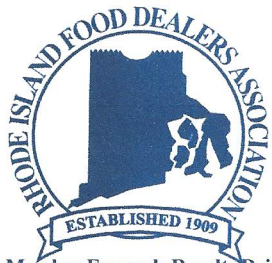


RHODE ISLAND FOOD DEALERS ASSOCIATION

RIFDA Member Thank You - Mark your Calendar Trade Day 2013 - Meetings and Event Calendar - Welcome New Member



Member Focused; Results Driven

Mark your Calendars 2012 December - February Meetings and Annual Events

December 12, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting

December 25, 2012 Office Closed

January 1, 2013 Office Closed

January 16, 2013 Board of Directors 1st Quarter Meeting

January 17, 2013 WIC Committee Meeting @ 9:30am (tentative)

January 16-18, 2013 Distribution of Best Bagger Contest Kits

January 22, 2013 Food Safety Committee Meeting @ 8:30am

January 23, 2013 Legislative Committee Meeting (Pre-Planning)

February 10-13, 2013 NGA Convention in Las Vegas

February 12, 2012 Food Safety Committee Meeting @ 8:30am

February 13, 2013 Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30am

February 20, 2013 Legislative Committee Meeting (*Bill Filling*)

March 7, 2013 RIFDA Annual Trade Day

Thank You Members for A Successful Year End Event

The Rhode Island Food Dealers Association (RIFDA) held its' Annual Meeting on December 1, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Newport, RI. The evening featured the awarding of four scholarships to students who work for or are children of RIFDA members. The winners were Juan Roldan, Dave's Marketplace; Justin Gaffney, Brigido's Fresh Market; Rebecca Pacheco, Eastside Marketplace; and Allison Perrin, Dunn's Corner Market. During the presentation Steve Arthurs, President & CEO of RIFDA noted that this year's scholarship program "achieved new benchmarks for the association - including the most applicants, the highest number of member companies participating, and most of all the highest quality of candidates".



This year's event also marked the transition to a new Association Chair for its 2013 Executive Committee. Jim Murphy, long time area vice president for Stop & Shop will become the new Chairman. Jim replaces Tracy Anthony, General Manager of Clements Marketplace who completed her two year term.



The Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala was well received and very well attended. The ambience was incredible, the food was great, the raffle & door prizes were bigger and better, the music was entertaining and the crowd was very pleased; overall a very successful event thanks to our members and their support.

Welcome New Member

Unistar Plastics, LLC



Thank you

December Supplier of the Month



Mark your Calendars - Trade Day 2013

SAVE THE DATE - Thursday March 7, 2013

Trade Day 2013 @ Providence Marriott Hotel

A Rewarding Day Long Event Including:

Seminar/Panel Discussion, RI State Best Bagging Competition, Networking Cocktail, Industry Dinner, and

The Food Industry Person or Company of the Year Award

We Hope To See You ALL There





Member Focused; Results Driven

Thank you

December Retailer of the Month

Helpful Industry Links

FMI National Legislative Update
<http://www.fmi.org/gr/>

RI Legislative Info
<http://www.rilin.state.us/genmenu>

RI Pending Bills & Calendar
<http://dirac.rilin.state.ri.us/billstatus>

RI News & Press Releases from
 the House & Senate
<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/news/>

National Grocers Association
<http://www.nationalgrocers.org/>

RI WIC Program
<http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/wic/index.php>

Looking Forward

Encouraging new members to join is essential as well as increasing our member participation in our annual events. Invite potential members to join us at these events so we can showcase our association. New members and new ideas lead to greater funds. As well as an identifiable recognition that this association exists for the benefits of our members. Lets expand above and beyond continuing the positive momentum of 2012. Membership is what will aid the RIFDA move into the future as a stronger and more vibrant representative of the RI Food Community. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

National Legislative News

FMI Members Raise Concerns with Health Care Law's Full-Time/Part-Time Requirements to Senate, House Committee Staff:

A group of FMI Government Relations Committee members met with staff of the Senate Finance Committee and House Way & Means Committee to express concerns with the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) restrictions on health coverage offered to part-time employees; the law's definition of full-time employees as those who average 30 hours per week and complications that the ACA's requirements impose on current Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs). The Senate Finance Majority (Democratic) staff noted ACA's intent to provide quality, comprehensive coverage to individuals and expressed concern that partial coverage from a part-time employee plan may cause an individual to avoid more comprehensive coverage offered through a federal or state health exchange. The Senate staff also questioned whether CBA complications could simply be addressed in future or reopened union negotiations; but the staff also expressed openness to allowing a transition period until a current CBA expires.

FDA Issues Final Rules Increasing Allowed Radiation Doses in Food:

On November 30, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published two final rules increasing the maximum dose of ionizing radiation permitted in the treatment of refrigerated and frozen poultry products and permitting ionizing radiation in unrefrigerated meat products. The rules also clarify the poultry products covered by FDA's radiation regulations and remove the limitations prohibiting the exclusion of oxygen in the packaging used for irradiated poultry. FDA published two separate rules - one for poultry and one for meat. The rules were issued in response to 1999 petitions by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and are slated to take effect upon publication.

Support Continues for House, Senate Bills to Clarify Menu Labeling Regulations

Both H.R. 6174 and S. 3574, the *Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act*, continue to gain support. H.R. 6174, introduced by Rep. John Carter (R-TX) now has 44 bipartisan co-sponsors. Recent additions to H.R. 6174 are Reps. Tim Griffin (R-AR), Brett Guthrie (R-KY), Bob Gibbs (R-OH), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), and Erik Paulsen (R-MN). Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) joined to co-sponsor S. 3574, now totaling 10 co-sponsors in addition to Sen. Blunt (R-MO) who introduced the bill. A joint industry letter including 180+ organizations in support of H.R. 6174 and S. 3574 was sent to all House and Senate offices. Urge your congressman about co-sponsoring H.R. 6174 or S. 3574, which would exclude grocery stores from the restaurant menu labeling law unless the majority of their operations are devoted to "restaurant-type" food.

Industry News

Impact of the 2012 Elections on Labor:

With President Obama winning a second term of office over former Governor Mitt Romney and with a divided Congress left intact, the November elections translate into status quo or gridlock, especially on legislative labor initiatives. Democrats remain in the majority, picking up two seats in the Senate. Democrats will now hold 53 seats to the Republicans 45. The two Independents will caucus with the Democrats. Meanwhile, Republicans maintained their House majority at 234 to 201 despite losing eight seats. No major labor legislation is expected to be enacted into law in the next Congress, either favorable to labor unions or private sector employers, but the White House is expected to pursue an aggressive regulatory agenda and enforcement posture in 2013 similar to what employers have seen over the past four years. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) will likely continue its scrutiny over employee handbooks that have at-will employment clauses and employer policies relating to employee use of social media. The Board may also attempt through rulemaking to implement various concepts from the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), including issuing a rule that would require employers to provide a union with sensitive employee information, such as workers' phone numbers and e-mail addresses during an organizing campaign.

Snacking Trend Turns Healthy at Supermarkets Source: Dec. 3, 2012 Roseabbe Harper, Supermarket News

Fresh fruit slices packed with yogurt dip, singly packed slider sandwiches, and even whoopie pies in mini-size are ringing up sales. What's more, supermarkets are putting up banners and signs that call attention to snacks, often reminding customers that snacks can be healthy. A recent study by Mintel, a Chicago-based consumer research firm, shows 65% of respondents are interested in healthy snacks, but 71% believe healthy snacks are more expensive than less healthy ones.

