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# KRHA News Update

**March 5, 2004**

## **H.R. 339 MOVES TO THE FLOOR**

Representative Ric Keller's (R-Fla.) Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act (H.R.339) is expected to be voted on in the U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday, March 10. This legislation prevents frivolous obesity-related lawsuits that hold food and restaurant companies liable for an individual's obesity or obesity-related health problems. KRHA supported the National Restaurant Association's (NRA) lobbying efforts by assisting with phone calls to Kansas Representatives to ensure that the position on this important issue is clear. The restaurant industry is seeking a resounding victory from the House, which will obviously send an important message to the Senate as they consider this legislation in the future.

## **THIRD PARTY LIABILITY**

Dram Shop legislation reared its ugly head again this session with HB 2296, sponsored by Mike O'Neal (R-KS 104<sup>th</sup>). In short, dram shop enables an aggrieved 3rd party to take legal action against a licensee. Although defeated in committee, it is expected that this issue will receive more discussion and possible attempts to amend it into other bills.

Vic Allred, KRHA Board Member and owner of Jazz, A Louisiana Kitchen, and Ron Hein, KRHA Legislative Counsel testified in opposition to this bill.

## **SMOKING ISSUES**

Smoking Ban issues continue to surface throughout the state. Whenever possible, KRHA is assisting local members with efforts to defeat this issue, which removes the rights of private enterprise to make the decision as to the smoking environment of the business. Although the Hutchinson City Council recently passed a smoking ban, KRHA assisted with the defeat of a similar issue in Hays.

A smoking ban is currently under consideration in Lawrence, and Mayor David Dunfield has appointed a task force to study the issue. KRHA members Chuck Magerl of Free State Brewing Company and Peach Madl of The Sandbar, are members of this group and recently held an informational meeting for area hospitality businesses to discuss the status of the proposed ordinance.

The task force will meet March 31 with the City Commission for a study session.

## **KEEPING COUNT...in case you weren't**

KRHA, with the assistance of Ron Hein and his firm, have been monitoring, or actively lobbying, some 246 bills during this legislative session. Of this amount, 42 are "A" bills, or those that would have a direct impact on the industries we represent. As of March 1, 22 of these bills, or 52%, are now dead for this session. However, to paraphrase Senator Anthony Hensley (D-KS 19<sup>th</sup>), does anything really die in the legislature?

## **STUDENT COMPETITION**

Over 70 students representing 13 schools from across the state turned out for the annual ProStart and LMP competition held February 19 and 20 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka, Kan.

Overall winners were: ProStart-Manhattan High School; and, LMP-Colby High School. These teams will represent Kansas in the national competition.

the national competition April 21-27, at Universal-Orlando in Florida.

A sincere thanks to the following KRHA members and supporters for their time and efforts to make this event a success: **Ru Loub**, Little Apple Brewing Company-Manhattan; **Glen Cuchy**, Little Apple Brewing Company-Manhattan; **Bob Carmichael**, Perkins Restaurant and Bakery-Topeka; **Bob Martorana**, Capitol Plaza Hotel-Topeka; **Stephen DeGroot**, Capitol Plaza Hotel-Topeka; **Arun Dorasamy**, Martini Steakhouse-Wichita; **Ona Ashley**, Johnson County Community College; **Quentin Stigers**, The Grinder Man-Arkansas City and **Ron Oberg**, Quizno's/Red Coach Inns-Wichita; and **Matt Wurtz**, Timberling Steakhouse-Wichita

### ***EVENING OF HOSPITALITY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 12***

The annual Evening of Hospitality is an elegant fund-raising event to support the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association Education Foundation, (KRAHEF). The Stars of the Industry Awards are always a highlight of the evening, honoring individuals for their outstanding contributions to the Kansas hospitality industry, and include Restaurateur of the year, Hotelier of the Year and Allied Member of the year.

KRHA also presents two additional awards for contributions to the education of future industry leaders. These include Teacher of the Year, for excellence in the implementation of school-to-career programs; and Mentor of the Year, for providing outstanding support with job training for school-to-career students.

Mark your calendars for "***AN EVENING TO REMEMBER***," and watch for your invitation soon.

**Monday, April 12, 2004**  
**5:00 to 9:00 P.M.**  
**Wichita Airport Hilton**

The Evening of Hospitality committee continues to seek event sponsorships and donations for the silent and live auctions. A support will be greatly appreciated.

### ***ABOUT KRHAEF...***

Founded in 1996, the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Education Foundation is committed to supporting foodservice and lodging professionals by actively promoting hospitality as the "Industry of Choice." The Foundation is helping to educate our future workforce through the ProStart and LMP School-to-Career programs in addition to providing member training. We also have scholarship opportunities available. In order to achieve our mission and goals, the Foundation relies on financial support from program sponsors, foundation and government grants, member donation and proceeds from the annual Evening of Hospitality

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