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JOHN R. HODGES  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# OFFICIAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

WEST VIRGINIA WHOLESALERS ASSOCIATION  
April 20, 1988

YOU THOUGHT THE LEGISLATURE WAS FINISHED? IT ISN'T!!!

When the 2nd Session of the 68th West Virginia Legislature adjourned Sine Die March 14, 1988, most adverse legislation affecting the wholesale industry died. Unfortunately, revenue measures will most likely raise their ugly heads during the "special sessions" that Governor Moore has promised.

The wholesalers and retailers in the State are to be commended for their outstanding participation in efforts to kill the tobacco and soft drink taxes. Don't start giving high fives yet; the game is not over! We anticipate the BUDGET special session the week of May 16, and the EDUCATION special session later in May or in early June. Excise taxes on items that you sell are likely to be included in one or both special sessions. Please be prepared to fight the battle again!!

GREENBRIER MEETING...The following schedule is for your convenience.

Friday May 27 - 3:00 PM Executive Committee (Parlor TBA)  
4:00 PM Board Meeting (McKinley Room)  
Dinner On Your Own

Saturday May 28 - 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
(Speakers TBA) (Room TBA)  
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE  
Afternoon and evening on your own.  
Time to meet with associates and customers

REGISTRATION FORM IS ENCLOSED. Rooms are limited, please make your reservations as soon as possible.

NEW MEMBERS...It is always a pleasure to welcome new members into the Association.

WELCOME Hurt Candy and Tobacco Company  
Portsmouth, OH  
Gary Clark, Owner

WELCOME James F. Havice Inc.  
Lewistown, PA  
Daniel McGinnis, Director of Sales

UNFAIR TRADE COMMITTEE...the WVWA Unfair Trade Committee has met and contracted with an attorney to study the present law. A preliminary report is expected during the Greenbrier meeting. Please be present to ask questions and voice your opinion.

WVWA CONVENTION AUGUST 18-21...we hope to see you at our annual convention at Oglebay Park, Wheeling, WV. Reservation forms will be sent in May. Please respond promptly, as rooms will be limited. You wouldn't want to miss the riverboat cruise or any of the other festivities.

WVWA 1988 YEAR BOOK ADVERTISING...the deadline for ads in this years book is July 11. You will receive advertising forms in the near future. Please respond promptly as this years format includes lucrative discounts for prompt reservations.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT...a complete legislative report is included in this bulletin. If you desire copies of any of the bills discussed, please notify the office.

PLEASE VOTE...don't forget to exercise your right to vote in the May 10, West Virginia primary election. If you have doubts about how candidates in your district have voted on issues of interest to our industry, call the office for an update.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE...you will be hearing about the WVWA Political Action Committee very soon. We will be asking you, your family members, your employees, and anyone interested in the distributive industry to contribute to "WHOLE-PAC", so that we can help those legislators who have helped us. Please plan to participate!!

PREPARE TO FIGHT INCREASED TAXES...thanks to the work of dedicated wholesalers, retailers, distributor representatives and manufacturers representatives we accumulated nearly 12,000 signatures on petitions opposing increased taxes on cigarettes and other tobacco products. The petitions were introduced on the Senate floor and many of you, hopefully have received a note from your Senator. The petitions for the House of Delegates are being held in case a move is made during the special sessions. It is extremely important that you talk to your Senator and Delegates about your opposition to increased taxes on tobacco and soft drinks as soon as possible. Talk to them before they return for the special sessions!! We have won the battle so far, let's make sure that we finish the job. BE PREPARED TO WRITE AND CALL THE WEEK OF MAY 16, IF THESE TAX PROPOSALS ARE INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S CALL.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT: Following are bills introduced, a short description, and the final status.

TOBACCO - GENERAL

HB 2476 - Would have enacted the clean indoor air act. Would affect all areas used by the public in addition to work places. Died in House Health and Human Resources Committee.

HB 4179 - Would have made general restrictions concerning smoking in public. Also would have changed law concerning outdoor advertising of tobacco products. Would have made vending machines accessible to minors illegal. Died in House Judiciary Committee.

HB 4348 - Would have restricted smoking in enclosed public areas. Provided for civil and criminal enforcement. Died in House Judiciary Committee.

SB 20 - Same as HB 2476. Died in Senate Health and Human Resources Committee.

SB 155 - Would have restricted smoking in all public buildings. Died in Senate Health and Human Resources Committee.

SB 527 - Same as HB 4348. Passed the Senate. Died in House Judiciary Committee.

TOBACCO TAXES - REVENUE

HB 4074 - Would have imposed an additional excise tax of 5 cents per package on all tobacco products and dedicate proceeds to cancer research, agriculture, and county commissions. Died in House Finance Committee.

HB 4299 - Would have have increased the cigarette tax by 5 cents and dedicated proceeds to medical education. Died in House Finance Committee.

HB 4346 - Would have imposed a 17 cents per pack tax on other tobacco products and dedicated proceeds to medical education. Died in House Finance Committee.

SB 104 - Would have removed the discount for stamping cigarettes. Died in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 353 - Same as HB 4346. Died in Senate Finance Committee.

SB 374 - Same as HB 4299. Died in Senate Finance Committee.

SOFT DRINK TAX

HB 4298 - Would have raised the soft drink tax from 1 cent to 5 cents. Died in House Finance Committee.

SB 373 - Same as HB 4298. Died in Senate Fincance Committee.

UNFAIR TRADE

HB 4354 - ~~Would have empowered the Attorney General to enforce the Unfair Trade Practices Act.~~ Died in House Judiciary Committee.

SB 322 - Same as HB 4354. Died on Senate Floor.