



**There is still time to register for the 2021  
Cliff Johnson RIFDA Annual Golf  
Tournament!**

**Please consider donating door prizes for this event,  
we appreciate your support.**

**Monday, August 30, 2021**

**Kirkbrae Country Club**

Registration will open at 10:30 AM

Lunch available at 11 AM on the patio

Shotgun start at noon • Reception & Dinner to follow

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER  
TODAY!



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## August Legislative Highlights

### RI Legislative Updates At A Glance:

At the adjournment of this year's legislative session RI Public's Radio political reporter Ian Donnis discussed some of the top topics from the legislative session with Dave Fallon. This interview provides a summary of the session, makes some interesting key observations of the inner workings of this session, and provides a good outline of many of the remaining issues that are still outstanding. To read the full interview, [click here](#).

Click here to learn more about Rhode Island  
Legislation.

### National Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- **Senate Passes Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill:** The Senate has passed a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill by a 69-30 vote. 19 Republicans joined all 50 Democratic Senators in support of the legislation, which now heads to the House.
- **Senate Begins Process for \$3.5T Reconciliation Bill:** Following the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure bill, Senators were quick to introduce Sen. Bernie Sanders' (D-VT) \$3.5 trillion budget resolution.
- **NLRB General Counsel Outlines Pro-Worker Agenda:** Jennifer Abruzzo, General Counsel to the National Labor Relation Board (NLRB), issued a [memo](#) outlining the key areas she hopes to steer the NLRB and its regional offices towards addressing.
- **Food Labeling Modernization Act Introduced:** The [Food Labeling Modernization Act](#) (FLMA) was introduced in both Houses of Congress and calls for a number of labeling changes

Click here to learn more about National  
Legislation.

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Thank you to our August Supplier of the Month -  
Dave's Marketplace



Thank you to our August Retailer of the Month -  
Polar Beverages

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## Leadership Guidance

### What 10 skills do resilient companies possess?

Lasting companies are able to navigate changing markets by performing well in 10 tangible and intangible ways, such as using analytics, having empathy, mastering and operating at scale across geographies, says venture capitalist Robert Siegel. "It's not only the competencies of digital and physical but understanding broadly how systems and groups interact with each other, and the consequences of these interactions," Siegel says.

Full Story: [Here](#).

### Leaders must adapt to changing relationship with staff

The pandemic has put employees in many industries in a position of power they haven't held for a long time, and leaders must be prepared to adapt to that relationship shift to attract and retain qualified staff. Employees who have had a taste of remote working have myriad reasons for wanting to maintain a remote or hybrid employment arrangement -- some work-related, some purely personal. Managers should be flexible about working arrangements, instill a sense of purpose in their teams and proactively engage employees about what they want to see in the workplace.

Full Story: Fast Company

### 3 things to do before pursuing new-business growth

Companies that invest in areas complementary to their core business should ask whether the new businesses should be integrated and who should lead such a unit, according to this McKinsey analysis. When seeking such growth opportunities, employ data analytics to

"use sophisticated network analysis to parse and find connections among hundreds of unstructured text data sources, such as company descriptions, patent filings, academic papers, and web pages," the authors write.

Full Story: McKinsey

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## Industry News

### USDA Thrifty Food Plan has been updated

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today released an evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan, used to calculate Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. As a result, the average SNAP benefit – excluding additional funds provided as part of pandemic relief – will increase for Fiscal Year 2022 beginning on October 1, 2021.

Full Story: [Here](#).

### Survey: Most shoppers prefer indoor mask requirements

Shoppers trying to navigate the latest COVID-19 surge are more likely to wear masks indoors, and 64% said they believe grocers should mandate face coverings, a survey from New Hope research reveals. Fifty percent of those who responded said they "will definitely" wear masks indoors, up from 39% in July, while the percentage of those who said they were unlikely to wear masks inside public spaces dropped from 12% in July to 6% in August.

Full Story: Supermarket News

### Childhood Hunger Will Last Beyond Next Year; Biden Administration, Congress Must Extend Free Meals Program

In this op-ed, Maryland Hunger Solutions Director Michael J. Wilson and Executive Director of the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics Loretta I. Hoepfner urge Congress and the Biden administration to support Healthy School Meals for All by implementing legislation that would permanently provide free school meals to all children. While USDA waivers have been allowing all children access to school meals at no charge, those waivers are going to expire after school year 2021–2022. The School Nutrition Programs are valuable but have been unable to reach all students. The Food Research & Action Center [notes](#) that too many children who depend on free school meals are left out



due to the programs' structure. California and Maine recently became the first states to pass legislation for Healthy School Meals for All, but the authors argue that we need a national policy instead of incremental state-by-state initiatives.

Full Story: [Baltimore Sun](#)

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## Save the Date: Trade Day!

Join us Thursday, September 30, 2021 at  
the Kirkbrae Country Club

The event will include:

- Best Bagging Contest Recap & Awards
- Meet the RI Food Entrepreneurs co hosted by Hope & Main
- Keynote Speaker Elizabeth Tanner, Director of RI Department of Business Regulation
- RIFDA Hall of Fame Recognition Awards

[Click Here to Register Today!](#)

[Click Here for Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

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## Mark Your Calendar

### The Power of Food Forum

The Power of Food Forum is going virtual! The event will be held September 20-22, 2021 (same dates as was previously scheduled for the in-person meeting). [Register](#) today to join the online conversations and opportunities to learn how to cultivate equitable policy through collective action.

HFPP team members will be facilitating the Deep Dive session, "What works to increase access to healthy food."

This session will dig into the research, strategies and policies for increasing healthy food access, including what we know about the barriers to healthy food access, the effectiveness of strategies, and the unintended consequences of policies. Attendees will participate in a brainstorming discussion on new policy approaches.

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## Coming Soon - Meetings & Annual Events

### September 2021:

- Mon. Sept.6th Office Closed; Labor Day Holiday

- Thurs. – Fri. Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Planned Distribution of 2020-2021 Scholarship Material to Membership
- *Wed. Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> - 2021 Sen. Reed RI Business Leaders Day in DC (Postponed)*
- Wed. Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> Board of Directors 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting
- Thurs. Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>; RIFDA Trade Day (Best Bagger, Food Demos, Networking Reception, Industry Dinner) @ Kirkbrae Country Club, Lincoln RI

## October 2021:

- Mon. Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> Office Closed; Columbus Day
- Thurs. Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
- Saturday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> RIFDA Annual Meeting @ Newport Marriott

## November 2021:

- Thurs. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>: Office Closed; Veteran' Day Holiday Observance
- Wed. Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting (at TBD)
- Thurs. Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> & Fri. Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>: Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday



## 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](#)

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