



Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Dec 29, 2025

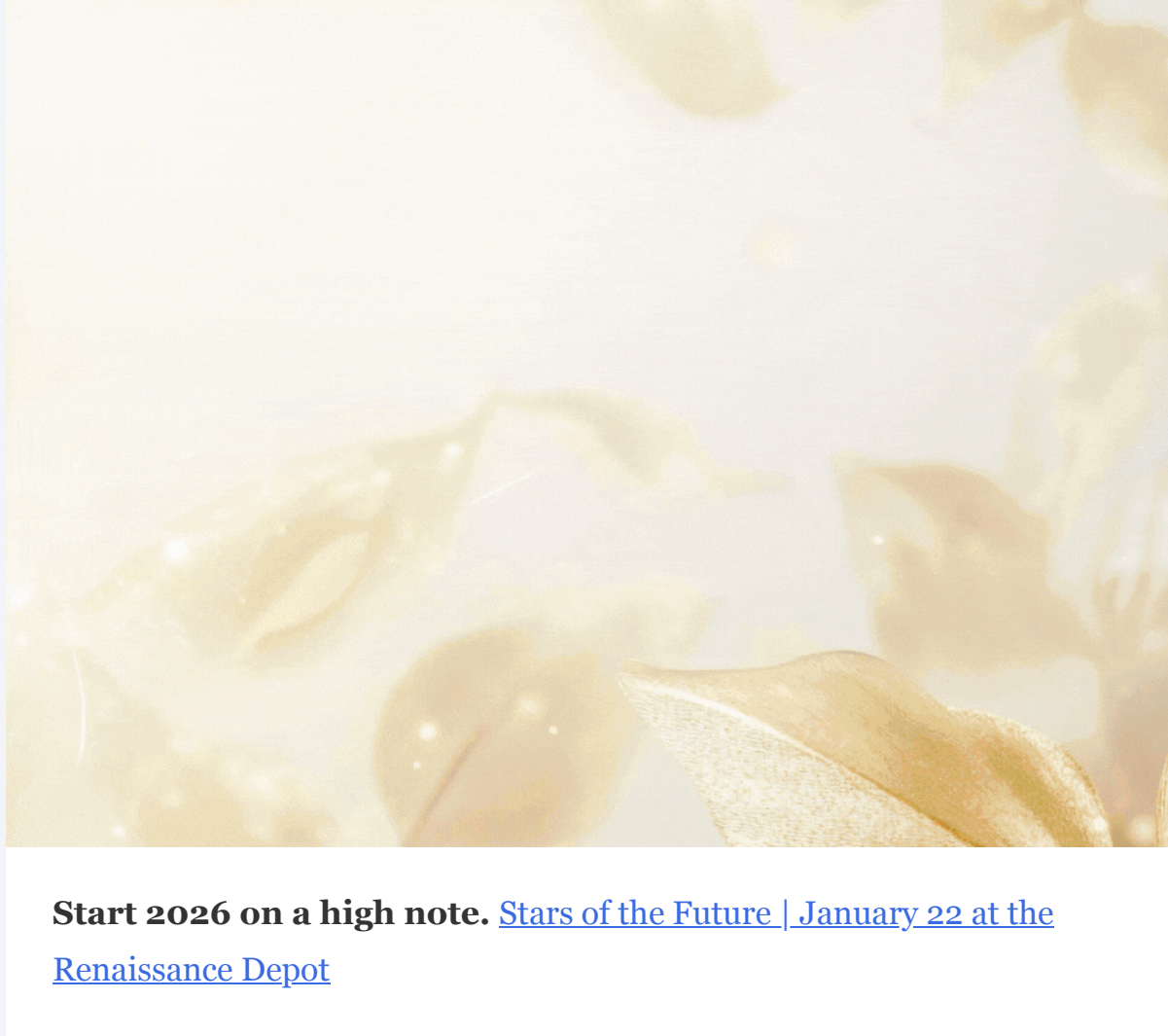
Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...806 words

In today's December 29, 2025 Update:

- **January 22: Stars of the Future** – The Culinary Spectacle You Cannot Miss
- **2026 Hospitality Insights Report** Predicts Both Human-Centric Leadership and AI Integration Will Lead Future Hospitality Operations
- **Don't Forget — 2026 Minnesota Minimum Wage Updates**
- **Advocacy Reminder: Three chances to make your voice heard** — show up where decisions get made
- **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.

January 22: Stars of the Future at the Renaissance Depot



Start 2026 on a high note. [Stars of the Future | January 22 at the Renaissance Depot](#)

- **What to expect January 22:** You'll taste your way through incredible student-crafted creations from 15 different ProStart schools while celebrating the next generation of hospitality professionals.

Why it matters: Your participation directly supports HMEF's work training today's students and inspiring tomorrow's industry leaders. Through [ProStart](#) and [Hospitality & Tourism Management](#) programs in schools across the state, we're building the workforce pipeline our industry needs.

- **About the event:** This is more than a fundraiser—it's a chance to meet the students who will one day lead our kitchens, manage our hotels, and shape Minnesota hospitality.

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

[Register Now](#)

EHL Report Suggests Both Human-Centric Leadership and AI Innovation Will Lead Operations in 2026



Catch up on the latest EHL Hospitality Insights Report: EHL's [latest report](#) provides a clear perspective on where hospitality is headed in the years to come.

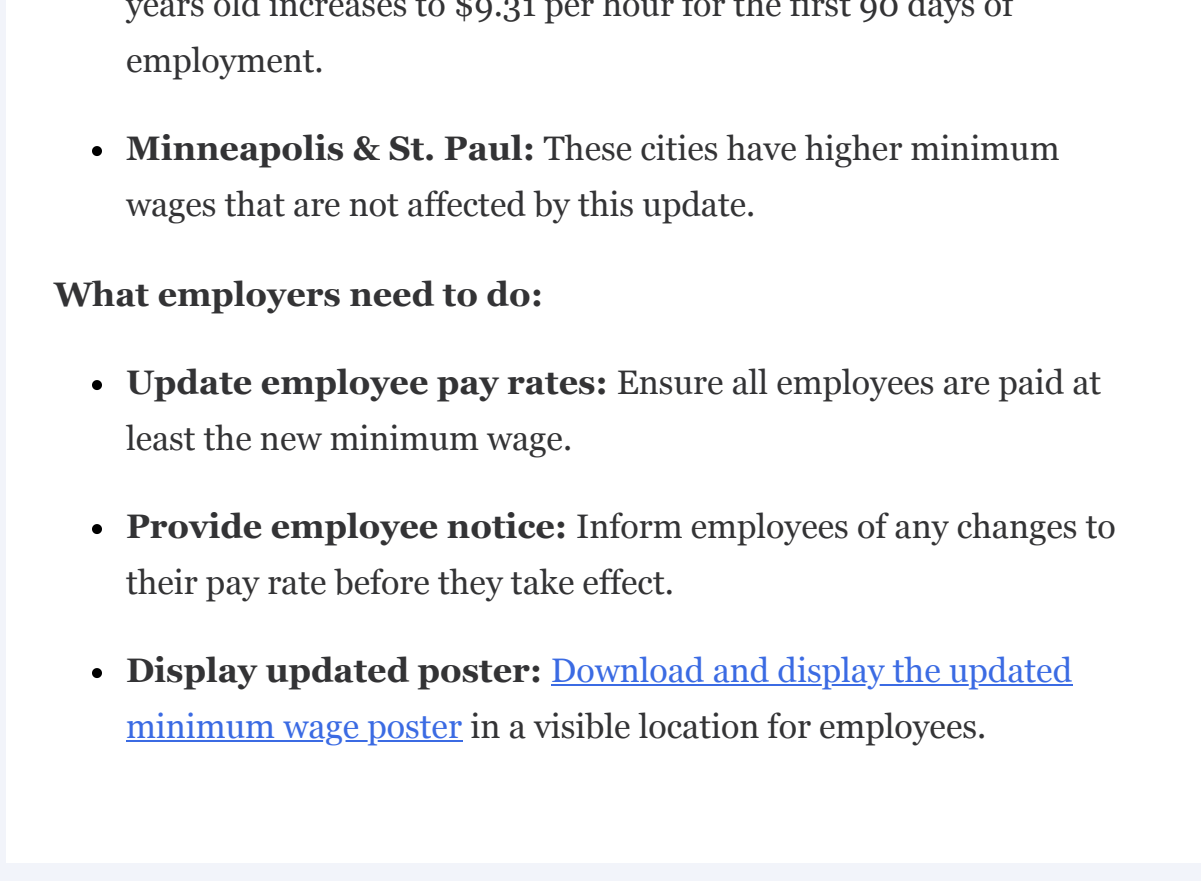
- **Through its key findings and analysis,** the report aims to spark innovation, reinforce the importance of human-centric approaches and collaboration, and empower hospitality professionals with a solid understanding of emerging opportunities and challenges.

At a glance: The Five Trends for 2026 and the coming years include

- [AI Agents in Hospitality:](#) Driving Innovation, Well-Being, and Personalized Guest Experiences
- [The Future of Food:](#) From Sustainability in Foodservice to Tech Innovations in Food Production
- [A New Era of Leadership:](#) Human-Centric Leadership as the Future of Work
- [Hospitality leading the Immersive Experience Economy](#)
- [Regenerative Hospitality:](#) Embedding People, Place, and Planet

[Read the Report](#)

Statewide 2026 Minimum Wage Updates



Stay informed: Important changes to Minnesota's minimum wage are coming in effect on January 1st, 2026!

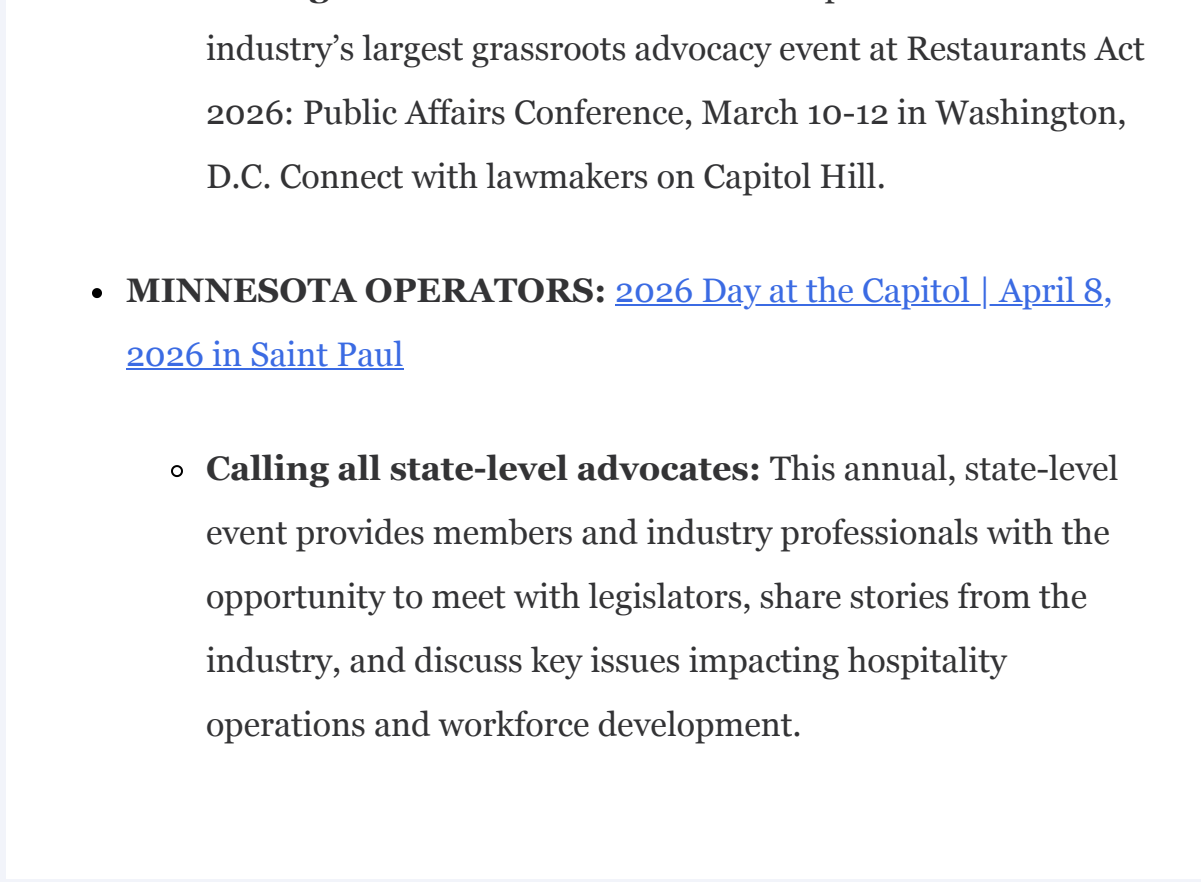
Here's a quick summary:

- **New Minimum Wage:** All employers in Minnesota, regardless of size, must pay at least \$11.41 per hour starting in 2026.
- **Training Wage Update:** 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.

What employers need to do:

- **Update employee pay rates:** Ensure all employees are paid at least the new minimum wage.
- **Provide employee notice:** Inform employees of any changes to their pay rate before they take effect.
- **Display updated poster:** [Download and display the updated minimum wage poster](#) in a visible location for employees.

Reminder: Mark Your Calendars for 2026 Advocacy Opportunities



Attention advocates: Today, we're highlighting three opportunities in 2026 for hospitality operators to be heard on the problems that keep our industry up at night on all levels of government.

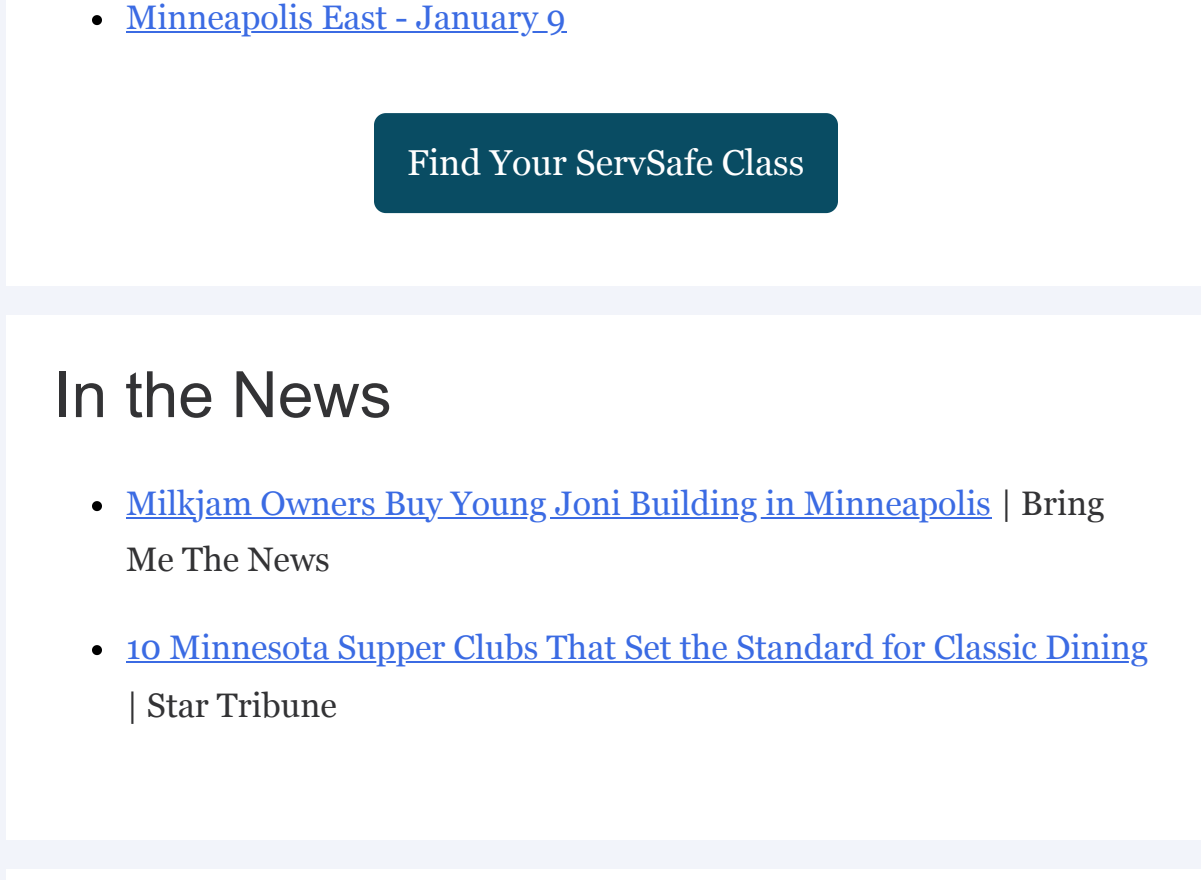
SAVE THE DATES:

- **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 it's other members from across the country to meet with Members of Congress from your home state and share the issues most impacting your business.

- **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.

- **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.

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!

- [Roseville - December 30](#)
- [Plymouth - January 6](#)
- [Rochester - January 6](#)
- [Woodbury - January 7](#)
- [Minneapolis East - January 9](#)

[Find Your ServSafe Class](#)

In the News

- [Milkjam Owners Buy Young Joni Building in Minneapolis](#) | Bring Me The News
- [10 Minnesota Supper Clubs That Set the Standard for Classic Dining](#) | Star Tribune

See you back here next week!

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