



# National Liquor Law Enforcement Association 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

## *Back to Basics: Fundamentals of Alcohol Law Enforcement*

*Updated 07/22/24.*

**Sunday, November 17, 2024** - Early Registration and networking opportunity **6-8 p.m.**

**Exhibitor Tables - set up all throughout conference.**

- NLLEA
- Computronix
- L3Harris
- International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators

*Conference attire is business casual.*

*Beverages-coffee, tea and water provided throughout the conference.*

**Monday, November 18, 2024 (Day One)**

7:30-8:45 a.m.           **Registration & Breakfast (1.25hr)**

9:00-10:00 a.m.       **Welcome & Opening Ceremonies (1hr)**  
**Invocation**  
**New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, Presentation of Colors**  
**Tammera Hill, NCDPS, Singing of the National Anthem**  
**Fallen Officer Tribute**  
**NLLEA President & North Carolina Dignitaries**

10:30-11:45 p.m.      **Opening Plenary- Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Darling, USMC (Ret)**  
**(1.25hr)**

Lt. Col. Darling retired from the United States Marine Corps in 2007 with just over twenty years of active-duty service. After an impressive early career piloting attack helicopters in Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and as a presidential pilot with Marine Helicopter Squadron One, he was handpicked in October 2000 to work for the White House Military Office, Airlift Operations Department. It was in this position that, during the attack of September 11, 2001, he supported the President, Vice President, and National Security Advisor in the underground President's Emergency Operations Center (PEOC) and witnessed unprecedented leadership and decision making at the highest levels of our government. Lt. Col. Darling chronicles these developments in his book: *24 Hours Inside the President's Bunker, 9/11/01: The White House*, and shares the principles of crisis leadership and decision making with his audiences with an "edge of your seat" presentation that'll take you from the moment the attack was realized, to the courageous decisions made to stop it, to the safeguards and policies our country now has in-place in an attempt to prevent it from ever happening again. This presentation is designed to ensure we, as a nation, never forget the events of 9/11/01, and to inspire all leaders to take the necessary steps to protect and safeguard their employees, organizations, and their communities.



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12:00 - 1:15 p.m.      **Lunch Buffet (1.25)**  
**Announcements/Exhibitors**

**Afternoon Workshops 1:30-5:00pm**

**Simulation Workshops**

**Workshop 1 –Licensee Inspections – 1:30-2:30, 2:45-3:45, and 4:00-5:00pm – Delaware Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (1hr.) each session-**NLLEA MEMBERS ONLY****

**Workshop 2 – Source Investigations - 1:30-2:30, 2:45-3:45, and 4:00-5:00pm – North Carolina Department of Public Safety, Alcohol Law Enforcement Division (1hr.) each session-**NLLEA MEMBERS ONLY****

**Workshop 3 - Hotel Suite – International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators - 1:30-3:00 and 3:15-4:45 – (1.5hr.) each session**

**Leadership Track**

**Workshop 4 – Leadership Track – 1:30-5:00pm – Israel Morrow-Leadership 101/ Emotional Survival for Leadership, Kellee Mayberry-Risk Management (FTO),– John Yeomans-Change Management (3.5hrs. with breaks)**

*\*Afternoon Snack Break in between workshops\**

***President’s Reception & Awards Ceremony 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. - Dinner being served at 6:30pm - Awards Ceremony 7:30pm – all are welcome to attend - business casual attire\****

**Tuesday, November 19, 2024 (Day Two)**

7:30 – 9:00 a.m.      **Registration & Breakfast**  
**Chief’s Breakfast Meeting (eat 7:30-8/meet 8-9)-**NLLEA MEMBERS ONLY****

9:15 – 10:15 a.m.      **General Session - Closing the Loop: Using Counterfeit IDs to Improve Future Documents (1hr), Elaine Wooton, Forensic Document Examiner Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations, Forensic Laboratory & Mark Baxter, Detective/Liquor Inspector Howard County Maryland Police Department**



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### **Concurrent Workshops (1hr ea.) 10:30-11:30**

#### **Workshop 1 – Illegal Practices of Mobile Bars, Jeff Rodean, Detective, Idaho State Police, Alcohol Beverage Control **NLLEA MEMBERS ONLY****

Mobile bars have become a staple of communities for the last several years, as they have changed the landscape of alcohol service, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. However, many are not conducting business legally on paper as required by state laws. Specifically in Idaho, there are no licenses available exclusively for a mobile bar to conduct catering events. Rather, they must be an extension of a brick-and-mortar location that possesses a retail alcohol license such as a restaurant or bar. However, this is not always the case, as many mobile bars uncovered through investigations have illegally sold liquor, beer, and wine while operating as a separate business without the proper licensing. This can lead to a myriad of issues including overservice, serving minors, and criminal charges by all parties involved. This presentation will include case studies of illegal mobile bars uncovered in Idaho and subsequent court proceedings, as well as the guidelines Alcohol Beverage Control has instilled in conjunction with state law to ensure compliance moving forward.

#### **Workshop 2 - Corrective Licensing and Licensing Compliance Programs: Addressing Nuisance Bars, Todd Merlina, Division Chief, Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PCB), Bureau of Licensing, Administrative and Divergent Licensee Affairs Division-**NLLEA MEMBERS ONLY****

This presentation will provide an understanding of the PLCBs program to approach problem licensed establishments. In 2023 the PLCB initiated the reinvention of authorities provided through legislation. This reinvention included presentations at monthly District Attorney and Chiefs of Police meetings throughout the state. These presentations create relationships to help understand liquor laws, timelines to address problem establishments, an explanation of the conduct/activity in and around licensed establishments that subject them to inspections and review for non-renewal and the potential results of a license being renewed with a Conditional Licensing Agreement and/or an Offer in Compromise. Due to the Corrective Licensing program only giving the PLCB the opportunity to review licenses during the renewal period, as part of the program, Law Enforcement is offered the option of coordinating meetings with owners and managers of establishments that are or becoming a problem for the community. A representative of the Bureau of Licensing attends these meetings to explain the Corrective Licensing and Licensing Compliance Programs and the responsibilities of liquor licensees.

#### **Workshop 3 –Beverage Girl Operations in Florida, Uncovering Human Trafficking, Major Claire Espada-Diaz, Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, Bureau of Law Enforcement, Southern Region**

The investigation of several locations licensed to sell alcoholic beverages in south Florida revealed nearly 500 women working/trafficked as Beverage Girls to pay off their debt for being smuggled into the United States. Some of these women owe as much as \$50K for their illegal entrance and many arrived from locations as distant as Eastern Europe. Florida ABT has developed a methodology to quickly identify these women and provide them the opportunity to speak to agents outside of their groups. These successful “meetings” have provided intelligence on how Beverage Girl operations are structured and managed. Working with task forces comprised of local and federal authorities, the owners of four licensed locations in south Florida have been indicted to date.



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**Workshop 4/Hotel Suite – 10:30-12:00pm- International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators (1.5)**

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.      **Lunch Buffet (1.5)**

1:45-5:00p.m.      **NLLEA Business Meeting: (3.25)**

- Exhibitor Presentations & Exhibitor Raffle (1:45-2:45) 1hr.
- State Exchange (2:45-3:45) 1hr. **NLLEA MEMBERS ONLY**
- NLLEA Business Items (3:45-5:00) 1.25 hrs.
- Sgt.-at-Arms Election
- Swearing in of Board

3:30-5:00pm      **Workshop- Hotel Suite – International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators (1.5)**

*\*Afternoon Snack Break/Exhibitors during Business Meeting\**

**Wednesday, November 20, 2024 (Day Three)**

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.      Breakfast

**General Sessions**

**International Association of Human Trafficking Investigators (1.5) – 9-10:30am and 10:45-12:15pm**

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.      **General Session-Integrating Cannabis and Liquor: Charting a Regulatory Path**

11:30-12:00 p.m.      **Closing-NLLEA Executive Board and Past Presidents**



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### Conference Speakers

#### Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Darling, USMC (Ret)



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President's Emergency Operations Center (PEOC) and witnessed unprecedented leadership and decision making at the highest levels of our government.

#### Elaine Wooton is a Senior Forensic Document Examiner at the US Department of Homeland Security's HSI Forensic Laboratory.



Ms. Wooton primarily focuses on the analysis of counterfeit US Driver Licenses, as well as the examination of other US and international travel and identification documents, handwriting, shredded documents, printer ribbons and more. She has a Master of Forensic Sciences degree, is board-certified, and has provided expert witness testimony on numerous occasions.

#### Mark Baxter is a 24-year police veteran and currently a sworn detective.



As his county's only Liquor Inspector, he investigates and analyzes counterfeit documents, as well as violations of alcoholic beverage laws by citizens and licensed businesses. He instructs police officers, police recruits, and civilians from across the country in the detection of counterfeit identity documents and is recognized by the Maryland Courts as a Subject Matter Expert on counterfeit driver licenses.



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### **Detective Jeffrey Rodean, Idaho State Police Alcohol Beverage Control**



Detective Rodean began his career with the Idaho State Police in 2017. With ten years of restaurant experience before entering law enforcement, he always had a passion for alcohol enforcement and education. He was promoted to Detective of Alcohol Beverage Control in April of 2023. During his first year in ABC, Detective Rodean began investigating illegal mobile bar activity and helped establish procedures and guidelines for enforcement and regulation moving forward.

### **Major Claire Espada-Diaz, Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, Bureau of Law Enforcement, Southern Region**

Claire Espada-Diaz serves as Florida's Southern Region Major for the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco, Bureau of Enforcement. In this role, Major Espada-Diaz manages six (6) District Offices from Tampa to Miami. Major Espada-Diaz has been with the Bureau for 14 years and during her service has led her team in successful major cases ranging from Tied House Evil violations to organized cargo theft investigations totaling millions of dollars in recoveries. While managing high profile cases, Major Espada-Diaz and her team still accomplishes the Bureau's work of educating licensees and deterring underaged access to alcoholic beverages and tobacco products.