



**Responsible Hospitality Council
of the Greater East Lansing Area**

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

Date of Effect: 3/1/07

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Responsible Hospitality Council of the Greater East Lansing Area, hereafter referred to as the Responsible Hospitality Council, or RHC.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Responsible Hospitality Council (RHC) is to adopt practices that promote responsible advertising, safe on-site management, community stewardship, compliance with state and local liquor laws, and responsible alcohol consumption by our patrons.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Full Membership:

All establishments licensed by the State of Michigan to serve alcohol in the Greater East Lansing area are eligible for membership as a cooperating establishment of the RHC, with all the benefits and responsibilities of full membership as outlined under Article IV. Membership in the RHC commences upon payment of dues and the establishment's agreement to comply with the Best Management Practices (see Appendix A), and attendance requirements as adopted by the RHC.

Advisory Membership:

The RHC welcomes non-alcohol serving establishments and organizations to participate in the RHC as advisory members. These members do not hold voting privileges, nor are they required to pay dues, or meet attendance requirements as established for full membership. Community members invited to attend the RHC meetings as advisory members shall minimally consist of representatives from area Police Departments, Michigan State University, the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission and Local Cities and Township Offices.

The primary role of advisory members is to provide information to the RHC that will assist the membership in meeting the tenets of organizational purpose as outlined above in Article II.

ARTICLE IV – BENEFITS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF FULL MEMBERSHIP

Voting

Each establishment that has met the requirements for full membership has one vote. An establishment that has not had representation at two or more consecutive meetings, shall forfeit their voting privileges for the next meeting at which their establishment is represented.

In matters requiring a vote, a super majority (75%) of those present and who are full members at the time of the vote shall rule. In the event that there is no super majority, the item shall be tabled for further action/discussion.

Membership Dues

Annual dues, as set by the full RHC, are due to the executive committee at the January meeting of each calendar year, or at such time as an organization wishes to initiate membership. Members will have a grace period to the first day of March. If dues have not been received by that date, membership shall be suspended until such time as the dues are received in full.

Meeting Schedule and Attendance

RHC meetings are open to public and occur monthly with the exception of June and July. Member establishments must be represented at a minimum of 6 meetings per calendar year in order to remain in good standing. While not required, it is highly recommended that owners/managers attend at least half the scheduled meetings.

Display of Official RHC Membership Identification

All full RHC members will be provided a plaque for display within their establishments to clearly identify them as having fulfilled the requirements for full membership in the RHC. Plaques will be distributed to member establishments upon payment of annual dues, and will be in effect for a period of 12 months from January 1 to December 31. The plaque may be revoked at any time during the year if, and when, an establishment's membership is suspended.

A listing of all RHC members will be updated and made available to the entire RHC membership following payment of the annual membership dues.

Training and Resource Materials

RHC members in good standing will have full and exclusive access to staff training and other resource materials as developed and sponsored by the RHC.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the Responsible Hospitality Council shall consist of Co-Chairpersons whose primary responsibilities will be to prepare meeting agendas, preside over full RHC meetings and attend to the financial matters of the RHC. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly except in the months of May and June of each year. Executive Committee meetings are open to all members of the RHC.

The Executive Committee Co-Chairs shall be elected at the March RHC meeting. The term of service begins April 1 of each year. The Executive Committee members shall serve a 2-year term, and these terms shall be staggered so that no more than 1 seat shall be vacated at the end of a term.

ARTICLE VI – YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

The Executive Committee will submit a year-end report to the full membership at the January meeting. The report will minimally include an account of revenues and expenses through the end of the prior calendar year. A recommended budget for the ensuing year will accompany the report for action by the full RHC.

ARTICLE VII – CONDITIONS FOR SUSPENSION OF MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

The Executive Committee is responsible to initiate review of membership standing and will communicate concerns to members as they become apparent to the committee. Every effort will be made to amiably help resolve issues to avoid any member's loss of privileges. However, membership privilege may be suspended due to any of the following conditions until such time as that condition is addressed/resolved:

- 1) Outstanding membership dues past the grace period of the first day of March of each calendar year.
- 2) Attendance at less than 6 meetings over the course of a calendar year
- 3) Repeated violations of RHC Best Management Practices and subsequent disregard for RHC encouragement to resolve the matter.
- 4) Repeated failure to pass area sting operations and no evidence of efforts to address those failures.

ARTICLE VIII – AMENDMENTS

Amendment of the Articles of Association may be initiated by proposal by the Executive Committee, or RHC membership at any time. Amendments to the Articles of Association must pass by a super majority (75%) of the full RHC membership. A vote to amend the Articles may be accomplished by separate mail-in ballot.

RA/5.22.07