

22 NOVEMBER 2023 | @MISSOURI RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION | (816) 753-5222



Welcome to the MMRA!

It is with immense pleasure that we extend a warm welcome to each of you in the latest edition of the Mid-Missouri Restaurant Association (MMRA) newsletter. At MMRA, we take pride in being your steadfast advocate in the dynamic and ever-evolving restaurant industry.

As an association committed to the success of restaurant owners, our mission is to empower you with resources and benefits that make a tangible impact on your business. Through our partnership with the Missouri Restaurant Association (MRA), MMRA members gain exclusive access to a myriad of benefits, ranging from streamlined payroll solutions and expert hiring assistance to access to exclusive events in the MRA network.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our valued members and allies for your unwavering support. Your commitment fuels our efforts to create a thriving restaurant community in the Mid-Missouri area. Together, we can navigate challenges, celebrate successes, and foster a collaborative environment that propels our industry forward.

We encourage you to actively engage with MMRA, stay informed, participate in community events, and make the most of the valuable connections within our network. Your involvement is not only welcomed but essential in shaping the future of our local restaurant landscape.

For those interested in exploring sponsorship opportunities, we invite you to connect with our President, Richard Walls.

Thank you once again for being an integral part of MMRA. Let's continue to work together, learn together, and celebrate the vibrant tapestry of Columbia's culinary scene.



Member Spotlight

Richard Walls

President of Mid-Missouri Chapter

Dive into the rich tapestry of Richard Walls' life, woven with the threads of culinary passion and MRA devotion. Raised in the heart of a restaurant family led by his father, Dick Walls, a distinguished local and State President, Richard's journey began in 1977 at The Heidelberg, where he immersed himself in every aspect of the culinary world. From dishwasher to manager, Richard's culinary prowess flourished, gracing iconic establishments like Boone Tavern, Millstone Lodge, and the Forum Smokehouse.

An MRA luminary, Richard has donned leadership roles as a local chapter President, Treasurer, and State President. His influence extends beyond the kitchen, guiding Columbia's hospitality scene as the Chair of the Convention and Visitors Bureau Advisory Board. A proud 1987 graduate of Mizzou Hospitality with a degree in Business Marketing, Richard imparts his wisdom as a chapter advisor for Delta Tau Delta Fraternity at Mizzou.

A true Columbian at heart, Richard's love for his community, dedication to the restaurant business, and unwavering commitment to the MRA shine brightly in his remarkable journey.

Restaurant Spotlight

Embark on a gastronomic journey through time with The Heidelberg, a haven where tradition and excellence intertwine seamlessly. Since 1963, both seasoned townies and fresh faces have found solace in the embrace of The Berg, a testament to the enduring allure of good food, impeccable service, and delightful camaraderie.

At the heart of our success lies an unwavering commitment to consistency and hard work, reflected in signature dishes like our beloved Fried Pork Loin, German Potato Salad, and the ever-popular Reuben sandwich. As we express gratitude to Columbia, Missouri, for decades of unwavering support, we invite you to join us in celebrating the timeless charm of The Heidelberg.

[Click Here to Visit their Website](#)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFO ON OUR NEXT EVENT

Upcoming Events

At the MMRA we have a showcase of events going on! We are excited to announce the following events:

Thanksgiving Day
November 23

Chapter Meeting - The Heidelberg
December 5th @ 3pm - 5pm
[Click here to Register](#)

Mid-Missouri Awards Celebration -
January 14th @6pm-8pm
[Click here to Register](#)

To register for an event visit our website!



MMRA Board of Directors Winter Meeting - 2023

ROY & COY Awards

We are thrilled to announce the recipients of this year's prestigious awards within the Mid-Missouri Restaurant Association (MMRA). The title of "Restaurateur of the Year" is bestowed upon an individual who have demonstrated unwavering commitment, exceptional leadership, and an outstanding contribution to MMRA's vibrant community.

Equally noteworthy is the recognition of the "Company of the Year." This accolade is reserved for a business entity that has gone above and beyond in supporting MMRA's mission and fostering a collaborative spirit within the local restaurant industry. The winning company has showcased excellence in service, innovation, and a dedication to the well-being of our dynamic culinary community.

These awards serve as a testament to the remarkable individuals and entities that make MMRA a thriving hub of talent, passion, and collaboration.

Restaurateurs of the Year:
Tellers Gallery & Bar

Company of the Year
Spot-On



Visit Us At Our Next Meeting!

The Heidelberg December 5th @ 3pm

[Click here to Register](#)



ProStart is a national career-building two-year program for high school students who are interested in culinary arts and food service management. Whether students are looking to enter the job market directly after graduating, or if they plan to attend college, a ProStart graduate makes a trustworthy candidate for success.

ProStart develops the best and brightest talent into tomorrow's industry leaders. ProStart's industry-driven curriculum proves real-world educational opportunities and builds practical skills and a foundation that will last a lifetime. ProStart students receive classroom training, mentored work experience, marketable job skills, and access to college scholarships.

By bringing industry and the classroom together, ProStart gives students a platform to discover new interests and talents and opens doors for fulfilling careers. It all happens through a curriculum that teaches all facets of the restaurant and foodservice industry, inspires students to succeed and sets a high standard of excellence for students and the industry.

For more information on ProStart, contact John LaRocca and Leone Herring, Missouri ProStart Coordinators - prostart@morerestaurants.org.

MRA's New Hires



Buddy Lahl
CEO

buddyl@morerestaurants.org



Pete Babinski
CFO

peteb@morerestaurants.org



Trey Meyers
Director of
Marketing &
Communications
trey@morerestaurants.org

