

STL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Issue 001

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Serving Up the Latest News for STL's Food Scene

The restaurant world is always on the move, and so are we. From new trends to crucial legislation, this edition of our newsletter has everything you need to stay ahead of the game. As always, we're here to support you in making St. Louis the place to be for food lovers. Whether you're navigating industry challenges or looking for new ways to innovate, we've got the resources and insights to help you succeed.

Review from the Gala

Back in January we hosted our Dual-Inaugural Gala with the Missouri Restaurant Association at Rose of the Hill in St. Louis. Here we inaugurated our new president Van DeGregorio, and vice president Gio Favazza. We also celebrated our Restaurateur of the Year, and Company of the Year Recipients. In Partnership with STL TV, you can watch a recording of the Gala below!



RFP Request: STL Court Building

St. Louis County is seeking proposals from qualified food concession service operators for the furnishing of equipment, supplies, and staffing necessary to provide prepackaged food and beverages in space adjacent to the street level lobby of the St. Louis County Courts Building in Clayton, MO.

[MORE INFO](#)



STL Board Meeting - March 26

Join us for an important board meeting at Chris' Pancake House, one of St. Louis' iconic eateries! This gathering will take place from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM, offering an opportunity to discuss key initiatives, upcoming events, and the latest developments impacting our restaurant community. It's a chance to connect with fellow industry leaders, share ideas, and collaborate on strategies to continue strengthening the St. Louis dining scene. We look forward to seeing you there!

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STL MAYORAL ELECTION

As the April 8, 2025, St. Louis mayoral election approaches, the race is heating up with both familiar faces and new contenders. Incumbent Mayor Tishaura Jones is seeking re-election for a second term, facing challenges from Alderwoman Cara Spencer, Recorder of Deeds Michael Butler, and utility executive Andrew Jones.

Cara Spencer, who has represented Ward 8 since 2015, previously ran for mayor in 2021, narrowly losing to Mayor Jones. Her tenure as Alderwoman is marked by significant legislative achievements, including stricter campaign finance laws, enhanced air pollution standards, and protections for victims of drug overdoses. Notably, she co-developed the "mow-to-own" program, allowing residents to acquire adjacent city-owned lots by maintaining them.

Recent polling indicates a competitive race, with Spencer and Jones leading the field. A Remington Research survey conducted on February 26–27, 2025, shows Spencer at 51% and Jones at 34%, with Butler and Andrew Jones trailing behind.

As an association we endorse and support Cara Spencer, as she has long supported our collective in St. Louis.



GOALS FROM STL PRESIDENT

As President of the St. Louis Restaurant Association, my top priority is driving the growth of our chapter by increasing membership and engagement among restaurateurs and hospitality groups. We aim to attract more industry professionals to our meetings, create valuable networking opportunities, and make our events vibrant and appealing. Ultimately, this growth will generate more revenue for the organization and scholarship fund, allowing us to invest in the future of our industry.

Additionally, we are committed to strengthening relationships with state and local leaders to ensure our chapter has a voice in legislative discussions impacting restaurants. Hosting more events that support Missouri ProStart will not only benefit the next generation of culinary professionals but also give our leadership more opportunities to connect with members. Encouraging restaurateurs to take an active role in leadership and chapter activities is key to fostering a strong, united industry presence in St. Louis. Through these efforts, we will continue to elevate our association, advocate for our members, and create a thriving hospitality community.



Van DeGregorio

2025 GSTLRA President