



Member Focused; Results Driven

RHODE ISLAND FOOD DEALERS ASSOCIATION
\*2010 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER MEETINGS & ANNUAL EVENTS
\*2010 ELECTION RESULTS IMPACT \*2010 WIC UPDATE

- Mark your Calendars
2010 November & December Meetings and Annual Events
November 11, 2010 Office Closed
November 10, 2010 - November 18 Scholarship Interview Process
November 10, 2010 - November 13 FIAE Convention
November 17, 2010 BOD Meeting
November 22 - November 24 Notification of Scholarship Winners
November 25 & 26, 2010 Office Closed
December 1, 2010 Legislative Committee Meeting
December 4, 2010 Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala Hyatt Regency Hotel Newport, RI
December 15, 2010 ECM @ 7:30 am
December 24, 2010 Office Closed
March 10, 2011 Trade Day Symposium, Best Bagger Contest & Industry Dinner
June 23-26, 2011 Annual Convention Ocean Edge Resort & Golf Club Brewster, MA
August 8, 2011 Annual RIFDA Charitable Golf Tournament Kirkbrae Country Club Lincoln, RI

RI 2010 Election Results Impact

As of results of the elections of November 2nd RI will have its first Independent take office as Governor. Lincoln Chaffee, past US Senator from RI and past Mayor of Warwick, (Rhode Island's second largest city) was elected over the Democratic and Republican candidates in a hotly contested and close race. He will inherit a number of economic challenges and high unemployment (among the highest in the country) which will present him with a number of challenges beyond the normal transition of power.

As with any change in governmental leadership there are certain expectations - both positive and negative. The governor elect had proposed during his campaign that he would move to impose increases in the state sales tax primarily in the form of taxing a number of items and services that are currently not taxed. Among the considerations is the taxing of food - which will not be well received in our industry or by the Rhode Island consumer. It should be noted however that the governor must convince the state legislature to introduce and support these bills, so it will be interesting to see in what form and content this legislation develops.

The Democratic party did maintain their hold on the other major state offices and in the US House but in most cases these races were much closer than originally expected and certainly much closer than past history would dictate. A clear message therefore prevails that voters are not satisfied with the current economic landscape. In the RI House the Democrats will 65 seats compared to 10 Republicans. In the RI Senate there will be 29 Democrats, 8 Republicans and 1 Independent. Although the House, where the majority of legislation originates, maintains a strong democratic majority there are a number of new faces as many incumbents (15 in total) did not run for reelection (many sought higher political office) or were defeated in the primaries. As a result it is not a given that House leadership will remain intact and there will be a number of new key committee changes. To read the entire article please visit our website www.rifda.com

Thank you
November Retailer of the Month



RIFDA WIC Meeting



On October 28th members of the RIFDA WIC Committee met with the RI Health Department WIC managers at the RIFDA office to review some of the current issues and opportunities. Some of the key points that came out of that meeting include:

- There are monthly training classes available at the Providence WIC office. Call 401 222 4637 to schedule. A complete list of meeting dates is available on the RIFDA website.
WIC is currently reviewing potential changes to the product assortment of eligible items. This revised list will be completed by spring 2011 and the information concerning the changes will be communicated at that time.
The WIC transition to EBT is continuing. The local office is working hard with RIFDA committee to make this transition as smooth and cost effective as possible. To that end the WIC people will be meeting with the technical people from a representation of chain and independent stores in order to determine the most efficient software and avoid potential set-up issues as the program move forward. This project development will continue through most of 2011 with potential testing by late year. RI will be among the first 8 - 10 states to make this transition.



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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/>



SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

Join Operation Homefront in a Holiday Food Drive for our RI Military Families in partnership with the Naval War College of Newport. Operation Homefront of New England provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and wounded warriors.

For more information contact  
Ramona Cook [rcook08@gmail.com](mailto:rcook08@gmail.com)  
or  
visit our website [www.rifda.com](http://www.rifda.com)

Thank you

November Supplier of the Month



FROM LOCAL FARMS TO LOCAL FAMILIES

\* Join Us \* Food Safety \* RI Industry News \*  
\* Helpful Links \* Support our Troops \*

2010 RIFDA Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala

PLEASE JOIN US SATURDAY DECEMBER 4, 2010 AT THE  
HYATT NEWPORT, RI AT 5:30PM. DON'T MISS OUR FINAL  
EVENT OF 2010

- \* PURCHASE A TABLE SPONSORSHIP (different levels)
- \* DONATE RAFFLE ITEMS (new format bigger & better) \*

\* DONATE DOOR-PRIZES \*

\* OUTGOING & INCOMING CHAIRMAN \*

\* INSTALLATION OF BOD & OFFICERS \*

\* SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS \*

\* YEAR IN REVIEW \*

\* YEAR END CAMARADERIE \*

\* HOLIDAY CHEER \*

\* MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT \*



Email [lwery@rifda.com](mailto:lwery@rifda.com); [sarthurs@rifda.com](mailto:sarthurs@rifda.com) or Call 401-431-0880



FOOD SAFETY



Late last month there was a meeting of the RIFDA Food safety Committee members and the RI Department of Health state inspection services. RIFDA is happy to have Catherine Feeney the new State Compliance Officer as a participant at this and future meetings. Among the main objective of this committee is to gain a further understanding of food safety policy and procedures in order to make members more proactive in avoiding issues as well as understanding the need for these policies. Additionally there was discussion regarding the most recent discussions of pending federal legislation on food safety and its impact on our members as well as potential modifications of the food recall process and the timing and content of these recalls. More detail on this will be provided as this legislation and its positive impact become a reality – hopefully as one of the first courses of action when congress reconvenes.



RHODE ISLAND INDUSTRY NEWS

RI Employers Face 2011 Job Development Tax Increase

As a result of the state's high unemployment rate – currently around 11.5% (fifth highest in the country) – the state's fund which covers unemployment benefits is insolvent. In order to support this debt as well as continue to provide benefits for the state's 30,000 people currently receiving unemployment benefits there will be a change effective in January to the states job development tax. The amount of this increase can be as much as 2.5 times the current rate. In some instances, this tax will increase from the current \$40 to \$97. The money collected from this increase should provide funds needed in September 2011 to cover the interest payment due to the federal government for the funds the state borrowed in 2010 to cover unemployment payments made.