rules and Regulations.
- BASSET application.
- A listing of BASSET providers by town.
- Addresses and phone numbers of companies that provide instructor training.
- Model ordinances for municipalities and businesses to require mandatory BASSET training.

Do you want to teach alcohol server training?

How does someone become a licensed BASSET provider? The first step is to know how to train servers. The ILCC recommends enrolling in an instructor-training course. There are seven companies that provide instructor training and they can be found on the Commission's website, along with a listing of all the licensed BASSET providers by town at www.state.il.us/lcc.

Upon completion of an instructor training course, the individual or business must apply for a BASSET license by completely filling out the BASSET application, sending a signed and notarized affidavit that you will be using the course materials from the instructor training company whose workshop you completed, and a check for \$250.

BASSET licenses are renewed annually. The ILCC will send a renewal application within six to seven weeks prior to the expiration date. For more information contact Lee Roupas at 312.814.0773 or email Lee.Roupas@illinois.gov.

New BASSET licensees

MAY

- Olive Garden
- Village of Huntley Police Department
- Lincolnwood Police Department

JUNE

- Village of Gilberts Police Department
- Village of Villa Park Police Department

JULY

- 12 Rounds, Inc.
- Alexandra's Café Corporation
- Carlos Morales
- Southern Illinois TIPS

AUGUST

- Arlington OTB
- Village of Calumet Park Police Department

Order your FREE ILCC materials today!

The following FREE Liquor Commission materials are available to all licensees by calling 312.814.4802:

- Illinois Liquor Control Act & ILCC/ BASSET Rules and Regulations.
- "Happy Hour Law" & "Just the Facts" fliers.
- Alcohol "Proof of Age" & "Pregnancy Warning" signs.
- BASSET Program Brochure & Age-Verification Guide.
- "We Card Hard" decal & Liquor Licensee Employee Training Guide.



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Mother endorses TrAIL Program

Debra Tyrpak, a committed advocate against underage drinking, endorsed the Liquor Commission's new **TrAIL** (**Tracking Alcohol in IL**) Program this past August. The death of Tyrpak's son served as the inspiration for **TrAIL**, which traces alcohol purchases when underage drinking is suspected in an incident which results in injury or death.

Says Tyrpak, whose 16-year-old son, Joey, drowned last August after a liquor retailer sold alcohol to one of his underage acquaintances: "Not only do I believe **TrAIL** will prevent future alcohol-related injuries and deaths caused by minors, but that it will also prevent the grief their families will carry with them for the rest of their lives."

In addition to holding accountable those who provide alcohol to minors, **TrAIL** is expected to provide more extensive data on injuries and deaths caused by underage drinking and serve as a central repository to catalog those who sell to minors.

"By making **TrAIL** a priority, we can deter those who would otherwise provide alcohol to minors and provide education to teens and parents regarding the issue of underaged drinking," adds Tyrpak.

The **TrAIL** Program became a reality thanks to Governor Rod Blagojevich's Alcohol Abuse Task Force (AATF). Created to

coordinate cross-agency cooperation in combating alcohol abuse in Illinois, the AATF provided the Liquor Commission with programmatic recommendations and funding sources.



"Governor Blagojevich created the Alcohol Abuse Task Force to combine the resources and expertise of state agencies and task force members to prevent alcohol abuse in Illinois," says Illinois Department of Transportation Secretary Timothy W. Martin, whose agency provided a \$100,000 traffic safety grant for the program. "Part of our responsibility is to bring those resources together and stop underage alcohol use, and we feel **TrAIL** will have a significant impact on deterring underage drinking."

In addition to its own special agents, the Liquor Commission enlisted the support of other state agencies to serve as **TrAIL** investigators, including Illinois State Police troopers, Secretary of State Police officers, and the Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police. **TrAIL** was launched this past summer in two pilot counties—Sangamon and Jackson—with new counties coming on line this fall.