April 2015 ~ Volume 4 ~ Number 2

RHODE ISLAND FOOD DEALERS ASSOCIATION April 2015 - RIFDA Update - RIFDA Trade Day - Meetings and Event Calendar

Member Focused; Results Driven

Mark your Calendars April 2015-August 2015 Meetings and Annual Events

April 2015:
•Tues. April 21st Legislative Comm Meeting
•Thurs. April 23rd: WIC Comm Meeting @ 9:30 (Tent.)
May 2015:
•Wed. May 13th BOD 2nd Quarter Meeting
•Tues. May 19th Legislative Comm Meeting (Bill Tracking – Hearings)
•Mon. May 25th: Office Closed Memorial Day Holiday
June 2015:
•Tues. June 2nd Executive Comm Meeting
•Thurs. June 18th – Sun., June 21st RIFDA Annual Convention @ Red Jacket Beach Hotel, So. Yarmouth, MA
•Tues. June 23rd Legislative Comm Meeting
July 2015:
•Mon. July 6th Office Closed: 4th of July Holiday
•Tues. July 7th Legislative Comm Meeting (Wrap Up)
•Thurs. July 9th @ 9AM WIC/SNAP Comm Meeting (Tent.)
•Tues. July 14th Executive CommMeeting @ 7:30 AM
•Thurs. July 16th @ 9 AM Food Safety CommMeeting (Tent.)
•Wed. July 22nd Northeast Food Assoc. Meeting (Tent.)
August 2015:
•Mon. Aug. 10th Victory Day Holiday – Office Closed
•Tues. Aug. 18th Executive Comm Meeting @ 7:30 AM
•Thurs. Aug. 20th WIC/SNAP Committee Meeting (Tentative)
•Mon. Aug. 31st RIFDA – Cliff Johnson Annual Golf Tournament; Kirkbrae CC

Thank You April Affiliate of the Month

HAYWARD advertising group

RIFDA Update April 17, 2015

With one exception, it appears at this writing that the state government's leadership – the Governor, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President – have lived up to their election campaign commitment and have been focusing on jobs and on improving the business environment in the state.

Although bills have been submitted that could be classified as potentially hurting business – they have not gained the support of leadership in moving forward in the legislative process. Most importantly, from everything we have seen thus far – and been told – including direct conversation with Speaker Mattiello this week, these bills that may on face value may have merit – but in reality negatively impact the business community will not move forward. It has been encouraging this session to see a number of committee members in both the House and Senate during legislative hearings ask the sponsors giving testimony about the potential impact their bill may have on business. This includes question like "will it cost organizations more money in the short run"; "will it add to more rules, regulations and licensing restrictions" – and most importantly "will this legislation cause businesses to consider reducing jobs or potentially consider moving their business out of state". Leadership has, of course, stated this position since last November – but it is truly encouraging when the message has gotten down the rank and file state representatives and senators.

The one exception I noted at the outset of this update is – of course - minimum wage. As most of you are aware, Governor Raimondo made the commitment to raise the minimum wage a significant part of her platform in getting elected and has stood by the "$10.10 commitment". When sending her budget to the General Assembly she carefully orchestrated a press conference to reenergize her position and in affect but pressure on the general assembly to act. Although a number of state industries and individual organizations have stated opposition to this increase – a $2.10 or 26.2% increase in minimum wage over the past two years – this initiative has momentum and has every appearance of passing. In conversation with leadership they feel this is necessary in order to stay competitive with our neighboring states (both Massachusetts and Connecticut already have these increases schedule as a result of legislation passed last year).

With the strong opposition being noted there is a possibility that this increase could be spread over two years (going forward) instead of the potential of a $1.10 increase effective January 1st of the 2016. If you feel strongly about the negative impact this would have on your business please consider writing a letter of opposition to the respective Labor Committee Chairs. In addition to the RIFDA testimony we have had several of our members write letters expressing their views and the impact on their business. Thanks to those who took the time to do this and please remember that this does have an impact and I know for a fact that these are read by the leadership of

A Successful RIFDA 2015 Trade Day

RIFDA hosted their Annual Trade Day on March 19th at the Providence Marriott Hotel. This year's program included an exciting and informative seminar; Sponsored by Stop & Shop entitled "The Art of Connecting People." The seminar was presented by Jessica Levine – from Seven Degrees Communications.

The RIFDA Trade Day was also the setting for the RI state Best Bagger Competition. This exciting event determines the Rhode Island State Best Bagger who is eligible to compete in the National Grocers Association's "National Best Bagger Contest" held annually in Las Vegas. This year's sponsor was Bozzuto's, Inc. The Best Bagger contest is always very competitive among the member participants especially this year with 18 contestants as well as their co-workers who come to cheer them on This year's winner is Kira Crockett from Stop & Shop in South Kingston RI. She will be off to Las Vegas in 2016 to represent RI in the national competition; Good Luck Kira!

The evening featured an industry networking cocktail reception sponsored by C&S Wholesale Grocers, followed by our annual RIFDA Industry Dinner. This year's dinner program featured Jessica Levine, the seminar moderator, Senator Erin Lynch stopped by to give an update and recognize our Association for the work it has done to support these efforts, a video message from Senator Jack Reed providing some insights into what is happening in Washington that can impact our industry and the RI state economy in general. The evening's program concluded with the presentation of the 2015 RI Food Industry Company of the Year award to Calise Bakery for their long history of success, their outstanding contributions to the food industry and to their community. Michael Calise, company President, accepted the award on behalf of the company.

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.

RHODE ISLAND FOOD DEALERS ASSOCIATION
ESTABLISHED 1909
Member Focused; Results Driven

Thank You April
Distributor of the Month

C&S Wholesale Grocers

"If you are a satisfied RIFDA Member Spread the Word Tell Your Industry Friends & Vendors"

As a member the benefit advantages such as our food safety renewal classes, WIC/EBT updates, legislative representation and updates, national industry affiliations and updates, networking events, energy programs and food industry camaraderie as well as a number of other initiatives make RIFDA a great opportunity for new members.

Throughout each year there are exciting events as well as sponsorship and advertising opportunities. It is members like yourselves that make this all happen.

With new memberships RIFDA moves into the future as a stronger and more vibrant representative of the Rhode Island food community.

The Association exists for the benefits of its members, please feel free to contact us at any time.

We would appreciate it very much if each member would pass on the word throughout the food industry that the RI Food Dealers Association is worth joining .

Calise Bakery 2015 RIFDA Honoree of the Year

The RIFDA Food Industry Honoree of the Year Award was established a number of years ago in order to identify and applaud the contributions of an organization from the greater RI food industry, that has distinguished itself by their outstanding performance – particularly through their efforts and contributions to their customers, their associates, and their community and most importantly by contributing positively to the identity of the food industry in the state of RI. Certainly this year's RI Food Dealers Association Company of the Year recipient, Calise Bakery clearly fits all of these qualifications.

We would like to provide some of their history – or more appropriately the success story of this distinguished RI Company.

Calise & Sons Bakery was founded in 1908 by Francesco Calise which in its early days was a small retail bakery on Federal Hill which delivered it products to consumers house to house by horse and buggy.

In 1954 Francesco's four sons Gaetano, Peter, Michael & Joseph succeeded him continuing on with the retail operation on Federal Hill. In 1972 a third generation of Calise's - Michael, Robert & Joseph managed the company. They decided to close the retail bakery format and concentrated on wholesale accounts. In 1979 the bakery moved to Silver Lake section of Providence which offered and opportunity to expand – which they did – experiencing rapid growth throughout the 80's & 90's until the bakery reached full capacity. In 2000 Calise opened its brand new state of the art facility in Lincoln RI. This new bakery contains its first fully automated production line in the history of the business. In the early 2000's the bakery continued to grow and strengthened its relationship with a major distributor who brought the Calise Brand into new geographic markets. In 2007 the management of daily operations transitioned to Michael R Calise - its President and 4th Generation leader of the company. By 2008 – marking the 100th Anniversary of the company – the Calise brand could be found throughout the Northeast from Maine to Virginia. In 2010 -2011 the company made a major addition to its facility and added additional equipment including completing a 2nd fully automated roll line. Since 2012 Calise has had consistent growth - a reflection of its strategic planning, execution and of course customer service.

So there you have a brief overview of the history and success story of Calise Bakery. Calise Bakery has been a longtime member and great supporter of the RI Food Dealers and all of its initiatives. For that we are all very appreciative.

YOU ARE INVITED! JOIN US FOR A SLICE SUMMER!

THURSDAY JUNE 18 - Sunday JUNE 21, 2015

RED JACKET BEACH RESORT SOUTH YARMOUTH, CAPE COD, MA

* Thursday 6/18: Registration & BBQ Dinner at the Ocean Front Pavilion followed by Welcome Bag pick up, desserts & beverages at the RIFDA Hospitality House from 3pm to 11pm

* Friday 6/19: Breakfast, Golf Tournament including lunch, Hospitality House Yard Games or enjoy the numerous resort amenities. Evening events commence with cocktails and then the 2015 Chairman's Dinner in the Wheelhouse Ballroom. The evening will include live musical entertainment; Ed McCarron" Dueling Piano's. Hospitality House 11am - 11pm

* Saturday 6/20: Breakfast, Optional Golf, Hospitality House Yard Games, enjoy the numerous Resort Amenities, or Explore Yarmouth. An Evening Hospitality House "Summer Inspired" Cocktail Reception followed by Dinner at the Ocean Front Pavilion with Golf Awards, and Numerous Prizes to be Won! Hospitality House 11am - 11pm

*Sunday 6/21: Breakfast and check-out by 11:00am

Please Contact us for More Information

The 2015 RIFDA Convention is Fast Approaching...

As in the past the success of our convention has largely been due to the contributions of our sponsors who have gone out of their way to lend financial support to this event. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance.