



September Legislative Highlights

RI Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- **American Rescue Plan:** With September now upon us attention is turning to how Rhode Island should spend the state's \$1.1 billion allocation from the American Rescue Plan Act.
- **Special Session Or Not?:** Speaking of the General Assembly — **Speaker Shekarchi** is taking his time deciding whether to bring reps back to Smith Hill for a special session before the end of the year to tackle marijuana, LEOBOR or American Rescue Plan spending.
- **New Pay Equity Law:** The R.I. Department of Labor and Training is beginning to figure out how it will implement Rhode Island's newly enacted pay equity law, which Bristol Democrat **Susan Donovan** successfully got through the House this year after a long effort.

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

National Legislative Updates At A Glance:

- **Agencies Delay Several Transparency Requirements for Group Health Plans:** The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury have issued [guidance in the form of Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) addressing several transparency-related requirements for group health plans and health insurers under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 (CAA) and the transparency in coverage regulations.
- **Consumer Sentiments on Back to School/Back to Office Amid COVID-19:** The latest [U.S. Grocery Shopper Trends Tracker](#) research, which looks at consumers' plans for the fall season of back to school, back to office and the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on grocery shopping habits.
- **Vaccine Mandates:** As a result of Pfizer's full approval, President Biden pressed businesses to implement vaccine mandates: "I'm calling on more companies in the private sector to step up with vaccine requirements that will help reach millions more people."

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

An Important Notice Regarding 2021 RIFDA Events:

Thanks to all of the members who were kind enough to review the Trade Day letter that was sent out earlier this month. The letter was intended to outline accommodations to the current COVID situation and make the necessary adjustments to the format in order to make it safer to participate. Based on the communication and discussion with many of you, it became clear that there was still concern and apprehension with regard to congregating for Trade Day even with the proposed changes. So, as an association, it seems it is in everyone's best interest to cancel the 2021 Trade Day.

As a result our next scheduled event will be the 2022 Trade Day which is scheduled for Thursday, April 21st of next year. Hopefully, we will see a safer environment and a reduction in COVID related obstacles.

As I mentioned in that correspondence, over the past two year's the Association has only been able to hold two of its eight scheduled events. This not only prevents us from interacting with each other, but it also has a financial impact on the association as these are budgeted fundraisers. If you can consider donating to these events and contributing part of what you may have budgeted it would help offset some of the costs that we have already experienced from the cancellation of these events.

Thanks for your consideration.

Stay Safe



**Next Association
Event – Please Save
the date**

**2022 Trade Day
April 21, 2022
Kirkbrae Country Club**

Imperial
The Performance Leader

**Thank you to our September Supplier of the
Month - Imperial Distributors**



**Thank you to our September Retailer of the
Month - Shore's Market**

Leadership Guidance

8 tactics for successful productivity

Multitasking is not as effective as organizing yourself to perform one task well and then move to the next one, writes Naphtali Hoff, who offers eight tips. Pomodoro-style time blocks, deliberately tight deadlines and working according to your energy levels are just three of the tactics Hoff espouses.

Read the Full Story [Here](#).

6 Ways to Reach Your Most Important Customer

When thinking about digital messaging, many retailers make the mistake of only focusing on their external customers—those coming into their stores. But digital technology can be

an invaluable tool to reach retailers' other important stakeholders—their employees.

Read the Full Story [Here](#).

3 ways better decision-making can quell conflict

Conflict arises when it's unclear who can make decisions or if choices related to that decision aren't in alignment with goals, writes Marlene Chism. "Better decision-making means better choices, and better choices means better conflict management, and better conflict management means higher productivity and less stress," she writes.

Full the Full Story [Here](#).



Industry News

Simple actions can keep food safe and foodborne illnesses at bay

Food Safety Education Month Whether you tried your hand at baking bread, followed a new recipe on Tik Tok, or even thought up some creative dishes "Iron Chef" style, the past 18 months have turned many more of us into home cooks. For Food Safety Education Month (FSEM) in September, we're sharing advice on another.

Read the Full Story [Here](#).

Consumers take a bigger picture view of sustainability

Fifty-one percent of consumers surveyed by The Hartman Group cited the environment as their main reason for buying sustainable and socially responsible goods, the first time such reasons scored higher than more personal reasons, CEO Laurie Demeritt writes. "In a marked change, consumers' sense that individuals bear the most responsibility for sustainability has receded as more have recognized the need for collective action," Demeritt writes.

Read the Full Story [Here](#).

Kellogg's strategy for overcoming labor shortages

Kellogg is restructuring its supply chain to mitigate disruption caused by the driver and factory worker shortage, said Chris Hood, the company's North America president, during the most recent CPG Speaks webinar hosted by the Consumer Brands Association. Kellogg also hopes to sharpen its hiring edge as pandemic-related unemployment benefits end by improving the workplace experience and boosting benefits, added Hood.

Read the Full Story [Here](#).

What Grocers Need to Know About Ransomware: Webinar Key Takeaways

It's been all over the news lately: Hackers are targeting retailers with ransomware, paralyzing businesses until their payment demands are met. What exactly is ransomware? How does it work? What should your response be if you're targeted, and how can you prevent ransomware attacks and secure your business? NGA hosted a recent webinar to explore these issues. The discussion was led by Ken Andrews, president of Millennium Digital Technologies, and John Ross, CEO of the Independent Grocers Alliance (IGA). Andrews and Ross will be leading a session about ransomware at the 2021 NGA Show, Sept. 19-21 in Las Vegas.

Read the Full Story [Here](#).

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

Federal Mandate of Vaccines

President Biden released a new "six-pronged" strategy to combat the ongoing COVID-19 health crisis, which heavily emphasizes the importance of getting Americans vaccinated. One component of the plan will direct the Department of Labor's OSHA to issue an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) that would mandate employers with 100 or more employees to require their workforce to be fully vaccinated or provide a weekly negative COVID test before going to work. At the moment, the plan has created more questions than answers in terms of implementation and other details, and we encourage you to send us your questions. We will be in contact with the administration to try to provide more clarity. However, we do not expect to have the full details of an ETS until it is released.

Coming Soon - Meetings & Annual Events

October 2021:

- Mon. Oct. 11th Office Closed; Columbus Day
- Thurs. Oct. 14th Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
- **Saturday, Oct. 30th RIFDA Annual Meeting @ Newport Marriott (*Cancelled Due to COVID*)**

November 2021:

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

December 2021:

- Wed. Dec. 1st: Legislative Committee @ 8 AM
 - Thurs. Dec. 9th: Executive Committee Meeting @ 7:30 AM
 - Fri. Dec. 24th: Office Closed in Observance of the Christmas Holiday
 - Fri. Dec. 31st Office Closed in Observance of New Year's Day
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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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