



30 APRIL 2024 | @MISSOURI RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION | (816) 753-5222



A Letter from MRA CEO

As the newly appointed CEO of the Missouri Restaurant Association (MRA), I bring with me a wealth of experience spanning over two decades in the restaurant and hospitality industry. From humble beginnings in a family-owned restaurant in Illinois to overseeing multiple restaurant operations nationwide, I understand the challenges and opportunities inherent in our dynamic industry. I am honored to lead an organization that represents over 12,000 restaurants across the state and employs 10% of Missouri's workforce.

At the MRA, our mission is clear: to serve the needs of the foodservice and hospitality industry, enhance its growth and development, and improve the economic and social environments in which we conduct business. We achieve this through advocacy, education, networking, and setting industry standards. From engaging with policymakers at the local, state, and federal levels to supporting education initiatives such as Missouri's ProStart program, we are committed to advancing the interests of our members and the industry as a whole.

Networking is at the heart of what we do, we provide valuable resources and support to help restaurants navigate evolving industry standards and challenges, from safety guidelines during the pandemic to incorporating food allergens and sustainability practices. Additionally, we continue to increase our membership benefit programs that can save operators on routine expenses. By signing up for our Buyers Edge program restaurants can receive quarterly manufacture rebates on items they are already purchasing. Discounts are available for [BMI](#) and [United Health Care](#), and our newly added [LifeMart](#) program. Our [allied members](#) are dedicated to serving the restaurant community. Members receive 1 free admittance to the [NRA Food Show](#) in Chicago, and we just added a new member sign on benefit of one free [ServSafe](#) class. One of my favorite benefits is the [Labor Law hotline](#). If you need it and we hope you never do, one call can more than pay for your membership and quite possibly save your business in the process.

I am often asked why I should join the MRA. I believe our mission statement says it all. "The Missouri Restaurant Association is dedicated to serving the needs of the foodservice and hospitality industry, enhancing and improving its growth and development, assisting and education members in operating more effectively, improving the political, economic and social environments in which the industry conducts business, for the benefit of its members, patrons, employees, and the well-being of the community." There is no other organization in Missouri dedicated your existence. The question you should be asking is how do I sign my restaurant up to be a member of the MRA. If you are already a member, get involved at the chapter or state level of the MRA. Your experiences and opinions are relevant to our continued growth and success.

I am proud and humbled to be serving as the MRA CEO and look forward to meeting each of you.

Buddy Lahl
Missouri Restaurant Association CEO

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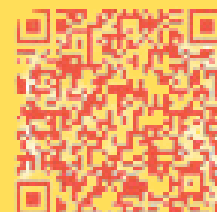
An exciting new benefit for you from the Missouri Restaurant Association!
Exclusive savings on major purchases and everyday essentials from brands you know and love, all in one convenient location.

- Travel
- Entertainment
- Electronics
- Food & Grocery
- Home
- Water Parks & Theme Parks
- Child & Senior Care
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Office Relocation: 1417 W 47th St. Kansas City MO, 64112 | www.morerestaurants.org

Upcoming Events

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

MRA Board Meeting
May 5th @ 10am - 5:30pm
Les Bourgeois Vineyard (Rocheport, MO)
[Click Here to Register](#)

GKCRA Board Meeting
May 14th @ 2:30pm - 4pm
J. Rieger & Co. (Kansas City, MO)
[Click Here to Register](#)

GKCRA Industry Appreciation Night
May 14th @ 4pm - 8pm
J. Rieger & Co. (Kansas City, MO)
[Click Here to Register](#)

St. Louis Golf Tournament
May 21st @ 10am
Tapawingo Golf Course (Sunset Hills, MO)
[Click Here to Register](#)

To register for an event visit our website!

MRA Spring Board Meeting

Sunday, May 5, 2024
10 am - 5:30pm

Les Bourgeois Vineyard (Rocheport, MO)

[Click Here to Register](#)



Herndon Career Center Places 2nd in National ProStart Competition!

We are thrilled to announce that Herndon Career Center has achieved remarkable success at the national ProStart Competition in culinary, held in Baltimore, Maryland. Our ProStart students demonstrated extraordinary talent, dedication, and skill, securing an impressive 2nd place finish in this prestigious competition. This accomplishment is a testament to the hard work, passion, and commitment of our students, instructors, and the entire Herndon community.

As we celebrate this achievement, we are immensely proud of our ProStart students for their outstanding performance and representation of Missouri on the national stage. Their perseverance, creativity, and culinary expertise have truly shone through, showcasing the exceptional talent and potential that exists within our state's culinary community.

In the words of Michelle Korsmo, CEO of the National Restaurant Association, "Being in this room is more than an award, you have proven that no matter what is in front of you, you have earned the ability to say, 'I've got this!'" This sentiment resonates deeply with our ProStart students, who have demonstrated resilience, determination, and a can-do attitude throughout their journey to the national competition.

As we reflect on this remarkable achievement, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to our ProStart students, instructors, and supporters for their dedication and excellence. Their success serves as an inspiration to us all and reinforces our commitment to nurturing and empowering the next generation of culinary leaders. We look forward to continuing to support and celebrate the incredible talent and achievements of our students as they pursue their culinary dreams and aspirations.

St. Louis Golf Tournament

Join us for the ultimate golfing experience at the St. Louis Golf Tournament! Your ticket includes 18 holes of golf on a pristine course, a delicious continental breakfast to fuel your game, a satisfying lunch to keep you energized, and a mouthwatering BBQ dinner to celebrate your accomplishments. Plus, enjoy exciting contest holes, tasting holes, and the chance to win fantastic prizes throughout the day.

Registration: 9am
Shotgun Start: 10am



Location: Tapawingo Golf Course
Date: May 21st, 2024

Join us for the St. Louis Restaurant Association Golf Tournament at Tapawingo Golf Course

Shotgun Start: 10am

Proceeds Support GSR/RA's Educational Fund

Golf will include:

- 18-hole shotgun tournament
- Continental breakfast, Box Lunch, BBQ Dinner
- Contact Hole - Longest Drive, Closed to Play
- All New Online Live Auction
- Drawn Golf Memorabilia

Price:

- \$1,000 Foursome
- \$250 Individual Golfer
- \$200 Hole Sponsor

Registration: 9:00 am
Breakfast: Provided after registration
Lunch: Provided at the Turn
Dinner: Provided after tournament completion

Tasting Holes!

Sponsors: POWERS, SYSCO, DCRS, ROYAL, OZARCGAS, US, LAKENAN, FORV/S, Heartland

CONTACT US | 866-1763-4222 | 1417 W 47th, Kansas City MO 64112

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MRA's New Members



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Great Plains Analytical Laboatory



Complete Construction Service



Torch Electronics
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Fabulous Fish Company



Cafe Reflections LLC

Davis Fresh-Mex / Pancheros
Mexican Grill



Pebble Bay Club Grill



**MRA Delegation Returns from
National Public Affairs
Conference in DC**



Members of the Missouri Restaurant Association (MRA) have returned from the national Public Affairs Conference in Washington, D.C., where they engaged in vital advocacy efforts on behalf of our restaurants. Throughout the conference, our members met with senators and representatives to address pressing issues facing our industry, including the Credit Card Competition Act, Tip Credit, and Preemptive Scheduling. These discussions were integral to advancing policies that support the growth and success of restaurants across the nation.

At the MRA, advocacy is at the heart of what we do. Our members are committed to advocating at both the federal level and in local cities throughout Missouri on crucial legislative matters. From challenging bills like the Kansas City Liquor Cards to addressing St. Louis's BB104, we are dedicated to ensuring that the voices of restaurant owners and operators are heard and represented in policymaking decisions. Through our advocacy efforts, we strive to create a more supportive and conducive environment for restaurants to thrive and prosper.

Your 2024 Decals are Coming!



Exciting news! The MRA 2024 Decals are on their way to your mailbox. Once you receive them, proudly display them on the door or window of your establishment to showcase your membership in the vibrant and supportive restaurant community of Missouri. Let's celebrate and promote the incredible spirit of our industry together!

Don't Forget to Cash In Your FREE NRA Food Show Ticket

Don't miss out on the opportunity to cash in on your free ticket to the NRA Food Show in Chicago as part of your MRA membership. Simply click the banner ad below to register for this exciting event and take advantage of this exclusive benefit.



@MRA

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