



A G E N D A

Date/Time: Thursday, August 16 (3:30-5:00pm)

Gray Skies Distillery – 700 Ottawa Avenue NW, Grand Rapids

Join us after the meeting for a cash bar featuring craft cocktails featuring Gray Skies spirits!

MISSION

Our mission is to provide Kent County hospitality related businesses an opportunity to meet professionally with a common interest to better serve our industry and community while furthering the overall tourism landscape of our region.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Welcome & Introductions :Jen Cutter – KCHA President

Approval of May2018 Minutes

1. - **Ed**
2. - **Jane**

Approval of Summer 2018 Financial Report - Ross, Interim Treasurer: We are now doing financials online and will be sending out the bank statements with the monthly minutes. We are also moving away from writing checks and have a debit card. There are 2 – now in the possession of Jen and Ross. We will now send out invoices online and make payments that way as well. See attached financial report for specific details and account status.

1. - **Rachel**
2. - **Nicole**

Golf –Very high registration year. We raised \$15,005 which is our highest grossing gold event to date. Our profit was \$8,054. Stonewater received great reviews from our golfers. There will be another Golf meeting in a few weeks to decide location. Participants felt the food after the event was lacking – next year our target is to add heavier snacks to ensure everyone is well fed. If you would like to participate in next year's planning contact Ross - 6/3/19 is the expected date NY.

Meeting Theme: “The Spirits of Grand Rapids” – featuring local distilleries, US Bartender Guild – GR Chapter, Cocktail Week, Grand Rapids International Wine, Beer & Food Festival and more!

- Grey Skies- opened 2.5 years ago. They moved back in order to start this business. They are focused on Small Batch and tweaked spirits offering a twist on traditional spirits. They are focused on Bourbon and Whiskey which is currently maturing in the back of the building.
- Knickerbocker/New Holland- They are focused on Farm to Table cocktails as well as expanding their Gin program. They are distilling in Holland and Grand Rapids currently. They are in 21 different states and working on keeping up with supplying the demand in the market.
- Long Road – Jenny – They have been open 3 years and were the first distillery in Grand Rapids. They source all grain from Michigan. They only distribute to Michigan at this time. They are focused on their cocktail program and working in local agriculture. Their kitchen has been recently expanded and they have a new Chef with an expanded menu.
- Michigan Moonshine Distillery – They are not open yet. They want to source from Michigan. They will be on the corner of Chicago Dr. and Wilson in Grandville. They expect to be open in a few months.
- American Fifth – In Lansing, have been open for 3.5 years.
- Two James Spirits – Detroit – Working on moving into the Grand Rapids market.

****Look on your bottles for distilled in Michigan – If it says produced or blended in Michigan it is not actually made here.****

**** All the distilleries offer tours which are great for groups of guests!****

Ballot Issue - MRLA

- There is a new ballot to increase the minimum wage over the next four years. This will take away the tip credit. There is an organization called Restaurant Workers of America which is working with interested parties to fight the proposal. "RWA-Michigan" is the Facebook group who is working in Michigan on this issue. There is a linked "Paid Sick Leave" ballot on the books as well –They are changing their name to Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Association as of 1/1/19.
- This can be accessed by contacting Mr. Omera at P: 517-648-7386 or E: romera@mramail.org
- There are 7 states that have already enacted this law. Michigan would be #8.

"One Fair Wage" 2018 Ballot Proposal

A ballot item has been proposed for the Michigan general election taking place on Nov. 6, 2018. the proposal seeks to increase minimum wage for all workers including tipped employees and eliminate the tip credit for restaurant workers. This proposal initiative is driven by out-of-state interests which we do not believe are in touch with the realities and needs of Michigan workers. We believe that despite claims from its supporters, the passing of this ballot initiative will in fact negatively impact the thousands of tipped workers at hundreds of Michigan restaurants and bars. More info can be found here:

- <https://www.michiganrestaurant.org/ballotproposal.html>
- <https://www.restaurantworkersofamerica.org/>

Mandatory Paid Leave

An onerous mandatory paid leave law would be disastrous to Michigan's tenuous economic recovery, and especially devastating to the restaurant industry. It would increase operating costs, resulting in lower wages and fewer total jobs. The restaurant industry would be especially hard hit by this mandate given its razor-thin profit margins of just 4 percent and predominant makeup of small businesses. The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) will oppose any legislation similar to a previously introduced bill that mandated a business with less than 10 employees provide a minimum of 40 paid sick leave hours to each employee. Businesses with more than 10 employees must provide a minimum of 72 paid sick leave hours to each employee. Leave could be taken by the hour and used for personal health or the health of any family member or loved one. An employee would not be required to show any documentation of illness unless he or she has failed to show up for work for more than three consecutive days. The MRA also opposes mandatory paid leave efforts at the local level as they pose the additional burden of forcing multiple location owners to create separate policies for different locations. For more information: <https://www.michiganrestaurant.org/legislative-priorities.html>

Monthly Reports

- Experience Grand Rapids
 - **Cocktail Week: Started in 2015. Last year there were 43 participating locations. Dates are 11/7 to 11/18 this year. Rack cards etc. to come. Sunday there are 80 participating locations for restaurant week. Wave nominations are now open for your front line staff (closing 9/30). Culture Pass was launched in March TY – Allows guests into 7 locations in 3 days for \$24.**
 - **Wine Beer and Food Festival: 11th year, Weekend before thanksgiving. 20,000 attendees last year! Program will be available mid-September.**
- Certified Tourism Ambassador (CTA)
 - **Training is Next Tuesday with Rapid and Mobile GR. There are free night and weekend DASH programs launching.**
- West Michigan Sports Commission
 - **UMLC will be 3/29 to 3/30. Those are due by tomorrow at 12 PM. Contact Jamie with questions. There are 14 teams coming**
 - **There is a new event coming in October for Calvin and Aquinas.**
 - **This Sunday there is an event at a local par.**
 - **West Michigan Corporate Challenge is coming up- this will not impact hotels most likely. 9/5 to 9/8.**
- Grand Rapids Diversity & Inclusion
 - **NA**
- West Michigan Tourist Association
 - **Photo contest just wrapped up. There were over 900 entries. There are now 50 remaining with 3 winners – 1 is chosen for the cover!**
 - **Info from partners must be submitted by 8/20for 2019 updates.**

- Women in Leadership-Grand Rapids
 - All hospitality omen are welcome!
 - Next meeting is 8/30 at Ronald McDonald house at 8:30 AM.
 - Focus is “The Story”.
 - Planning and event for fall – student focused.
- Michigan Cares for Tourism
 - Event is coming up on 9/16 – The event is in Copper Harbor.
 - There is bus transportation up north.
 - There are 10 to 15 spots left. Register as a member for \$50 and after the event you can be reimbursed.
- Grand Valley State University
 - Summer internship programs went well.
- Ferris State University
 - Summer internship programs are completed. Enrollment is healthy this year.
 - There are interns about to be available if anyone needs one!
- Michigan Hospitality Educators Alliance
 - Sign Ups for Career fair at September Meeting –
- Experience Pink
 - Will be in February. 10 to 12 volunteers needed for minimal time commitment. 4-6 events where volunteers will be divided into groups per event. Sign Up sheets will be passed along and duties will be assigned from there via email. Expect to have 1 meeting per month up the events.
- Golf Outing
 - See Above.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- August 8-19 – GR Restaurant Week
- August 30 – WIL Monthly Meeting
- September 16-18 – Michigan Cares for Tourism
- September 20 – KCHA Monthly Meeting (Theme: Hospitality Education)
- October 26 – WIL Monthly Meeting

Round Table Discussion

Diana – We have never officially been incorporated and are working on that now with a local lawyer. By Laws will also be getting reviewed for this process.

Adjournment

1. –Rachel
2. - Nicole

Kent County Hospitality Association

PO Box 230092
Grand Rapids, MI 49523-0092

www.KentCountyHospitality.org

Plus...join our group on Facebook!