



## Alcoholic Beverage Control

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 4, 2012

### NC ABC COMMISSION TAKES ACTION ON 80 HEARING CASES AND ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF MIDDLE SCHOOL POSTER CONTEST

RALEIGH – During its regular monthly meeting today, the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission took action on 80 hearing violations, considered six rules changes and announced the winners of the 2012 middle school poster contest.

Teachers submitted more than 150 posters created by middle school students from across the state to the NC ABC Commission's first middle school poster contest. The poster contest, with winners being announced in April – Alcohol Awareness Month – is designed to boost awareness and reinforce an underage drinking prevention message. The contest theme of "Most Don't and I Won't," focuses on the fact that 70 percent of middle school students report never having tried alcohol.

Prizes provided by independent grant funds were awarded to the three best posters selected by a committee at the state ABC Commission. The top 13 entries will be posted online and may be reprinted for distribution to schools or other educational outreach.

"We know that the earlier youth start drinking alcohol, the more likely they are to develop problems with alcohol later in their life. Here at the ABC Commission, we think underage drinking prevention programs are an important piece of the puzzle when it comes to keeping our kids safe and healthy," said ABC Commission Chairman A.D."Zander" Guy. "That's why we sponsored this middle school poster contest. The goal of our contest was to get middle school students involved in developing underage drinking prevention messages and sharing these messages with their classmates, and we are very pleased with the results."

#### Top Prize Winners:

First Place: Mariah Spriggs, 7<sup>th</sup> grader at HJ MacDonald Middle School, New Bern won an iPod Touch; Second Place: Rachel Bettendorf, 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Carolina Christian Academy, Charlotte, won an iPod Nano; Third place: Kailyn Byers, 6<sup>th</sup> grader at HJ MacDonald Middle School, New Bern won an iPod Shuffle.

#### Honorable Mentions:

Samantha Hutchison, 6<sup>th</sup>, Brian's Homeschool, Concord; Mary Taylor, 7<sup>th</sup>, Blessed Sacrament School, Burlington; Hannah Baird, 6<sup>th</sup>, Blessed Sacrament, Burlington; Katelyn McLaughlin, 8<sup>th</sup>, Blessed Sacrament, Burlington; Marco Santos, 7<sup>th</sup>, Hanes Magnet, Winston-Salem; Matthew Nicholson, 6<sup>th</sup>, First Flight Middle School, Kittyhawk; Jonathan Herter, 7<sup>th</sup>, Divine Child Homeschool, Mebane; Tristan Velez, 7<sup>th</sup>, HJ MacDonald, New Bern; Halie Starnes, 7<sup>th</sup>, Sun Valley Middle School, Indian Trail; Marbella Macias, 8<sup>th</sup>, East Burke Middle School, Connelly Springs.



# ABC

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NORTH CAROLINA

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After recognizing the poster contest winners, the Commission took up its regular business which included imposing penalties and fines of approximately \$96,000 on representatives of retail bars, restaurants, groceries and clubs found to be in violation of ABC laws and rules. In addition to the fines, many of the violations resulted in suspensions of permits for five days or more. The fines are to be paid by April 27, 2012, with suspensions beginning May 4, 2012. Fines benefit the local school systems where the violations occurred.

In other action, the NC ABC Commission voted to publish proposed amendments to six rules and approved an exemption request by Adam Dalton Distillery to allow a retail investment by a distillery principal.

### ABOUT THE NC ABC COMMISSION

North Carolina is one of 19 states to regulate alcohol through a control system. Since 1937, the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission has provided regulation and control over the sale, purchase, transportation, manufacture, consumption and possession of alcoholic beverages in the state. The Commission oversees more than 25,000 permits allowing alcohol sales by more than 17,000 retail outlets across the state and applies its regulatory authority to benefit public health, public safety and fair commercial regulation of alcohol products. For more information see <http://abc.nc.gov>.

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