

Program encourages checking ID

KATIE BROWN, Bismarck Tribune

Jun 10, 2005

Three organizations in North Dakota are aiming to lower the number of businesses cited each year for serving alcohol to minors.

Friday morning, Being an Alcohol Responsible Server in coalition with the North Dakota Hospitality Association and the North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association hosted a session discussing ways for businesses to avoid failing alcohol compliance checks. The session was open to all Bismarck business owners.

Nicki Weismann, executive director of the North Dakota Hospitality Association, said Bismarck has seen several failed alcohol compliance checks recently and the purpose of the BARS session was to help train business owners to pass them.

Weismann said one of the main things business owners are told to do is have their employees card everyone who looks younger than 30 years of age and to always card when in doubt.

One of the projects BARS is involved in is conducting compliance tests on the businesses using people age 21-25. Weismann said one of these people goes into a business to purchase alcohol and see if the seller asks for identification.

"After this, we either go back and tell them they did a great job or let them know they didn't," Weismann said.

BARS then gives a green card to businesses that carded properly. Those who did not card receive a red card notifying them that they failed the test and could be at risk for failing one of the police department's compliance checks.

She said she wants the police department to know Bismarck businesses have responsible people working for them.

"The police department knows these tests are being conducted," Weismann said.

"We're working toward changes that will make them happier and us happier."

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