



RHODE ISLAND FOOD DEALERS ASSOCIATION

2010 FEBRUARY MEETINGS & ANNUAL EVENTS

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

2009 ANNUAL MEETING & HOLIDAY GALA

Member Focused; Results Driven

Mark your Calendars
2010 February Meetings & Annual Events

February 9, 2010 12th Annual NGA Convention Las Vegas

February 11, 2010 NGA National Best Bagger Competition Las Vegas

February 10, 2010 RIFDA Executive Committee Meeting, 8am

February 24, 2010 RIFDA Legislative Committee Meeting; Bill Filing

March 11, 2010 RIFDA Best Bagger Contest and Annual Trade Dinner Providence Marriott Hotel

June 17-19, 2010 RIFDA Convention White Mountains Resort, NH

August 2, 2010 RIFDA Annual Golf Tournament Kirkbrae Lincoln, RI

September 2010 Senator Reed Luncheon Washington, DC

December 4, 2010 RIFDA Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala

Thank you, January Retailer of the month.



Rhode Island Legislative Update January 2010

The RI legislature went back into session the week of January 4th. The initial sessions dealt mostly with overriding vetoes that Governor Carcieri had made in late 2009. Overall within the first two weeks there have been limited bills presented that would impact the food industry. Three that the association has reviewed at our legislative committee are:

H 7047: Relating to Health and Safety; Referred to House Labor: Employees that pump gas must be 16 years old or older. Watch

H 7048: Relating to Labor and Overtime Calculations; Referred to House Labor: This act would require employers to pay their delivery drivers or sales merchandisers an overtime rate for all hours worked in excess of 40 in any one week. Basically this would prohibit an employer from using the fluctuating workweek method. Against
Although this does not impact a lot of members it does have huge negative implications for those it does impact.

H 7071 Relating to Taxation; Referred to House Finance: This act has various provisions that would change the definition of a retailer for tax purposes. Although the language is vague the bill sponsor has said this is intended to address the "Amazon" issue. Watch

From now until mid February a number of new bills will be introduced. The RI Food Dealers and our lobbyist will continue to monitor all activity and work within the legislative committee and other members will evaluate the impact on our industry.

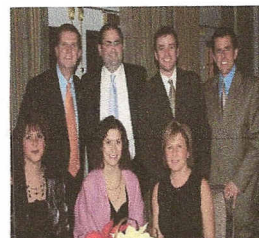
This will be an interesting session as the political and economic climate has served to provide a unique environment for the legislators. Among other factors, this is an election year for many of the members, there is a lame duck governor, the Speaker of the House has announced that he will be resigning and there is currently a \$219M deficit and a \$400M shortfall in the budget. Combine this with the high unemployment (12.7 as of Nov. 30) and general public frustration that is prevalent, it would seem to imply that this would not be a session that would have major expenditures or radical changes to current policies. Stimulus money should help patch some of the shortfalls, and many political insiders believe this will be a "wait and see" year.

As new bills are submitted and the legislative committee has reviewed them we will communicate those bills of interest and impact to our industry periodically. By early February we will have these bills summarized and our positions posted on our website, www.rifda.com, for member's access as well as periodic updates emailed to our members.

We would welcome any member to join us at any of the hearings that they feel beneficial. We may also need your help at various hearings to provide your input so please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns that you or your organization may have. You will also find information on national legislative initiatives on our website www.rifda.com. Please see "Federal Priority Issues" from FMI in the Legislative News section on our home page.

2009 Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala 100th Anniversary

We would like to thank you for attending The 2009 Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala. It was a great success. We were so fortunate to have such a great turn out making our 100th Anniversary so special. Lets keep the positive momentum going into the New Year. 100 years is a huge milestone, with the dedication, participation and charity of our members we certainly will go above and beyond. We would like to also thank all of you who donated such wonderful "Hope to Win" raffle items. We truly appreciate your support. We hope you will attend all our future events enabling the Association to grow through the support of its members.





Member Focused; Results Driven

LOOKING AHEAD

What is the Association's direction for 2010? Identity, communication, and the need to become more contemporary. It is important for our members to provide some needed input, suggestions and ideas. With your membership the RIFDA moves into the future as a stronger and more vibrant representative of the RI Food Community. The Association exists for the benefits of its members. Please feel free to contact us at any time. Together we will make 2010 an interesting and successful year.

HELPFUL 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/>

Thank you, January Supplier of the Month



Spotlight of the Month Industry News RI Business Development Mark your Calendar Looking Ahead Helpful Links

Spotlight of the Month

We are very pleased and excited to welcome *Stop and Shop* and *Narragansett Creamery* as new members, thank you for your support.

Thank you *Pepsi Bottling Group* and *Dave's Fresh Marketplace* for starting the New Year as advertiser's of the month.

RI Business Development

4th Annual RI Economic Summit

On Friday January 8th the RI Small Business Association in conjunction with the Johnson & Wales University RI Business Development Center held a workshop at the Johnson & Wales Harborside Campus. This event provided a unique forum consisting of both business and political leaders from around the state. Most of the discussion topics centered on just what it would take to get the slumping state economy back on course.

Discussions ranged from the cost of doing business in the state - taxes, regulations, permit fees, etc., to suggestions on how the state could pass legislation that would help facilitate a quicker recovery. The goal on most attendees was to transform all of this talk into action by the state's lawmakers and political officials.

Consensus on Critical issues:

- * 95% of the respondent to an attendee poll said the legislature needed to reform the state and municipal employ pension and benefit packages.
- * 65% looked for the state to consolidate health insurance premium dollars through a health exchange to better control cost.
- * 89% agreed that the state needed to invest in technical and vocational training programs.
- * A weighted majority thought that the state should tie funding to those municipalities that agree to regionalize services.

Legislative leaders and other politicians present listened closely and participated in group discussions regarding potential legislation that would support small business and help generate growth within the dormant sectors of the state's economy. What viable policies that comes out of this is unclear, but the voice of small business has spoken.

Industry News



This year The New England state associations along with the state associations in New York and New Jersey have formed a Group (The Northeast Region State Associations) to provide members of the associations a discounted rate at the FMI 2010 Show in Las Vegas (May 10-13, 2010). The Group Advantage Rate is \$200 per registrant if the registration form is received before March 1; \$250 per registrant if the form is received between March 2 and May 8th; and, on-site registration is \$350. To be included in the Group and receive the discount, the Group Advantage Registration form with the Group Number - S300 - must be submitted to Suzanne George at FMI before the cut-off dates indicated above. The Group Advantage Registration Form is available on the FMI website www.fmi.org. Each registrant is responsible for making his/her room reservation and submitting the registration including the Group Number S300 on the form to FMI.

Mark your Calendar

RIFDA

**Trade Dinner & Best Bagger Contest
March 11, 2010**

Providence Marriott Hotel

PLEASE JOIN US...

for this 8th Annual action packed event. Watch Rhode Island's Best Baggers compete for a spot in the National Competition; make new food industry contacts at the Networking Reception; enjoy a delicious dinner; listen to a prestigious Keynote Speaker and see who will be honored the RIFDA 2010 food industry person of the year. Take part as the RIFDA moves into the future as a stronger and more vibrant representative of the Rhode Island food community. We need help! RIFDA hopes we can count on your sponsorship for this fun filled and rewarding event.