



Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Oct 19, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...815 words

In today's October 19, 2026 Update:

- **Last Chance to Nominate:** [Submit Your Hospitality Trailblazers for our Stars of the Industry Awards](#)
- **Made in Restaurants:** [Join the National Conversation on Restaurant Experiences](#)
- **Stars of the Future:** [Celebrate Our Industry's Future November 19](#)
- **Paid Leave Perspectives Needed:** [Inform Our Advocacy: Share Your PFML Experience](#)
- **Take Advantage of October Grants:** [Funding Opportunities Available to Hospitality Operators](#)
- **Wildfire Economic Survey Reopened:** [Share the Impact of Wildfires on Your Operations](#)
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- **In the News**

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

Nominate Hospitality Trailblazers Before Thursday's Stars of the Industry Nomination Deadline

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 nominations](#).

- **Why it matters:** Minnesota hospitality runs on exceptional people, from housekeepers and line cooks to general managers. Many of them do their best work behind the scenes, and a nomination is a chance to give them the recognition they've earned.

Don't wait! Nominations close Thursday, October 22, 2026.

- **Ready to get your ticket (or table)?** Registration is NOW LIVE! [Click here to register!](#)

[Submit Your Nominations!](#)

Renewal time? Serve up something fresh. [Employee health plans >](#)

Share A Video Testimonial for the Made in Restaurants Campaign

CHARACTER
MADE IN RESTAURANTS

Hard work starts and careers grow, right here.
[madeinrestaurants.org](#)

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!](#)

Celebrate Our Industry's Future November 19

STARS OF THE FUTURE
RENAISSANCE MINNEAPOLIS HOTEL, THE DEPOT
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026 | 6 - 9 PM
PRESENTED BY **TPI HOSPITALITY**

The big picture: Join us [Thursday, November 19, 2026](#) at the Renaissance Minneapolis Hotel, The Depot for Stars of the Future, an inspiring evening celebrating the next generation of Minnesota hospitality!

What guests can expect:

- **Student-crafted bites:** Small-plate tastings prepared and served by talented students from Minnesota ProStart schools.
- **Live and silent auctions:** Bid on exclusive experiences and hospitality packages, all in support of the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation.
- **Stories of impact:** Hear from today's hospitality leaders and our industry's next generation about how Foundation programs are making a difference statewide.

[Register Here!](#)

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!](#)

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. 31: Breva 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.

Didn't Get to Share Your Experience Because of Wildfires? Share Your Experiences Now!

Wildfire Economic Impact Survey reopened: The 2026 fires in northeastern Minnesota cost hospitality businesses a season, whether the fire line came near your town or not. Resorts, restaurants, campgrounds and outfitters all lost revenue well outside the evacuation zones.

- **What we're looking for:** We are asking the state and our federal delegation for direct relief tied to documented revenue loss. The question we get back every time is how much, and right now we are answering with estimates. This form is how we replace those estimates with real figures.

Share what you can: Round numbers and honest estimates are fine. A partial form is better than none.

[Take the Survey!](#)

ServSafe Classes Near You

SERVE WITH CERTAINTY:
MINNESOTA SERVSAFE CERTIFICATION CLASSES
NOW AVAILABLE

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!

- [Worthington - October 23](#)
- [Mankato - October 26](#)
- [Owatonna - October 27](#)
- [Minneapolis - October 28](#)
- [Roseville - October 29](#)
- [Duluth - November 4](#)
- [Plymouth - November 10](#)
- [Winona - November 10](#)

[Find a Class Near You!](#)

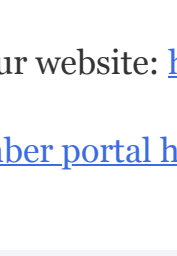
In the News

- [Revival's long-awaited revival: North Loop opening date announced](#) | MSP Business Journal
- [Former Rimarcik North Loop building to become gamers "country club"](#) | MSP Business Journal
- [Two Minneapolis hotels rank among Midwest's best in Condé Nast Traveler awards](#) | MSP Business Journal

See you back here next week!

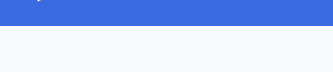
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