



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Alcohol Control Board  
**DATE:** June 15, 2021  
**FROM:** Glen Klinkhart, Director  
**RE:** Director's Report

### **NEW BOARD MEMBER(S):**

I would like to welcome the newest members of the Alcohol Beverage Control Board:

Doug Moore, Talkeenta, Alaska  
Janice (Jan) Hill, Haines, Alaska

Welcome aboard!

### **BOARD MEMBER ORIENTATION:**

On April 28<sup>th</sup> we conducted a half-day Board Orientation Meeting for members and staff via Zoom. I wish to thank our presenters, Bob Klein, Anna Brawley, and Joan Wilson, for presenting the history of the ABC board, Title 4 rewrite, and the Open Meetings Act. With Board Member Moore and Hill being recently assigned to the board I hope to have more board orientation presentations in the very near future.

### **PERSONNEL:**

I am happy to announce we have filled two of our more critical staff positions, AMCO Program Coordinator and Local Government Specialist.

The new Program Coordinator, Rick Helms, comes to AMCO with many years of experience in security/public safety as well as civil and criminal law. His presence has had a positive impact on the AMCO team, and we are excited to have Mr. Helms here. He has already begun to tackle several of the larger ongoing needs of the office.

We did not have to look very far to find an exceptional candidate to be our new Local Government Specialist. Jacqlene Drulis has been a licensing examiner with the AMCO office for over four years now. She is very qualified to help make this position her own and to help licensees navigate the often-complex processes that go with alcohol and marijuana applications. Our hope is to have her working with local government, the industry, and advocacy groups to create new (and old) ways of helping applicants, the public, and the staff. She will be spending

the next month or two training her two examiner replacements before she can be fully vested in the position, however we are very excited to see the positive impact she will have on the office and the licensees.

**TELEWORK:**

As of June 1, 2021, the entire AMCO office staff have returned to the office.

Change is not easy and coming back into the office will be a challenge for everyone however the staff has been exemplary in making a successful transition back into the offices. Once the entire staff has acclimated to being in the office, I have directed the supervisory team to look at ways to potentially integrate some teleworking processes for some AMCO positions. I see some real benefit for some positions to be able to have the flexibility to work from home, however we will need to make sure that any process is thoughtful and assures mission of the board can be successfully supported.

Additionally, we had a “soft opening” of the AMCO front counter several weeks ago and successfully assisted numerous licensees and applicants who were very happy to have someone like Jennifer available in person to assist them safely and efficiently.

**ENFORCEMENT/INVESTIGATIONS:**

I am happy to report to the board the entire AMCO Enforcement Unit met for the first time since the outbreak of COVID19 when they held several days of enforcement meetings in Anchorage. All of the enforcement officers went through the new board reviewed Enforcement Policy and Procedures as well each of them completed and passed their firearms qualifications tests and First Aid Recertifications (including myself).

As part of our ongoing enforcement priorities set by the board, there have been several ongoing investigations where the AMCO Enforcement Team has been partnering with other Alaskan law enforcement agencies to produce several good results including in one case a felony indictment of a non-licensee.

**COMMUNITY-BASED POLICING/ENFORCEMENT:**

I have been talking about our move towards community-based enforcement at AMCO over the past year and a half, and last month I had an opportunity to put my “money where my mouth is.” In May, upon the request of the Palmer Police Department (PD), I traveled to the MatSu Valley where I met with the Deputy Chief and owners of several of the downtown bars. There had been a recent sizable increase in police calls to the bars specifically overserving and under 21 violations. The objective was for Palmer PD and AMCO to set down to discuss these issues with the licensees and to come up with solutions before things became too problematic and would require additional law enforcement intervention. The licensees were open minded and appreciated the informal discussions. Several good ideas came from the owners themselves and I am happy to inform the board that since our meetings the Palmer Police Department has reported a sizable decline in weekend and late-night incidents at the licensed establishments.

I wish for the board to consider communicating to the licensees and the public that with the statewide elimination of COVID19 restrictions and the opening up of more and more alcohol

establishments a perfect storm stemming from a public wishing to celebrate and indulge, perhaps more than is safe, combined with operators who may have suffered financial hardships is a potential public safety issue. The staff and I are willing to work with licensees to find ways to help keep establishments from overserving and the public safe (even from themselves) during this once-in-a-generation situation. Finally, I ask that the public please continue to use good judgement and to keep themselves and others safe as restrictions lift and they begin to patronize many of our fine licensees.

**AMCO 2020 BUDGET:**

As you may be aware the SOA budget runs on a July to June fiscal calendar. The end of this month brings with it the final tallies for the AMCO budget. We did experience some loss of revenue on the alcohol side due to the board's decision to waive some of the seasonal licenses and less permitting applications for public/private events. Overall it appears as we end our 2020-2021 budget cycle the final numbers look good as we underspent due to vacant positions and reduced expenditures (i.e. travel, meeting rentals, telephony conference costs, etc.).

**AMCO/ABC BOARD LEGISLATIVE AUDIT:**

AMCO and the ABC board has been the subject of a scheduled legislative audit since the beginning of the year. The audit team from Juneau has begun to complete its information collection and will begin to build the audit reports over the next several months. We look forward any constructive recommendations and findings they may have for the office and the board.

**ABC BOARD MEETING MINUTES & RECORDINGS:**

Just a reminder that all ABC board meeting minutes and audio recordings are now online and available for the public to access. Each set of meeting minutes and audio recordings is saved with the meeting documents in their respective meeting date.

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/amco/ABCMeetingDocuments.aspx>

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next ABC Board meeting is scheduled for August 17th, 2021 in Nome, Alaska.



*Glen Klinkhart*

Director

Alcohol & Marijuana Control Board

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