

UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF CIDER MAKERS

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NEWLY FORMED UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF CIDER MAKERS (USACM) ELECTS INAUGURAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chicago, IL (February 6, 2013) — The United States Association of Cider Makers (USACM) was formed today with the broad input of industry producers, stakeholders, and constituents from around the country. The group's mission is to gather and share information about cider and perry production, regulations concerning the production of hard cider and perry, and pear and apple growing; as well as to help members improve their operations, raise the public's awareness of the products produced by its members, and promote the interests of the cider and perry producers in the United States.

USACM is pleased to announce its inaugural Board of Directors which reflects the industry's diversity of regional distribution, production volume, and growth:

Steve Wood, Farnum Hill Ciders, New Hampshire; Brad Page, Colorado Cider Company, Colorado; Mike Beck, Uncle John's Cider Mill, Michigan; Dan Rowell, Vermont Hard Cider, Vermont; Robert Vail, Angry Orchard, Massachusetts; James Kohn, Wandering Aengus Ciderworks, Oregon; and Charlotte Shelton, Albemarle Cider Works, Virginia.

Michigan producer Greg Hall of Virtue Cider is a charter member of the group, and is excited about the growth of the cider industry and the direction of this new organization. "I started out in the craft beer industry in the 1980s, and as a craft brewer for 25 years it is thrilling to be here at the dawn of the USACM", says Hall. "There are so many similarities between cider now and craft beer in the 80s, beginning with the passion of the people leading this effort."

The meeting to form this new organization precedes the annual CiderCon event in Chicago, a two-day industry event that brings together the commercial cider community to network, share information, gain timely information and education, and taste new products and pairing combinations.

The public has the chance to explore cider as well, with the Cider Summit Chicago capping off the week's activities on Saturday, February 9 from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm in the Lakeview Terrace Room at Navy Pier. The event will feature over 60 hard ciders from six countries and ten states. Tickets are available only to those 21 and over online at cidersummitnw.com/chicagotickets.html for \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Designated drivers are admitted free of charge

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About USACM and CiderCon

The United States Association of Cider Makers is a 501(c)6 organization formed in 2013 to serve and represent the hard cider and perry industry in the United States. CiderCon is an annual industry event organized to give the commercial cider community an outlet to meet, share ideas, collaborate, and effect positive changes in cidermaking and cider fruit production best practices, the cider market, and cider regulations. The two-day meeting takes place this year at the Allegro Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.