



# Member Update

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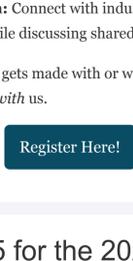
By Tony Burton • Mar 16, 2026  
Smart Brevity® count: 4 mins...1100 words

## In today's March 16, 2026 Update:

- **Hospitality Day at the Capitol - April 8:** [Join Other Hospitality Leaders on April 8 in St. Paul](#)
- **2026 Scholarship Breakfast - May 5:** [Register today to celebrate hospitality's next generation](#)
- **Our Advocacy, Evolved:** [Government Relations Updates Expand to Video](#)
- **2026 Minnesota ProStart Invitational Announces Winners:** [Check Out the Official Results](#)
- **Secure Choice Retirement Program:** [Voluntary Enrollment Open](#)
- **Operators:** [Share Your Paid Leave Experience](#)
- **Immigration & Relief Resources:** [Take Advantage of Recovery Options](#)
- **ServSafe Offerings:** [Find A Class Near You](#)
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Is your organization interested in sponsorship? [Email us](#) to learn more.

## Advocate for Hospitality April 8: 2026 Day at the Capitol



### HOSPITALITY MINNESOTA DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2026

APRIL 8, 2026 | MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL

**Calling all advocates:** Join hospitality leaders from across the state for [Hospitality Day at the Capitol on April 8, 2026 at the Minnesota State Capitol](#), a day dedicated to advocating for the hotels, restaurants, resorts, and tourism businesses that power Minnesota's economy.

#### What to Expect:

- **Briefing Session:** Learn about current legislative priorities and how to effectively share your story with lawmakers.
- **Meetings with Legislators:** Engage in meaningful conversations with elected officials who shape policies affecting your business and community.
- **Networking Lunch:** Connect with industry professionals and legislative leaders while discussing shared industry goals.

**The bottom line:** Policy gets made with or without us. These are your chances to make sure it's *with* us.

[Register Here!](#)

## Join Us May 5 for the 2026 Scholarship Breakfast



### 2026 SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 | 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM  
THE BEACH CLUB

**You're invited:** Join us for [our annual Scholarship Breakfast on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM](#), to recognize the dedication and hard work of students committed to building a future in hospitality, while providing support as they take the next steps in their educational journeys.

- **Some background:** Since 2006, the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation has awarded nearly \$1 MILLION in scholarships to over 400 MN students pursuing their education in foodservice and hospitality programs.

**We are honored to steward the Sue Zelikson Scholarships** — and even more excited to bring them back for a second year with [Women Who Really Cook](#).

- **About Sue:** A James Beard Award-winning broadcaster and journalist with more than 40 years in the industry, Sue has spent her career lifting up the next generation of food and hospitality professionals. She founded [Women Who Really Cook](#) in 1993 on that same belief — that women in this industry deserve a community that invests in their success. These scholarships do exactly that.
- **Who can apply for Sue Zelikson Scholarships:** They are open to women pursuing degrees in hospitality, culinary, foodservice, food science, or any food-related field.

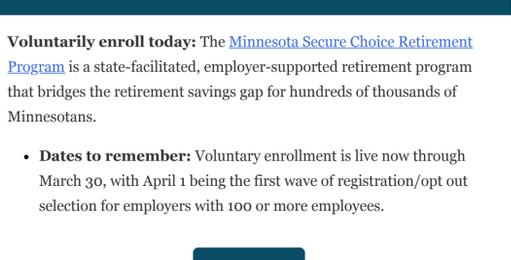
**Interested in sponsoring?** Support the event and showcase your brand by becoming a sponsor! [Check out our sponsorship opportunities today.](#)

**Calling all hospitality students:** Our [2026 scholarship applications](#) are open for submissions through March 21, 2026.

- **Industry leaders:** Contribute to our scholarship funds by [donating here.](#)

[Register here!](#)

## A New Way to Stay Informed: Introducing Video GR Updates



**Update for our advocates:** We are excited to announce an evolution in how we deliver your [Government Relations Updates](#).

**What to expect:** To help you stay even more connected to the fast-paced work happening at the Capitol, we are shifting our primary update format to video-based briefings. Hosted by Ryan Hamilton, our Director of Government Relations, [these videos](#) will provide a more dynamic, "on-the-ground" perspective of the legislative sessions as they happen.

**What's changing?** While the format is evolving, our commitment to keeping you informed remains the same:

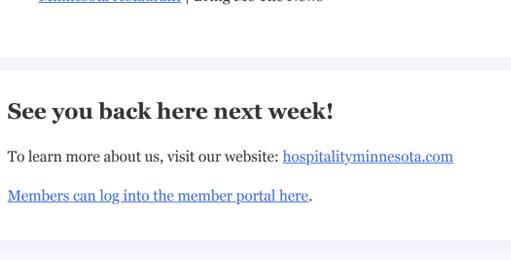
- **Video first:** Each update will now feature a concise video briefing, allowing you to get the latest news in a more personal and engaging way—perfect for watching on the go.
- **Written summaries stay:** We know your time is valuable. Every video will still be accompanied by an email including a bulleted written summary, so you can quickly scan for the key issues that impact your business.
- **Direct delivery:** These updates will continue to arrive directly in your inbox, ensuring you never miss a critical legislative development.

**Why the shift?** Legislative work is about more than just bills and numbers; it's about the stories, the testimonies, and the momentum in the committee rooms. By moving to video, we can better convey the "pulse" of the session and provide deeper context that a text-only email sometimes misses.

- **Stay informed!** We look forward to bringing you along to the Capitol through this new lens! If you haven't yet, sign up to receive our Government Relations Updates below.

[Sign Up to Receive GRUS!](#)

## Minnesota ProStart Invitational Crowns State Champions Ahead of National Competition



**In case you missed it:** Last Thursday, [Elk River and Sauk Rapids-Rice High School left the Saint Paul RiverCentre as champions](#) of the 2026 Minnesota ProStart Invitational.

**Why it matters:** The Invitational proudly showcased the culinary and entrepreneurial skills of over 100 high school students enrolled in some of the state's leading ProStart programs. The Minnesota ProStart Invitational included two competition divisions:

- **Culinary:** Teams of future foodservice professionals put their culinary knowledge and skills to the test.
- **Management:** Teams demonstrated their knowledge of the hospitality industry by developing a business proposal for a new restaurant concept.

**What's next:** The winners of each division will represent Minnesota at the [National ProStart Invitational in Baltimore, MD, on April 24-26, 2026.](#)

[Check Out the Results!](#)

## REMINDER: Minnesota Secure Choice Retirement Program Enrollment Now Open



**Voluntarily enroll today:** The [Minnesota Secure Choice Retirement Program](#) is a state-facilitated, employer-supported retirement program that bridges the retirement savings gap for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans.

- **Dates to remember:** Voluntary enrollment is live now through March 30, and April 1 being the first wave of registration/opt out selection for employers with 100 or more employees.

[Learn More](#)

## Operators, We Need Your Input: Your Experiences Shape Policy



**Share your perspective:** Hospitality Minnesota is collecting member feedback on the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program to shape our advocacy strategy for the 2026 legislative session.

[Share Your Experience](#)

## ServSafe Classes Near You



**Did you know:** Minnesota law requires at least one certified food manager on staff at nearly every food establishment.

[Check this calendar](#) for all upcoming ServSafe classes!

- [Plymouth - March 17](#)
- [Minneapolis - March 18](#)
- [Roseville - March 23](#)
- [St. Cloud - March 26](#)
- [Rochester - March 30](#)
- [Owatonna - March 31](#)
- [Woodbury March 31](#)

[Find A Class Near You!](#)

## In the News

- [Official Results of the 2026 Minnesota ProStart Invitational](#) | Hospitality Minnesota
- [Closed: Fhima's Minneapolis Quietly Ends Operations](#) | Minnesota Monthly
- [Duluth East students put their culinary skills to the test in state competition](#) | WDIO.com
- [Hooters, an original Mall of America tenant, will close its last Minnesota restaurant](#) | Bring Me The News

## See you back here next week!

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