

MINUTES OF THE MEMBERSHIP
Florida Beer Wholesalers Association
World Equestrian Center, Ocala, FL
December 5, 2023

Attendance:

Colby Kiene, City Beverages
David Gonzalez, City Beverages
Andrea Saputo, Gold Coast Eagle
Genesis Smith, Pepin Distributing
Greg McLeod, Pepin Distributing
Jeff Weckbeck, Pepin Distributing
Billy Carman, Great Bay Distributors
Mike LePorin, Tri-Eagle
Tripp Transou IV, Tri-Eagle
John Williams, Wayne Densch
Kevin Bowler, Daytona Beverages
Tripp Transou, Tri-Eagle
Chris Bowler, Daytona Beverages
Matt Sokolowski, Great Bay Distributors
David Bear, The Lewis Bear Company
Ken Daley, Tri-Eagle
Jordan Wheeler, FBWA
Jared Ross, FBWA
Todd Stephens, Stephens Distributing
Frank Schwiep, Gold Coast Distributing
Tom Ewing, FDC
Bill Reyes, FDC
Rick Dansdill, Double Eagle
George Halper, Eagle Brands Sales
Sue McCollum, Eagle Brands Sales
Joseph Little, Bernie Little
Mike Dougherty, Carroll Distributing
Justin Saenz, Carroll Distributing
Greg Holzmeyer, North Florida Sales
Tim Mitchell, Suncoast Beverage Sales
Paul Trabulsy, Southern Eagle
Jonathon Borgert, Double Eagle
Ralf Ciafardini, Bernie Little
Philip Busch, Southern Eagle
Gentry Pelham, North Florida Sales
Belle Bear, The Lewis Bear Company

Call To Order by Ken Daley, Chairman

Mr. Sokolowski presented the Secretary's Report. Mr. Bear made a motion to approve the minutes from the Membership Meeting held on December 6, 2022. Mr. Bowler seconded the motion adding a motion to amend the minutes to say that the meeting was held in 2021. Minutes were updated and then all were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Mr. Sokolowski presented the Treasurer's Report which include the review and approval of the 2022 Audit. Mr. Sokolowski discussed the audit, recommendations, and policy changes, and internal controls. Mr. Bowler made a motion to approve, Mr. Transou seconded. Mr. Daley discussed the difficulties of the 2022 year. All were in favor and none opposed. The 2022 audit was approved.

Mr. Sokolowski presented the 2023 Financials and 2024 Proposed Budget
Mr. Sokolowski discussed the budget. Discussed expenses, compensation, dues, and interest earned. There were no questions. Mr. Bowler moved to accept the budget, Mr. Bear seconded. All were in favor and the budget passed

Mr. Ross, President, presented the PAC Update. He discussed why we have two PACs, who the PAC trustees are- Mr. Kevin Bowler, Mr. Daley, Mr. Bear, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Schwiep. Mr. Ross presented Policies and Procedures, the balances, contributions, expenditures, and the ending balances. Mr. Ross discussed the different types of contributions.
Mr. Bowler said that it was important to contribute smaller amounts individually for name recognition. Mr. Kevin Bowler said this was the best political discussion we have had in the past 30 years and asked for any questions. Mr. McLeod requested we need to be able to present an offensive plan for how the money will be spent. We tabled the discussion for later.

Mr. Kevin Bowler presented the Nominating Committee Report for the new Board members. Mr. Bowler presented the board members who are expiring. Mr. Daley, Mr. Bear, Mr. Sokolowski, and Mr. Halper. Mr. Daley declined leaving the board, staying on as Past Chair. The others agreed to stay for another term. One seat remained open. The nominating committee recommended Chris Bowler. It was asked if there were any other floor recommendations. Mr. Transou motioned to accept and Mr. Sokolowski seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

Mr. Ross, President, presented the Legislative/Regulatory Update. Mr. Daley responded that he was impressed of Jared's shutdown of the three-tier threat. Lack of imagination of the worst situation possible is a problem that we don't have. Mr. Ross thanked Mr. Mitchell for his help on it.

The membership discussed legislation relation to In-store servicing and where our current efforts stood. Post session, it was requested that we work with NBWA and build our list of potential matters and understand what we can do and be ready.

Mr. Daley presented Other Business including the evolving Single Voice – FBWA/BIF

Mr. Daley proposed that after session, we discuss how we go about it. Mr. Daley opened the floor for comments. Mr. Schwiep made sure that folks knew that the Reyes folks did not go to BIF to discuss this first. He explained that the issues that are coming need to be defensible and we are stronger combined. It's about protecting the business with the same three issues. Mr. Mitchell agreed with Mr. Schwiep. He said we can't change our bylaws and we are all distributors of equal importance. Mr. LePorin said it was more important than ever that we have a single voice. Mr. Bowler said that we are no longer just Anheuser-Busch and Molson Coors. We have many other brands, too. Mr. Pelham said what we are doing is not broken. They can join the FBWA or not. Mr. Daley agreed and said that FBWA originally split from BIF. The group discussed a possible subcommittee. Mr. Halper said that the organization needs to remain named FBWA. Mr. Pelham agreed. Mr. Kevin Bowler said that perhaps they could be members of our PAC for a little while in the interim while we "date." Mr. Sokolowski said we could also do our Legislative and Annual Meetings together for the interim. Ms. Saputo touched on the personality issues. Ms. Belle Bear said the core values and sticking with them are the most important. Mr. Daley again proposed a joint committee.

Mr. Daley gave his outgoing remarks. Mr. Bowler motioned to adjourn. Mr. Transou seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment-Ken Daley, Outgoing Chairman