IFRA is pleased to announce that the Illinois Retail Merchants Association (IRMA) has joined as the newest co-host of the Illinois Food Industry Trade Show.

IRMA will partner with IFRA, the Grocery Merchandising Association and Food Industry News to co-host the second annual event, which takes place Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at the Drury Lane Conference Center, Oakbrook Terrace, IL.

The addition of IRMA opens the venue to an array of potential new buyers from corporate and independent operators of grocery stores, convenience stores and restaurant operators.

“IfRA and IRMA have partnered together on a number of association programs with great success and we look forward to co-hosting this all-industry trade show for the first time,” said IRMA President Rob Karr. “IRMA’s support and strong membership base of both corporate and independent retailers will further enhance the longstanding tradition of the IFRA Conference/Trade Show, which has evolved over the years to meet the needs of the ever-changing food industry.”

The new trade show format brings together all segments of the industry to taste and learn about a wide array of innovative new food products and services to make their businesses more profitable.

“This is an ideal opportunity for attendees to experience exciting food and beverage trends, technology, services and equipment in a more intimate setting than a big national show,” said IFRA President Brian Jordan.

“Both food retailers and restaurant operators can benefit from this show,” added Food Industry News Vice President, Cary Miller. “Two major segments of the food service industry come together to learn about new cutting-edge technologies and products in a show with a manageable size and limited show hours to help business owners and managers avoid losing the whole day.”


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**Illinois Secure Choice**

Illinois Secure Choice is a new retirement savings program for Illinois workers who do not have access to an employer-sponsored plan. Officially launched in November 2018, Secure Choice is now open to Illinois employers that don’t already offer their employees a qualified retirement plan and employ 25 or more workers (that includes full-time and part-time employees).

Continued pg. 2
Illinois Secure Choice Retirement Savings Program

Employers with 100-499 employees would need to register and auto-enroll all of their employees by July 2019, and those with 25-99 employees need to comply by November 2019. Employers are encouraged to sign up in advance of their deadline to take advantage of hands-on assistance and employee training opportunities. The program makes it easy for employers already offering a qualified retirement plan to opt out; all they need to do is go online or call client services at 855-650-6913 to indicate their exemption.

Registering is easy. Employers will receive a notification about their need to register and enroll (or indicate their exemption) by email or by mail. Eligible employers only need to go online with their registration code and set up their account. Employers that haven’t received a registration code can call the toll-free client services line to check their eligibility and retrieve their code. Once registered, auto-enrolling workers simply involves completing and uploading a spreadsheet with the required employee data. Once enrolled, employees will have 30 days to opt out or make changes to the default savings options before the employer begins deducting payroll contributions.

Unlike some other plans, employers play a limited role and cannot make matching or other contributions to the employees’ Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). Once employers have registered and enrolled their workers in Secure Choice, their main responsibility is facilitating payroll deductions from participating employees and remitting those contributions to Ascensus, the private-sector financial services firm administering the program. To register or learn more, visit ilsecurechoice.com or call the client services team at 855-650-6913.

Illinois Starting Wage Reminder

City of Chicago and Cook County Starting Wage

The starting wage in both Chicago, unincorporated Cook County, and other municipalities in Cook County (that have not previously opted out by ordinance) increases on July 1. The increases are as follows:

**Chicago**
- Non-Tipped: $13.00/hour
- Tipped: $6.40/hour

**Cook County**
- Non-Tipped: $12.00/hour
- Tipped: $5.25/hour

It is important to note if your municipality opted out of the Cook County wage ordinance. A number of municipalities have opted out, which means those municipalities follow the state starting wage.

Who is NOT covered by the current minimum wage ordinance?

- Youth under 18 years of age. Employers are allowed to pay the state minimum hourly wage.
- Adults during the first 90 days of employment. Employers are allowed to pay a wage 50 cents below the state minimum hourly wage.
- Disabled employees for whom employers have received a state-approved lower wage rate.
- Trainees taking part in a program for no more than six months, with state approval. Employers are allowed to pay trainees 70 percent of the state minimum hourly wage.
- Employees working at a business with four or fewer employees, not counting the employer’s parents, spouse, children or other members of the immediate family.

ILLINOIS STARTING WAGE

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On Wednesday, May 1, 2019, Illinois Food Retailers Association members gathered at the State Capitol with over 400 retailers and manufacturers from across the state, along with members of the Illinois Retail Merchants Association, the Illinois Manufacturers Association and other co-hosting organizations to discuss with elected officials those issues affecting the business community. The IFRA Annual Midyear board of directors meeting was held prior to the start of Retail Day activities.

During the afternoon, members visited with lawmakers to voice their views on issues of importance to the business community, including:

- Opposition to capping or reducing the Retail Discount/Vendor Collection Allowance
- Opposition to changing the Felony Retail Theft Threshold
- Opposition to the proposed Graduated Income Tax

A report on these and other critical issues was distributed to the membership.

The day concluded with the very popular party under the tent where attendees had the opportunity to mingle with their peers and state lawmakers in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Many thanks to the IFRA members taking time from their busy schedules to represent our industry.

Members included:
- Rich Niemann Jr., Niemann Foods, IFRA Chairman
- Ken Casaccio, Leamington Foods, IFRA Vice Chairman
- Frank Lomoro, Sunset Foods, IFRA Vice Chairman

Kathy Christensen, Sullivan Foods, Executive Committee
Rita Morgan, UNFI, Executive Committee
Larry Tobias, Kirby Foods, Executive Committee
Art Potash, Potash Market, Immediate Past Chairman
Jeff Gray, Grays Foods
Andy Guzauskas, Prisco’s Family Market
Todd Martin, Martin’s of Effingham, Inc.
Craig Riecks, Paxton IGA
Brian & Krista Steffen, Dave’s Super Market
Don Symonds, Lipari Foods

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Despite the forecast for a very rainy and cold May day, almost 100 golfers participated in the 46th Annual Grocery Industry Golf Outing sponsored by the Grocery Merchandising Association. The rain subsided just before the scheduled 9 a.m. start at the Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park. Once the horn sounded, golfers settled in for a rather chilly but enjoyable day, “for any day on the golf course with industry friends, great food and drink and money raised for the IFRA scholarship program makes for a great day.” Our most sincere thanks for all the industry members who made the effort to participate, even in the face of poor weather predictions.

This year, the hole sponsors were invited to sample products and to greet golfers on the hole they were sponsoring. A number of vendors were on the course, greeting the golfers with sample products and drinks to shake off the chill. This year’s putting challenge for adult beverages sponsored by Jewel-Osco was a big hit. The Silver Lake Country Club did another outstanding job, providing a fabulous BBQ luncheon and whatever else was necessary to make the play a little more comfortable for the golfers.
Aunt Millie’s Team – Ryan Vanden, Darren Kinach, Jeff McCabe, Joe Doherty

Fairplay Foods – Collectors on the putting green challenge sponsored by Jewel Osco

Crossmark and Jewel Osco Team: GMA President Joe Veronico, Brooks Young, John Ott – Crossmark Sales, Mike Korkosz – Jewel Osco

Andrew Corvo, Ken Greenhill – Turano Baking

Jason Komar – Sugar Foods Group and Chris Steffen – Advantage Solutions

Hole Sponsors

Berkot’s Super Foods
Certco, Inc.
ComEd
County Fair Foods
Crossmark Sales & Marketing
Fairplay Foods
Illinois Food Retailers Association
Illinois Retail Merchants Association

Integrity Architecture
ILOVESWEETS
Jewel-Osco
KCS Computer Technology
La Preferida, Inc.
Pepsi Beverages
Sunset Foods
Walt’s Food Center

Dinner Sponsors

Certco, Inc.
Fairplay Foods

Jewel-Osco

Special thanks to ComEd, La Preferida and KCS Computer Technology for their product demonstration tables on the course.

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The FY 20 budget takes effect July 1. What follows is a summary of the major revenue sources:

Agreement was reached on a $40 billion-plus state budget for Fiscal Year 2020 as contained in SB 689 with an accompanying Budget Implementation bill (BIMP) contained in HB 3096. The FY 20 budget, which takes effect July 1, received bi-partisan support and is balanced for the first time in years. Additionally, agreement was reached on a $45 billion infrastructure program dwarfing the previous program passed in 2009 at $30 billion. What follows is a summary of the major revenue sources:

- Motor fuel tax increases from $0.19 to $0.38. The counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will can currently impose a motor fuel tax of up to $0.04 per gallon. They can now impose up to $0.08 per gallon.

Additionally, these taxes will increase by the rate of inflation as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue utilizing CPI-U.

- Driver's license and vehicle registration fees were increased. Electric vehicles increased $250, all others increased $50 from $101 to $150 for first-class vehicles.

- Cigarette taxes increase from $1.98 to $2.98 per pack or $29.80 per carton. No retail floor tax.

- The General Assembly also passed a statewide bill which mandates a seller will have to be at least 16 years of age, a purchaser must be at least 21.

- Electronic cigarettes will be taxed at 15 percent.

- Gambling expansion, including six new casinos (Chicago, Danville, Waukegan, Rockford, Southern Cook County, and Williamson County); expansion of max bets, top prizes and a sixth machine for video gaming operators, 15 percent tax on sports betting, which is now legalized.

- Tax on parking for fees or other consideration. Applies to private lots as well. Tax is 6 percent on hourly, daily, and weekly parking and 9 percent on monthly or annual fees.

- An assessment on Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) participating in the managed Medicaid program.

- Legalized recreational cannabis.

Additionally, as part of the final agreement reached in the House, Illinois' despised Franchise Tax will be phased out over three years, the Manufacturers Purchase Credit will be enacted, as will tax incentives for data centers.

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**Gas Tax Reminder**

**Effective July 1**

**REMINDER:** As part of the budget and capital package, the motor fuel tax increases as follows:

- Increases motor fuel tax from $0.19 to $0.38, effective July 1, 2019. Further, this tax will increase annually by the rate of inflation (CPI-U).

- Any municipality in Cook County may impose an additional $0.03 tax per-gallon on motor fuel.

- Increases diesel fuel tax by $0.05 cents from $0.025 cents to $0.075 cents per gallon

Currently, the counties of DuPage, Kane and McHenry can impose a motor fuel tax of up to $0.04 per gallon. Under this law, the counties of Lake and Will were added, and if they impose such a tax, they must impose at least a $0.04 tax, but not more than $0.08 tax per gallon.

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**Illinois New Minimum Age Law to Purchase Tobacco and Vapor**

**Effective July 1**

- Minimum Wage to Purchase — 21 years

- Everyone under 30 must be asked for I.D.

- Age-restricted products tobacco and vapor

- Acceptable forms of I.D.

- Post signs requested by State and Chicago

**Fines and Penalties**

The We Card Program is a national, not-for-profit organization focused on ensuring that age-restricted product retailers are fully educated, trained and prepared to reject underage sales.

Equip your stores today.

We Card 1-800- 934-3968. Visit www.wecard.org
Congratulations to the first group of IFRA member graduates!

IFRA has been partnering with the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) and the Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC) to coordinate a group of members interested in the Retail Management Certificate Program. The Retail Management Certificate is a nationally recognized, accredited college program developed by retail industry experts and community college leaders to prepare retail employees for positions in management.

The Retail Management Certificate is a nationally recognized, accredited college program developed by retail industry experts and community college leaders to prepare retail employees for positions in management.

The course curriculum was developed under the direction of WAFC and fully endorsed by the Food Marketing Institute and the National Grocers Association. Students who complete this academic program gain the knowledge, skills, abilities and confidence that empower them to become successful leaders in retail and service-oriented companies.

The eight-course college curriculum incorporates the foundational and critical knowledge, technology, communications, marketing, management and leadership abilities required for career success in the increasingly sophisticated and fast-paced grocery industry.

The first Cohort began in August 2017. “The Retail Management Certification program is excellent,” said Food Market La Chiquita general manager Martin Sandoval. “We were so pleased that all of our seven team members completed the course – which was rigorous at times – but brought us together in a great learning experience.”

Congratulations to the following graduates:

Jason Yanchick – Berkots Super Foods
Jennifer Dispensa – Felker Foods
Selene Barajas – Food Market La Chiquita
Norma Hernandez – Food Market La Chiquita
Maria Sara Herrera – Food Market La Chiquita
Irene Linares – Food Market La Chiquita
Kimberly Parsons – Food Market La Chiquita
Jorge Rivera – Food Market La Chiquita
Martin Sandoval – Food Market La Chiquita
Elisa Medina – Pete’s Fresh Market
Patricia Gross – Pete’s Fresh Market
Silvia Robledo – Pete’s Fresh Market
Dolores Flores – Sunset Foods
Sarah Hanlon – Sunset Foods
Aaron Bui – Niemann Foods
Tajua Cawthon – Niemann Foods
Grant Hellenthal – Niemann Foods
Casey Robertson – Niemann Foods
Scott Sanders – Niemann Foods
Kathy Workman – Niemann Foods

For more information regarding the Retail Management Certificate Program, please call the IFRA office or visit the WAFC website at www.retailmanagementcertificate.com.
The Second Annual Illinois Food Industry Trade Show brings together grocers, restaurant operators and other purveyors of food service to taste and learn about a wide array of products and services.

Illinois Food Retailers Association
with co-hosts

Program
11:00 a.m. General Session
12 - 3:30 p.m. Trade Show
3:30 p.m. All-Industry Closing Reception
State Bagging Competition
Industry Recognition

Pre-Trade Show All-Industry Golf Outing
Monday, September 16, 2019
Village Links Golf Course, Glen Ellyn

The Village Links course features one of the most elite layouts in the Midwest, having hosted 46 USGA and PGA Tour Qualifying Events. The recently renovated clubhouse is home to Reserve 22 Restaurant, Bar and Banquets.

12:00 p.m. Lunch
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Best Ball
5:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception & Buffet Dinner