



Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Oct 12, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...859 words

In today's October 12, 2026 Update:

- **Now Accepting Nominations:** [Submit Your Hospitality Trailblazers for our Stars of the Industry Awards](#)
- **Sue Zelickson Scholarship Fundraiser:** [Women Who Really Cook to Host Carry It Forward Fundraiser This Week](#)
- **October Webinars:** [USI Webinar - October 13](#) and [Switch/Xcel Webinar - October 14](#)
- **Made in Restaurants:** [Join the National Conversation on Restaurant Experiences](#)
- **Paid Leave Perspectives Needed:** [Inform Our Advocacy: Share Your PFML Experience](#)
- **Stars of the Future:** [Celebrate Our Industry's Future November 19](#)
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Is your organization interested in sponsorship? [Email us](#) to learn more.

Nominate Your Trailblazers for Stars of the Industry Awards

Call for Stars of the Industry Nominations: Help us celebrate the extraordinary talent across Minnesota hospitality by putting your most deserving team members forward for the Stars of the Industry Awards.

- **Nomination deadline is approaching!** The deadline to nominate is next Thursday, October 22, 2026.

[Submit Your Nominations!](#)

Renewal time? Serve up something fresh.

Women Who Really Cook to Host Carry It Forward Fundraiser

The big picture: [Join Women Who Really Cook \(WWRC\) at The Lynhall Lyndale October 13](#) at for an evening of connection and community supporting the [Sue Zelickson Scholarship Fund](#), which helps women pursue post-secondary education in various food-related fields.

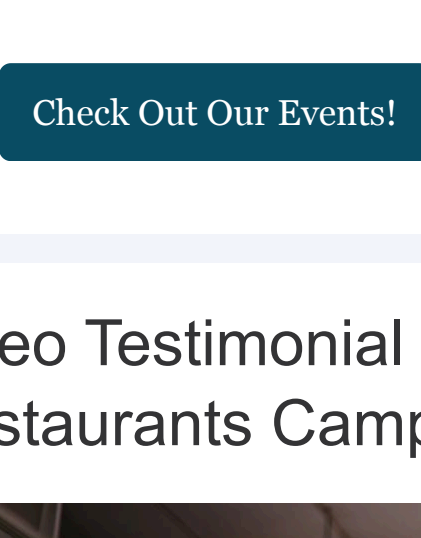
- **What to expect:** Enjoy appetizers and desserts from local partners including D'Amico Hospitality, Chowgirls, Cafe Latte, and The Grocer's Table, plus a cash bar and a raffle.

Why it matters: Ticket proceeds benefit the [Sue Zelickson Scholarship Fund](#), stewarded by the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation (HMEF).

- **Can't attend?** [Contribute directly here.](#)

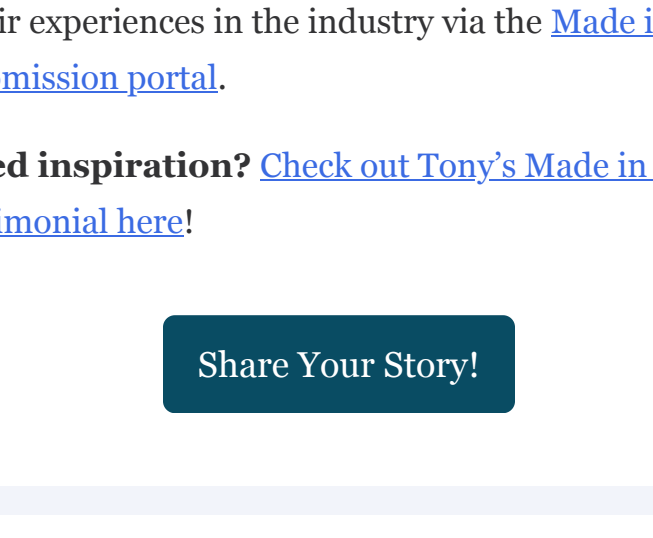
[Register Here!](#)

This Week - USI Insurance and Switch to Host Webinars



October 13 USI Employer Solution Webinar: [Understanding Exempt vs. Nonexempt and Other Difficult Wage and Hour Laws](#)

- **Why it matters:** Employers spend a lot of time (rightly) worrying about harassment and discrimination in the workplace, but not enough time making sure their wage and hour practices are in good shape.



October 14 Switch EV Charging Webinar: [Add EV Charging at Your Hotel with Xcel Energy's New Rebate](#)

- **Why it matters:** Xcel Energy is launching the Commercial EV Infrastructure Rebate and Advisory Program in Minnesota this fall. Join [Switch](#) as they break down how the rebate works.

[Check Out Our Events!](#)

Share A Video Testimonial for the Made in Restaurants Campaign



The big picture: The National Restaurant Association has launched [Made in Restaurants](#), a multi-year national campaign about what the restaurant industry builds beyond food: careers, skills, community and economic impact.

- **How it works:** Restaurants operators are being encouraged to share their experiences in the industry via the [Made in Restaurants video submission portal](#).

- **Need inspiration?** [Check out Tony's Made in Restaurants testimonial here!](#)

[Share Your Story!](#)

Your PFML Experience Matters: Help Shape What Comes Next



Paid Leave experiences needed: Our [PFML Experiences Portal](#) is open. Now more than ever, we need to hear how Paid Leave is impacting your operations.

- **Why it matters:** As Minnesota heads into a new legislative session, firsthand accounts from hospitality employers are among the most powerful tools we have to show lawmakers about the progress of the program.

[Share Your Experience!](#)

Celebrate Our Industry's Future November 19



The big picture: Join us [November 19, 2026 for an inspiring evening at the Renaissance Depot](#) to celebrate the future of Minnesota's hospitality industry.

Event highlights

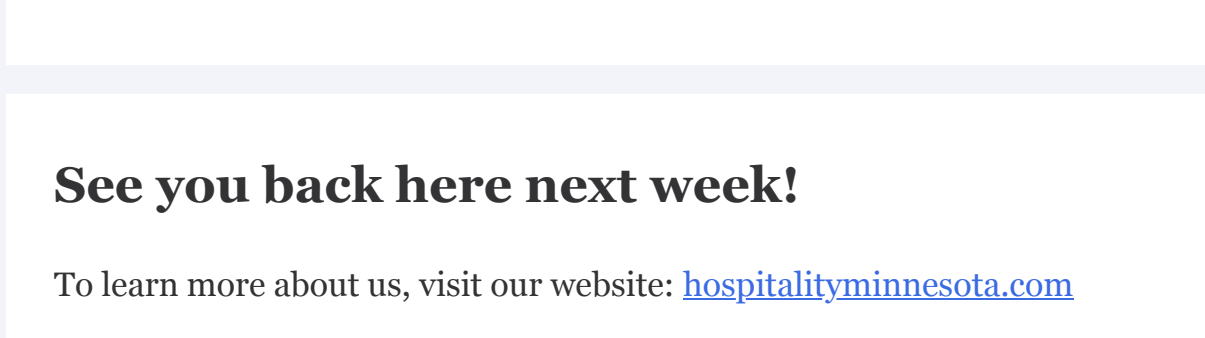
- **Live and silent auctions** featuring exclusive experiences and hospitality packages.

- **Culinary creations** prepared and served by talented students from Minnesota ProStart schools.

- **Inspiring stories** showcasing the impact of HMEF programs on students and classrooms statewide.

[Register Here!](#)

October Grant Opportunities Now Available!



The big picture: Several small-business grants are open this month, with awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

Deadlines this month:

- **Oct. 15:** [Stephen L. Tadlock Veteran Business Grant](#). This program awards \$1,000 micro-grants to 25 veteran entrepreneurs. Applicants must be U.S. military veterans, among other requirements.
- **Oct. 31:** [Brevia Thrive Grant](#). The winner receives \$5,000. Applicants must already be generating revenue and must show community impact, such as new jobs, new products or more accessible services.
- **Oct. 31:** [Amber Grant](#). Each month, three women-owned businesses receive \$10,000 grants. One monthly winner also receives \$50,000 at year's end.

Year-round options:

- [Verizon Small Business Digital Ready](#). Join the free online community to become eligible for grants throughout the year. Verizon provides up to \$1 million in total grant funding annually.
- [National Association for the Self-Employed](#). NASE offers a \$4,000 growth grant on a rolling basis, for members only.

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!

- [Fairmount - October 19](#)
- [St. Cloud - October 20](#)
- [Woodbury - October 20](#)
- [Worthington - October 23](#)

[Find a Class Near You!](#)

In the News

- [Taking Steps Against the Lurking Menace of Online Travel Scams](#) | Lodging Magazine
- [Popular Mazeppa restaurant announces new name, relocation to Rochester](#) | Bring Me The News
- [Ceremonies, food trucks and basketball: Minnesota communities celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day](#) | MPR News
- [So Minnesota: Ghostly spirits fill the air at Black Forest Inn restaurant](#) | KSTP

See you back here next week!

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