



Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Jan 05, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...860 words

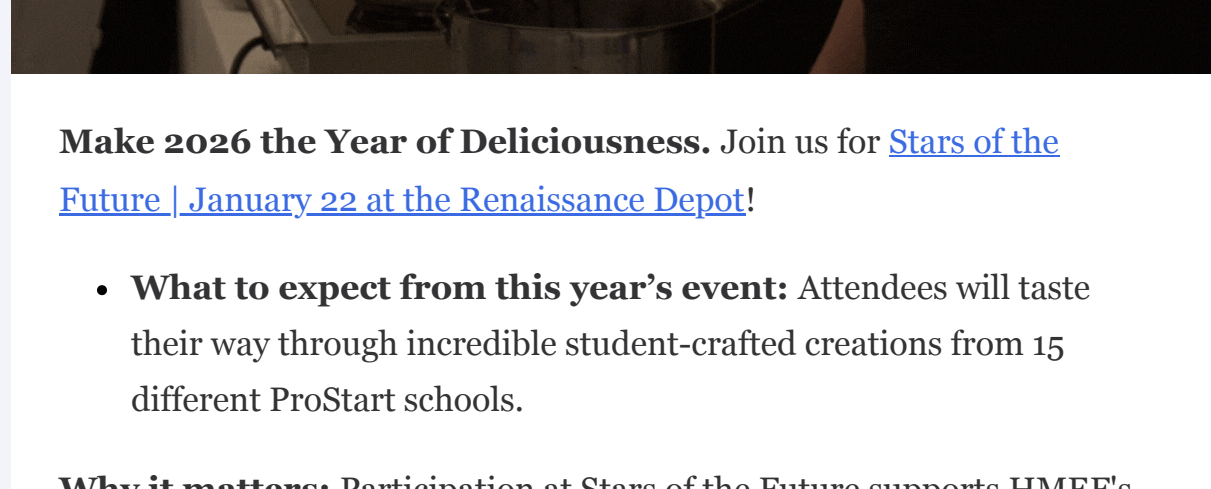
In today's January 5, 2026 Update:

- **Stars of the Future on January 22:** Support Our Industry's Future During HMEF's Biggest Fundraiser of the Year
- **2026 Advocacy Opportunities:** Save the Dates for 2026 Advocacy Opportunities
- **Mark Your Calendars:** Winter 2026 Business Conditions Survey Goes Live February 11!
- **2026 Compliance Reminders:** From Paid Leave to Minimum Wage Updates, Stay on Top of Operation Requirements
- **Start 2026 off with ServSafe Classes:** Minnesota law requires a certified food manager on staff – is yours current?
- In the News

Is your organization interested in sponsorship? [Email us](#) to learn more.



Start 2026 Off Deliciously: Stars of the Future Returns January 22



Make 2026 the Year of Deliciousness. Join us for [Stars of the Future | January 22 at the Renaissance Depot!](#)

- **What to expect from this year's event:** Attendees will taste their way through incredible student-crafted creations from 15 different ProStart schools.

Why it matters: Participation at Stars of the Future supports HMEF's work training today's students and inspiring tomorrow's industry leaders.

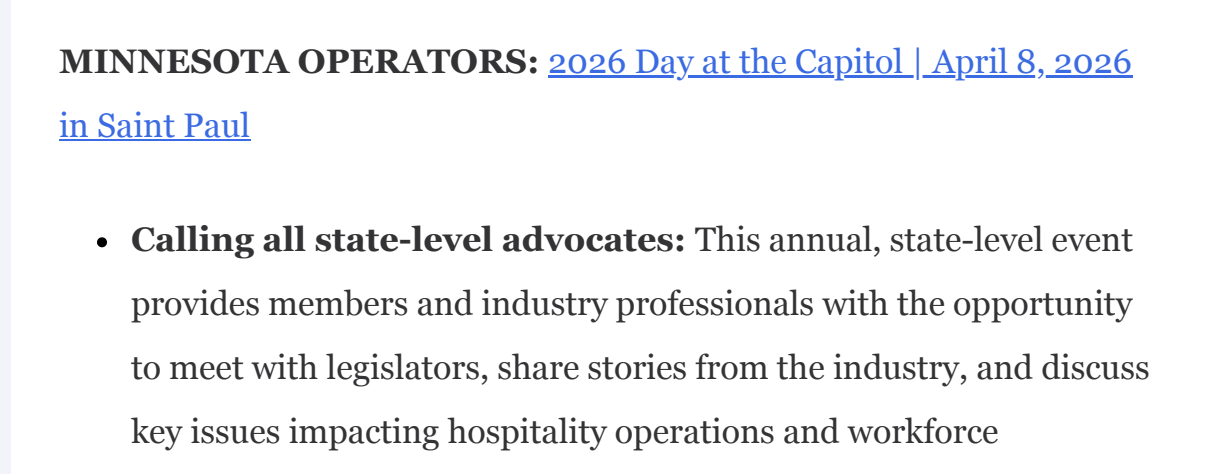
- **What your involvement supports:** Through [ProStart](#) and [Hospitality & Tourism Management](#) programs in schools across the state, we are building the workforce pipeline our industry needs.

Want to make an even bigger impact? Consider sponsoring a table or donating an auction item.

[Register Now](#)



Save the Dates for All Key 2026 Advocacy Opportunities



Attention advocates: Today, we're highlighting the Save-the-Dates for all three of our key 2026 advocacy opportunities.

MINNESOTA OPERATORS: [2026 Day at the Capitol | April 8, 2026 in Saint Paul](#)

- **Calling all state-level advocates:** This annual, state-level event provides members and industry professionals with the opportunity to meet with legislators, share stories from the industry, and discuss key issues impacting hospitality operations and workforce development.

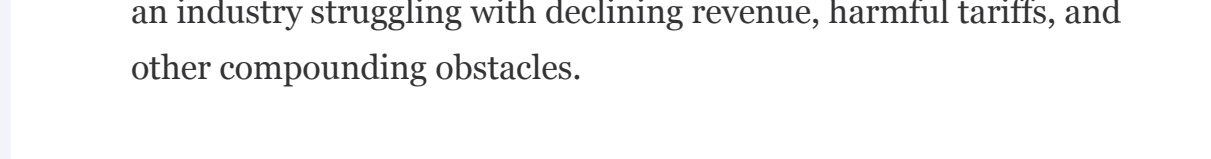
RESTAURANT OPERATORS: [Restaurants Act Public Affairs Conference | March 10-12, 2026 in Washington D.C.](#)

- **Calling all restaurant advocates:** Be part of the restaurant industry's largest grassroots advocacy event at Restaurants Act 2026: Public Affairs Conference, March 10-12 in Washington, D.C. Connect with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

LODGING OPERATORS: [Hotels on the Hill | May 12-23, 2026 in Washington D.C.](#)

- **Calling all lodging advocates:** Join the American Hotel and Lodging Association and its other members from across the country to meet with Members of Congress from your home state and share the issues most impacting your business.

Save the Date: Hospitality Conditions Survey Returns February 11, 2026

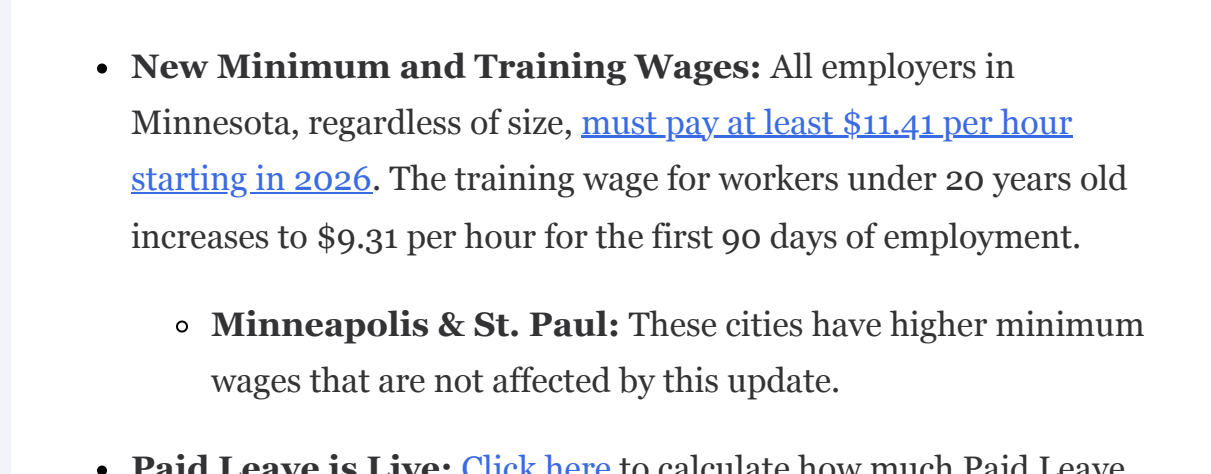


Prepare your input! Hospitality Minnesota is excited to once again be joining forces February 11 with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis for the first 2026 iteration of our Hospitality Conditions Survey.

Why it matters: Your responses help the Minneapolis Fed and Hospitality Minnesota educate business leaders, policymakers, and the public about current conditions.

- **What your participation revealed last time:** The [key takeaways from September's Hospitality Conditions Survey](#) revealed an industry struggling with declining revenue, harmful tariffs, and other compounding obstacles.

Compliance Reminders for 2026: Paid Leave, Minimum Wage, and More

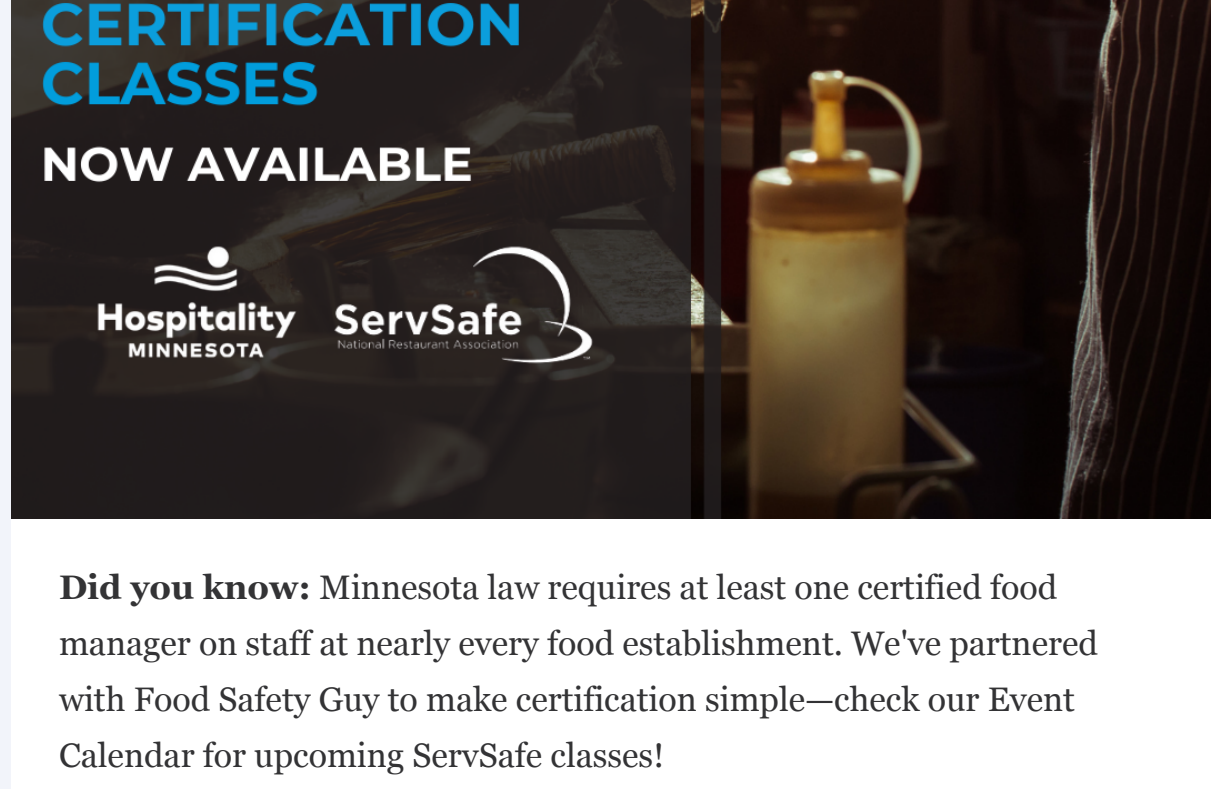


Stay informed: With the start of the new year, it's important for all operators to understand what compliance updates have begun or will begin soon.

Here's a breakdown:

- **New Minimum and Training Wages:** All employers in Minnesota, regardless of size, [must pay at least \\$11.41 per hour starting in 2026](#). The training wage for workers under 20 years old increases to \$9.31 per hour for the first 90 days of employment.
 - **Minneapolis & St. Paul:** These cities have higher minimum wages that are not affected by this update.
- **Paid Leave is Live:** [Click here](#) to calculate how much Paid Leave will cost you as an operator, and [send this calculator](#) to any employees curious to know how much the program will cost them.
 - **Go deeper:** For all Paid Leave Updates, [click here](#).
- **Minnesota Secure Choice Retirement Programs:** Minnesota Secure Choice is a state-facilitated, employer-supported retirement program that bridges the retirement savings gap for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans. [Learn more here](#).
 - **Dates to remember:** Voluntary enrollment begins January 19, with April 1 being the first wave of registration/opt out selection for employers with 100 or more employees.
- **New Labor Posters are Available:** Minnesota law requires employers to provide some notices to their employees and requires certain [posters](#) to be displayed in a location where employees can easily see them.
 - **PDFs available.** The posters and notices are [available at no cost here](#).

Register Today for an Upcoming ServSafe Class



Did you know: Minnesota law requires at least one certified food manager on staff at nearly every food establishment. We've partnered with Food Safety Guy to make certification simple—check our Event Calendar for upcoming ServSafe classes!

- [Plymouth - January 6](#)
- [Rochester - January 6](#)
- [Woodbury - January 7](#)
- [Minneapolis East - January 9](#)

[Find Your ServSafe Class](#)

In the News

- [Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz Won't Seek Third Term and Amy Klobuchar May Run Instead](#) | New York Times
- [Recap: Prominent restaurants gained and lost in 2025](#) | Bring Me The News
- [Team behind Oro by Nixta closes its concept at Graze Food Hall](#) | Bring Me The News
- [Chicago's Jamp Hotels acquires 3 Minnesota properties for more than \\$16M](#) | MSP Business Journal

See you back here next week!

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