



Thank you to our April Supplier of the Month -  
Coca Cola of New England



# Thank you to our April Retailer of the Month - Clements' Marketplace

## A Note from Our Executive Committee

Dear RIFDA Member,

The RI Food Dealers Association hopes this message finds you, your family, and employees safe and well.

With COVID still among us, the RIFDA Executive Committee has determined that the 2021 RIFDA Annual Convention scheduled for the Red Jacket Beach Resort must be a "virtual" event again this year. While many of our industry members will be vaccinated by June 4th, others including children may not. After meeting with Red Jacket, the restrictions currently in place would prohibit us from having our event in the format that we typically do. Additionally, many members who attend may not feel comfortable in attending at this time. As a result, we need to move the event to 2022 and hopefully we are all in a safer environment to enjoy this type of event.

As many of you are aware, our association events contribute about 45% of our total revenue. The convention has historically been the biggest contributor among all of our events. To make matters worse, we had to move our Annual Trade Day to September 30th. As a result, our first event of this year will be the 2021 RIFDA Cliff Johnson Charity Golf Tournament which is on August 30th. So, in effect we will not see any income from events for the first 8 months of this year.

Similar to last year, we are hoping that you continue to support your association by donating what you would have typically spent on the convention, and hopefully already have budgeted to the Food Dealers. This will help us significantly in moving forward this year.

We will follow up individually to remind members of what they typically spend on the convention, so that you may consider helping fund this initiative. We look forward to a great convention in 2022 – please stay tuned for more details on that event.

Your generosity and support will be acknowledged, greatly appreciated, and will serve to strengthen the RI Food Dealers Association in 2021 and beyond.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
The RIFDA Executive Committee

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Our thoughts are with the family of Lana Amodei. RIFDA was blessed to have her as a former chairperson of our association.

[Visit Legacy.com](http://VisitLegacy.com)

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# April Legislative Highlights

## National Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- With the unveiling of the president's American Jobs Plan a few weeks ago, infrastructure
- continues to be a key area of focus for many lawmakers on the Hill.
- USDA Provides Additional Clarity into New SNAP Emergency Allotment Guidance
- FASTER Act Passes the House, Heads to President's Desk
- Feedback Requested: Making Hot Foods Permanent in SNAP
- Administration Releases Guidance on Federal Subsidies for COBRA Health Care
- Continuation Coverage

To learn more about National Legislation, [click here](#).

[Click here to learn more about National Legislation.](#)

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## RI Legislative Updates At A Glance:

While the number of bills introduced on a daily basis is decreasing, there have been a number of proposals introduced to incentivize individuals to return to work. The suspension of the need to prove that an unemployment compensation claimant is actively looking for work, plus the additional \$300 a week benefit offering is appearing to cause difficulties for businesses to find employees.

### Make a Note - Bills Filed Recently!

- House Bill No. 6241 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT
- House Bill No. 6248 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
- House Bill No. 6249 AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- EMPLOYMENT SECURITY -- GENERAL PROVISIONS
- House Bill No. 6250 AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- EMPLOYMENT SECURITY -- BENEFITS
- House Bill No. 6253 AN ACT RELATING TO MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES - PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES
- House Bill No. 6254 AN ACT RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- STANDARDS OF CONDUCT FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC

To learn more, [click here](#).

[Click here to learn more about Rhode Island Legislation.](#)

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**Analyze your decision-making process, not the outcomes**

Great leaders and great performers of any kind know that one great success isn't enough. You must learn enough from it that you can replicate your success and find new ways to succeed. Learn how to analyze your decision-making process [here](#).

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## Get ready for higher grocery bills for the rest of the year

Shoppers had better start budgeting more for their groceries, according to the latest consumer price index, which shows prices are increasing — and they're likely to keep going up. The monthly consumer price index, released Tuesday morning by the Bureau of Labor

Statistics, showed a 0.6 percent increase in March, the largest one-month increase in nearly a decade. Over the past year, prices have increased by 2.6 percent overall. [Read more here](#).

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## Audit finds gaps in health agency's food safety role

A report on how the department of health in an Australian state handles food safety has found several shortcomings.

Findings from the Western Australian Auditor General included overdue inspections and lack of timely follow up, poor recordkeeping, inefficient reporting practices, and a lack of up-to-date guidance material at the health agency. These weaknesses reduced the department's ability to effectively regulate consumer food safety and ensure the support it provides is relevant and useful, according to the auditor general. Check out [Food Safety News](#) to learn more about this report.

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## COVID-19 Information Hub: Everything your business needs to know.

### COVID-19 Onsite Business Testing Program

The BinaxNOW COVID-19 test is a nasal swab that can detect COVID-19 during the acute phase of infection. Because of this, the test is most useful in identifying infectious individuals.

The BinaxNOW testing kit contains a test card, extraction reagent, test and control nasal swabs, and an instruction card. It contains all necessary items to collect and process a sample. After 15 minutes, a result will appear on the test card. For a list of frequently asked questions, [click here](#).

If you have any questions or need more information please contact the RIFDA Office.

## COVID Relief Bills Offer Dependent Care FSA Flexibility

Two recent pieces of pandemic relief legislation intended to provide employees with financial relief from the effects of COVID-19 offer employers additional flexibility to make changes to dependent care FSAs. Employers should decide whether and to what extent they wish to amend their plans to incorporate these changes and communicate the new options to employees quickly to allow employees to realize the greatest benefit. To learn more, [click here](#).



## Food Research & Action Center Applauds USDA for Increasing Emergency SNAP Benefits, Providing Millions with Additional Relief During COVID-19

The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) is pleased that the Biden administration has heeded their recommendation to expand Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Emergency Allotments during COVID-19. To learn more about this successful initiative, [click here](#).



Welcome to our new member, Demoulas Market Basket

## Mark Your Calendar

### Discovering Your Business Model - Capture More Value for Your Business

With multiple dates available, there is no need to miss this great and informative event. [Register here today!](#)

## Assertiveness - the Art of Tactful Communication

Assertiveness impacts more than our communication styles. By increasing your ability to effectively assert your needs you'll gain confidence, the respect of others and become more decisive – even in challenging situations. You'll build skills to help express your

feelings and make requests in an appropriately assertive manner. [Sign up today!](#)

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## Coming Soon - Meetings & Annual Events

### May 2021:

- Wed. May 12th Legislative Committee Meeting (Bill Tracking – Hearings)
- Wed. May 19th : BOD 2nd Quarter Meeting (@ TBD)
- Mon. May 31st: Office Closed Memorial Day Holiday

### June 2021:

- CANCELLED: Thurs. June 3rd – Sun., June 6th RIFDA Annual Convention; @ Red Jacket Beach Resort
- Thurs. June 10th @ 7:30 AM: Executive Committee Meeting
- Wed. June 23rd Legislative Committee Meeting

### July 2021:

- Mon. July 5th Office Closed: Observance of 4th of July Holiday
- Thurs. July 15th Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
- Wed. July 21st Legislative Committee Meeting (\*Legislative Wrap Up\*)

### August 2021:

- Thurs. Aug. 5th Potential WIC/SNAP Meeting
  - Mon. Aug. 9th Victory Day Holiday – Office Closed
  - Wed. Aug. 11th TENTATIVE: Legislative Committee Meeting
  - Thurs. Aug. 26th Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
  - Mon. Aug. 30th RIFDA – Cliff Johnson Annual Charity Golf Tournament @ Kirkbrae CC
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**SAVE THE DATE:**  
Don't Miss  
The RIFDA Cliff Johnson  
Annual Charity Golf  
Tournament August 30th  
2021!



## If you are a Satisfied 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.

[Learn More](#)