

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION *foundation*

P.O. BOX 750 · MADISON, WI 53701 · (608) 256-8900 · WWW.FFRF.ORG

October 17, 2011

Manager
Bethlehem Brew Works
569 Main Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018

COPY

Re: Discriminatory Brunch Discount

Dear Manager:

I am writing on behalf of a concerned Bethlehem Brew Works customer and members of the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) to inform you of a serious civil rights concern with a Bethlehem Brew Works promotion. FFRF is a nationwide nonprofit organization with over 17,000 members, including over 500 members in Pennsylvania. Our purpose is to protect the constitutional principle of separation of state and church and to represent the rights and views of nonbelievers.

It is our information and understanding that Bethlehem Brew Works offers and promotes a Sunday brunch discount to customers who bring in their "congregation's weekly bulletin." We understand the restaurant advertises this discount on the website and on the pdf weekly brunch menu. Copies of these documents are enclosed. Offering this discount violates the federal Civil Rights Act in addition to provisions of state civil rights statutes.

First, the Civil Rights Act states in relevant part, "All persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of any place of public accommodation... without discrimination on the ground of race, color, religion, or national origin." 42 U.S.C. §2000a(a). As a place of "public accommodation," it is illegal for Bethlehem Brew Works to discriminate, or show favoritism, on the basis of religion. See 42 U.S.C. §2000a(b)(defining a place of public accommodation as "any restaurant, cafeteria, lunchroom, lunch counter, soda fountain, or other facility principally engaged in selling food for consumption on the premises..."). Bethlehem Brew Works' restrictive promotional practice favors religious customers and denies customers who do not attend church, and nonbelievers the right to "full and equal" enjoyment of Bethlehem Brew Works. Any promotions should be available to all customers regardless of religious preference or practice on a non-discriminatory basis.

Second, offering a special discount to individuals attending a Christian worship service or other religious services violates the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. That law says, "It shall be an

unlawful discriminatory practice...for any person being the owner...of any public accommodation...to refuse, withhold from, or deny any person because of his...religious creed... either directly or indirectly, any of the accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges of such public accommodation.” 43 P.S. §955(i)(1). The practice of providing a discount to religious service attendees is a violation of this state law.

We kindly urge you to discontinue these discriminatory actions by eliminating the discount altogether, or by making the discount available to all members of your community. Please notify us in writing about the steps you are taking to end this violation of federal and state law so that we may notify our complainant. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie A. Schmitt".

Stephanie Schmitt
Staff Attorney

Enclosures

BETHLEHEM BREW WORKS

"SHOW YOUR SPIRIT" BRUNCH!

Bring in the current weeks bulletin from your local congregation* and everyone at your table will receive \$2 off any of the following brunch menu items!

Quiche Lorraine

Homemade, individually baked egg casserole blended with sauteed onions, crisp bacon and Swiss cheese. Served with breakfast potatoes. \$6 with "spirit" or \$8 reg.

Brew Works Tostada

A flour tortilla topped with our signature pulled pork, two over easy eggs, fresh cilantro, melted cheddar jack cheese and a touch of chipotle spice to kick it up a notch. Served with breakfast potatoes. \$6 with "spirit" or \$8 reg.

Breakfast Burrito

Scrambled eggs, cheddar jack cheese, sauteed onions and peppers, breakfast potatoes and bacon rolled up in a soft flour tortilla. Served with sour cream, salsa, green onions and shredded lettuce. \$7 with "spirit" or \$9 reg.

Spinach and Feta Omelet

A three egg omelet stuffed with all white meat chicken and pepper jack cheese. Topped with sour cream, salsa and green onions. Served with breakfast potatoes. \$6 with "spirit" or \$8 reg.

Ham Egg & Cheese Croissant

Scrambled egg topped with honey roasted ham and American cheese. All served on a toasted croissant. Served with breakfast potatoes. \$6.50 with "spirit" or \$8.50 reg.

Vegetarian Benedict

Two poached eggs nestled on sauteed baby spinach and fresh tomatoes. Served on corn bread and smothered with creamy hollandaise sauce. Served with breakfast potatoes. \$7 with "spirit" or \$9 reg.

"TWO FOR A BUCK"

Add 2 golden pancakes to any brunch item for only \$1... Unlimited!

Serving Brunch every Sunday from 11am to 4pm

*The current weekly bulletin from your congregation will entitle your entire table to \$2 off all brunch menu items. For more information on how your congregation can participate, see a Brew Works employee today!

Navigation icons: Home, Back, Forward, Stop, Refresh, Print, Home, Back, Forward, Stop, Refresh, Print, Home, Back, Forward, Stop, Refresh, Print

Most Visited

- Bethlehem Brew Works Menu | The Brew Works
- http://www.thebrewworks.com/bethlehem-brew-works/menu/
- Getting Started
- Latest Headlines
- Wisconsin
- (Untitled)
- Summer & Confe...

- Wine Menu
- Martini and Sangria Menu
- Scotch Menu

Banquet and Private Event Menus

- Appetizers, Deli Lunches, Entrees, and Desserts

Join us for our all new Sunday Brunch!

Every week the brunch menu changes... click here for a peek

Remember to bring in your congregation's weekly bulletin and receive \$2 off each brunch item ordered at your table!

Dining Hours

Sunday thru Wednesday

- Full Menu 11:00am - 10:00pm
- Late Night Menu 10:00pm - 11:00pm

Thursday thru Saturday

- Full Menu 11:00am - 11:00pm
- Late Night Menu 11:00pm - 12:00pm