



Member Focused; Results Driven

Mark your Calendars 2012 February, March, April & May Meetings and Annual Events

- March 28, 2012 Legislative Committee Meeting
- March 28&29, 2012 NGA/FMI/FIAE Washington, DC Legislative Conf.
- April 11, 2012 Legislative Committee Meeting
- April 18, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting
- April 26, 2012 WIC Committee Meeting (tentative)
- May 1-3, 2012 FMI Convention Dallas, TX
- May 16, 2012 Board of Directors Meeting
- May 23, 2012 Legislative Committee Meeting
- May 28, 2012 Office Closed Memorial Day
- June 13, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting
- June 17-19, 2012 NASFT Summer Fancy Food Show Washington, DC
- June 21 - 24, 2012 RIFDA Convention
- June 27, 2012 Legislative Committee Meeting
- August 9, 2012 RIFDA PAC Event
- September 10, 2012 RIFDA Charity Golf Event
- September 12, 2012 Sen. Reed Trip to Washington
- December 1, 2012 Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala
- March 7, 2013 RIFDA Annual Trade Day

RHODE ISLAND FOOD DEALERS ASSOCIATION

* MARCH 2012 - JUNE 2012 MEETINGS & ANNUAL EVENTS *
 * RHODE ISLAND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE * SIAL CANADA*

RI Legislative Update

As we move through March we see an increase in activity in the General Assembly – fortunately a good deal of the concentration has been on topics and legislation that has or would not directly impact the food industry. A couple of acceptations to this include the minimum wage legislation which had a hearing (see below) and the proposed increase in the meal tax that has been proposed in the Governor budget.

On the later, it should be noted that although it is in the proposed budget it still faces a number of questions and concerns from the legislators which must ultimately decide whether to include this in the budget, modify it, or replace this revenue generator (cut expenses or receive funding from another source) in a different manner in order to balance the budget. This being an election year an increase in such a sensitive tax could prove unpopular to candidates seeking reelection – particularly with the amount of negative publicity this has garnered so far.

Here is an update of the select bills that we are currently watching closely:

Minimum Wage:

H 7396 – Bennett, Guthrie, McNamara & Others – This bill would raise the minimum wage by .35 per hour effective on Jan. 1st 2013. More alarmingly this bill calls for yearly increases thereafter consistent with the cost of living. We are, of course, opposed to this bill. RIFDA testified against this bill at a hearing on February 29th and submitted a letter of opposition to the committee Chair, Anastasia Williams. Unfortunately we were the speakers in total opposition to the bill as it is written. The Hospitality Association spoke in opposition of the COLA piece but agreed the minimum wage base should be raised. We pleaded a strong case of opposition and we were approached by a few Labor committee members who understood our position.

It is hoped that if this moves forward that certain elements could be changed or other language added to recognize the total benefits package provided by a company as well as how this change would alter the base rate of scheduled increases and impacts other step raises (already above this state minimum) as well. I think there is support for potential legislation dealing with this year only and leaving out the COLA language. This has been the common practice in past minimum wage legislation. The bill was held for further study. We will continue to monitor this closely. We may need additional member support if this goes to a hearing.

Product Stewardship:

H7027 – Walsh, Handy, Tanzi, & Others – No real change from the last updated provided. This resolution would create a five member special commission to study producer responsibility. This bill had a hearing on Feb. 2nd and a Sub A was forwarded for a House vote on Feb. 8th. The House voted to recommit back to Committee. There are different views on how this commission would be formulated and what members would have seats. We can expect other legislation to be submitted in the area of product stewardship but initial indications are that it will be in the area of mattresses.

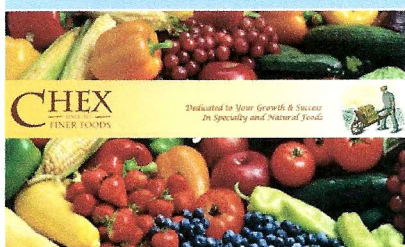
Pay Frequency:

H 7314 – Hearn, Marcello, Tomasso, & Rugguero – This bill would allow companies to pay employees on a less than weekly basis. There was a hearing on Feb. 7th and it was decided that this bill be held in committee for further study.

Please visit us at www.rifda.com for the complete update

Thank you

March Supplier of the Month



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MAY 9, 10 & 11, 2012

Canada's Leading International Food Trade Show

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Thank you

March Retailer of the Month



HELPFUL INDUSTRY LINKS

FMI National Legislative Updates

<http://www.fmi.org/gr/>

RI Legislative Info

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/genmenu/>

RI Pending Bills and Calendar

<http://dirac.rilin.state.ri.us/billstatus/webclass1.asp>

RI News and Press Releases
From the House and Senate

<http://www.rilin.state.ri.us/news/>



Bozzuto's Inc.

Independant Retailer
Conference and Retailer &
Supplier Excellence Awards
2012

March 27 - 29, 2012

The MGM Grand at Foxwoods



RIFDA Trade Day Recap
* 2012 Convention Save the Date* Helpful Links * Bozzuto's Trade Show*

RIFDA Trade Day 2012

The Rhode Island Food Dealers Association hosted their Annual Trade Day on Thursday, March 8th, from 2:30PM to 9:00PM at the Providence Marriott Hotel. The program included an exciting and informative industry seminar, "Social Media & the Food Industry, What It Means to You." The seminar was facilitated by James Spellos – a noted technology and communication consultant and President of Meeting U. The seminar was well attended and the participants were enthusiastic and very receptive to the information presented in the seminar.

The RIFDA Trade Day was also the setting for the state of RI Best Bagger Competition which chooses the Rhode Island representative to the NGA "National Best Bagger Contest" held annually during their convention and featured on the David Letterman Show on CBS. "The Best Bagger contest is an exciting, vibrant and fun-filled event where Rhode Island's best grocery baggers can show off their speed and accuracy - and compete for a shot at the national competition", said Steve Arthurs, President & CEO of the Rhode Island Food Dealers Association. Represented at the competition were Brigido's Fresh Market, Clements' Marketplace, Eastside Marketplace, Shaw's Supermarkets and Stop & Shop. The evening also featured a unique networking opportunity at a reception featuring many legislators of the RI General Assembly who met with members of the Food Dealers. This was followed by our annual RIFDA Industry Awards Dinner. This year's dinner featured the 2012 RI Food Industry Honoree of the Year Michael McQuade of McQuade's Marketplace for his outstanding contributions to the food industry and to his community. Michael is a leading innovator in the area of sustainability of which he has received national recognition.

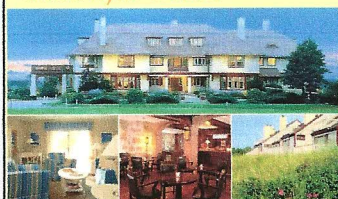
The day's events proved to be both informative and entertaining and the association was excited with the level of interest members displayed. This event serves the food industry of RI well and provides a unique opportunity to network, learn, and celebrate its members in an exciting format.



Family Fun
Golf

Mark Your Calendar June 21- 24, 2012
Join us for the RIFDA 2012 Convention
Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club ~ Brewster, MA

Fine Food
Entertainment
Prizes



More Info & Invitation to Follow Shortly