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News Release

Area Bar Staff Take “STEPS” Toward Responsible Service

Hospitality workers trained September 14, 2006

Local liquor commissioners recently congratulated 15 local bar owners and employees for completing education toward certification in a state-approved training program for responsible beverage alcohol service.

The class known as STEPS (Safety Training to Encourage Profitable Services) was delivered at Morris Country Club on September 14, 2006. STEPS is designed to help bar owners and employees maintain a quality, profitable establishment that minimizes the risks associated with over-serving, drunken drivers, and underage sales. The training was developed by a Joliet coalition of community representatives and has been certified by the Illinois Liquor Control Commission’s Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training (BASSET) Program. In order to receive a training certification, an individual must attend the 6-hour training and pass a 50-question test.

Prior to the training, class participants were welcomed by Morris Mayor Dick Kopczick, Grundy County Board Chairman Paul Nelson, and Jack Schaller of the Grundy County State’s Attorney’s Office.

According to trainer John Hanke, Crime Prevention Officer from the Joliet Police Department, state-certified courses like STEPS “help hospitality workers understand the risks and responsibilities that surround serving alcohol and teach them strategies to reduce the risks and increase profits. In fact, many dram shop insurers offer discounted coverage to establishments with certified staff.”

STEPS certificates were awarded to: Jill Norman (R-Place Restaurant, Morris), Scott Sampson (Morris American Legion Post 294), Kim Kelly, Jennifer Ream, Loretta Cowie, Tracy Rath, and April Sheridan (Gippers II, Coal City), Jeff Wachowski (WoJo’s Bar and Grill, Morris), Melinda Brown, Melissa Gourley, and Terry Workman (Morris Country Club),

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Bob Pierce and Chris Howard (Bean Encounters, Minooka), Darcy Elleson (Griffin's Pint, Morris), and Mike Feeney (Feeney Liquors, Morris). Also certified was Deputy Chad Hrechko of the Grundy County Sheriff's Office.

Several participants spent additional time after the class learning how to deliver the STEPS curriculum in future trainings.

The STEPS training was sponsored by the Grundy County No Tolerance Task Force (NTTF) and supported by the Education Service Network, Morris Country Club, Illinois Licensed Beverage Association, and other community partners.

Anyone who is interested in a future STEPS training may contact Paula Goodwin at 941-3130.

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CAPTION:

Participants in the September 14 STEPS Training at Morris Country Club were (front row, left to right), Scott Sampson, Melinda Brown, Chris Howard, Bob Pierce, Jeff Wachowski, (second row) Mike Feeney, Jennifer Ream, Melissa Gourley, Terry Workman, and Jill Norman; (back row) John Hanke, Chad Hrechko, Loretta Cowie, Kim Kelly, Tracy Rath, and April Sheridan.

