



Member Focused; Results Driven

**Mark your Calendars**

**2011 September, October, November  
& December Meetings and Annual  
Events**

**September 14, 2011 Board of  
Directors Meeting**

**September 21, 2011 Sen. Reed trip  
to Washington**

**September 28 - 30, 2011 49th  
Annual Yankee Conference on  
Environmental Health**

**October 10, 2011 Office Closed**

**October 12, 2011 Food Safety  
Committee Meeting**

**October 19, 2011 Executive  
Committee Meeting @ 7:30am**

**October 26, 2011 Legislative  
Committee Meeting**

**October 27 WIC Committee  
Meeting @ 9:30**

**November 11, 2011 Office Closed**

**November 16, 2011 Board of  
Directors Meeting**

**November 24 & 25, 2011 Office  
Closed**

**December 3, 2011 Annual Meeting  
& Holiday Gala**

**December 7, 2011 Legislative  
Committee Meeting**

**December 14, 2011 Executive  
Committee Meeting @ 7:30am**

**December 26, 2011 Office Closed**

**Thank you**

**September Retailer of the Month**



**RHODE ISLAND FOOD DEALERS ASSOCIATION  
2011 SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER MEETINGS & ANNUAL EVENTS \*  
RHODE ISLAND LEGISLATIVE UPDATE \* POLITICAL ACTION  
COMMITTEE EVENT RECAP \***

## RI Legislative Updates

### Pension Reform:

For the first time since July 1st the state's part time legislature met outside of the capitol in a Providence hotel on September 6th fulfilling a commitment made earlier to meet out of session to deal with the state pension issue. Although the legislature will reconvene in October to formally deal with this matter they met last week to get a "pension tutorial" from outside experts in order to establish a framework as to what options might be pursued.

One of the most telling facts that came out was from comments made by Kil Huh, a nationally recognized consultant in the field of state pension mentioned that the national average for state contributions to pensions was 3-4%. In RI is double that amount. This fact served to illustrate for most members of the assembly that something needs to be done – if they did not recognize the severity of the issue before the conference. Another enlightening fact that came out was the in one state, Colorado, which passed some legislation earmarking pension reform, anticipates having ten years of litigation costs facing them. Clearly there is no easy answer but the process needs to be started. Senate President Teresa Paiva Weed has gone on record saying that there will be changes in benefits although she added that pension cuts alone were not going to close the budget gap faced for upcoming years. Without changes next year's cost to taxpayers will be nearly twice what is was this past year – to about \$300 Million.

In October the full General Assembly is expected to return for this special session and consider recommendations from the Governor and General Treasurers Gina Raimondo. This should serve as an interesting prelude to the upcoming general session in 2012 as it could establish early the direction of the legislature in securing additional funds and or cutting programs. Stay tuned for more details.

### RIEMA:

As demonstrated during the recent Hurricane Irene crisis the RI Emergency Management Agency proved itself to be one of the more viable state programs. Although many people recognize this as the place where the governor goes to give updates this is really a much more active entity and provides coordination and ultimately solutions to potential or pending disasters. This agency not only proves a physical presence and backdrop for communications – which it does very well – but also has a broad network of contacts which it draws information from and provides information and direction to.

I can also say from experience that their website (<http://www.riema.ri.gov/>) is one of the best in the Northeast in terms of providing information in a clear easy to find manner and on timely basis. It is useful to both consumers and to business in giving clear condition analysis while providing a number of links to other resources.

Although we often criticize – in many cases justifiably – many of the state agencies for their inefficiencies this is one that is well designed and operationally works well when needed.

## PAC Networking Event Recap

A special Thank you to those of you who attended the RIFDA PAC Networking Event and supported us with much needed funds that will enhance our legislative efforts in 2012. If you were unable to attend the event and would like to support the PAC Fund donations can be mailed in or dropped off at any time. Checks should be made payable to RIFDA PAC Fund.

2012 will be a challenging year for the state and for our industry. As a result we need to position ourselves to be as strong and secure as we can.

Thanks also to F/S Capital Consulting, LLC for the use of their office which provided a perfect setting for our event.



**\* National Legislative Update \* 2011-2012 Scholarship Program \*  
Helpful Links \* Save the Date \***

**September National Legislative Update**

**NLRB Decisions and Regulatory Changes to Impact Your Business  
Proposed Changes from National Labor Relations Board**

Both the US Senate and House of Representatives returned from their extended summer break. Congress's number one priority this fall will be considering how to lower the nation's deficit. Along with that both the Senate and House will be focusing on appropriations levels across all federal agencies including how to limit funding for the activist National Labor Relations Board (NLRB).

Recently, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has issued a number of decisions upending the relationship between labor and management.

Recently the Board:

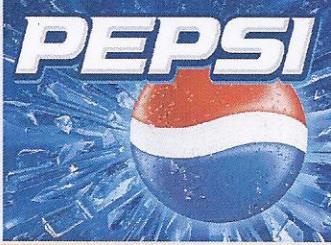
- Proposed changes to effectively shorten union organizing campaigns from an average time of 31-days to between 10 and 14 days, giving labor an advantage,
- Issued a regulation effective November 14 requiring all employers to post a uniform sign notifying employees of their rights under the National Labor Relations Act and informing employees how to report possible unfair labor practices,
- Overturned what constitutes a traditional collective bargaining unit, and now creates "mini-unions" which cherry pick employees who want to organize unions,

If you are concerned about the impact of these proposals please tell your Senators and Representative, and support legislation that will de-fund these activist decisions. Easy to create and send letters are available for this purpose on the National Grocers Association website (<http://capwiz.com/nationalgrocers/home/>). Please send your Senators and Representative a letter opposing these egregious changes

**Other Issues Expected to be Addressed by Congress**

- Ensuring a workable menu labeling system is developed, rather than the burdensome existing proposal;
- Maximizing the benefits of the Durbin amendment debit interchange reforms;
- Working against repeal of LIFO and ensuring that any changes to the LIFO system are thoughtful and not disruptive;
- Working for a more fair and efficient implementation of PPACA (health care law) with a focus on supermarket specific provisions;
- Explaining our role in SNAP and the importance of the stop gap in times of crisis as part of the budget discussions;
- Ensuring fair and efficient implementation of the *Food Safety Modernization Act*;
- Close monitoring and discussions with the Department of Labor on fair and reasonable enforcement of Wage and Hour regulations;
- Publicly explaining food price inflation and our role in trying to keep prices as low as possible for consumers.

**Thank you  
September Supplier 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/>

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday December 3, 2011  
Annual Meeting & Holiday Gala**

**Newport Hyatt Hotel**

**Join Us for:**

**Cocktails**

**Holiday Festivities**

**Great Company**

**Yearly Rotation of the Board**

**Musical Entertainment**

**Great Gift Give Aways**

**Great Raffle Opportunities**

**Invitation & Details will**

**Follow Soon**



**2011-2012 Scholarship Program**

**RIFDA is happy to announce the 2011-2012 scholarship program.**

The program has been established to add economic support and provide a value-added benefit to our members and their employees. The funding for this scholarship is raised annually at our Charitable Golf Tournament and also with the help of Tourtellot & Co. who designed and managed the "Apple a Day Scholarship Program". This year's proceeds for the Charitable Golf Tournament and the RIFDA Apple a Day Scholarship Program will allow us to offer three \$1,000 scholarships.

The scholarship program recognizes and aids deserving students who are related by virtue of their parents, employment or their own full or part time employment in the food industry. All candidates must be recommended by member of the RIFDA. Winners will be honored at the Annual Meeting and Holiday Gala on December 3, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Newport, RI.

\* Candidate must be child of or employee of a Southern New England business directly active in the food industry (minimum of six months employment required)

\* Applicant must be endorsed/recommended by a current RI Food Dealers Association Member

\* Applicant must plan on attending an accredited two or four-year post secondary school in 2012 and has or will receive a high school diploma from accredited institution.

\* Aspirant must demonstrate financial need.

For more information call 401-431-0880