



# Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Feb 05, 2024

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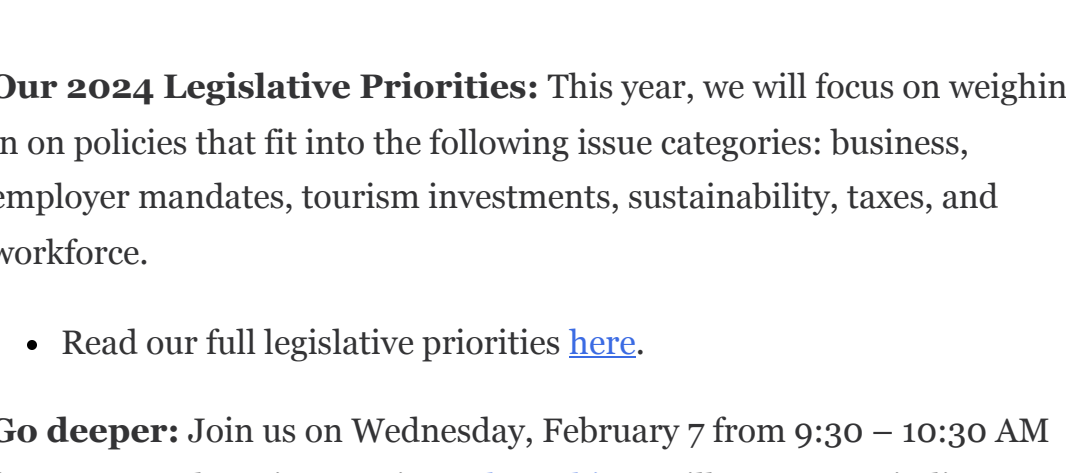
## In today's February 5, 2024 Update:

- Join Us Wednesday for Our 2024 Session Preview
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- MN DEED to Host Small Business Call on Cybersecurity
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## Join Us Wednesday for Our 2024 Session Preview

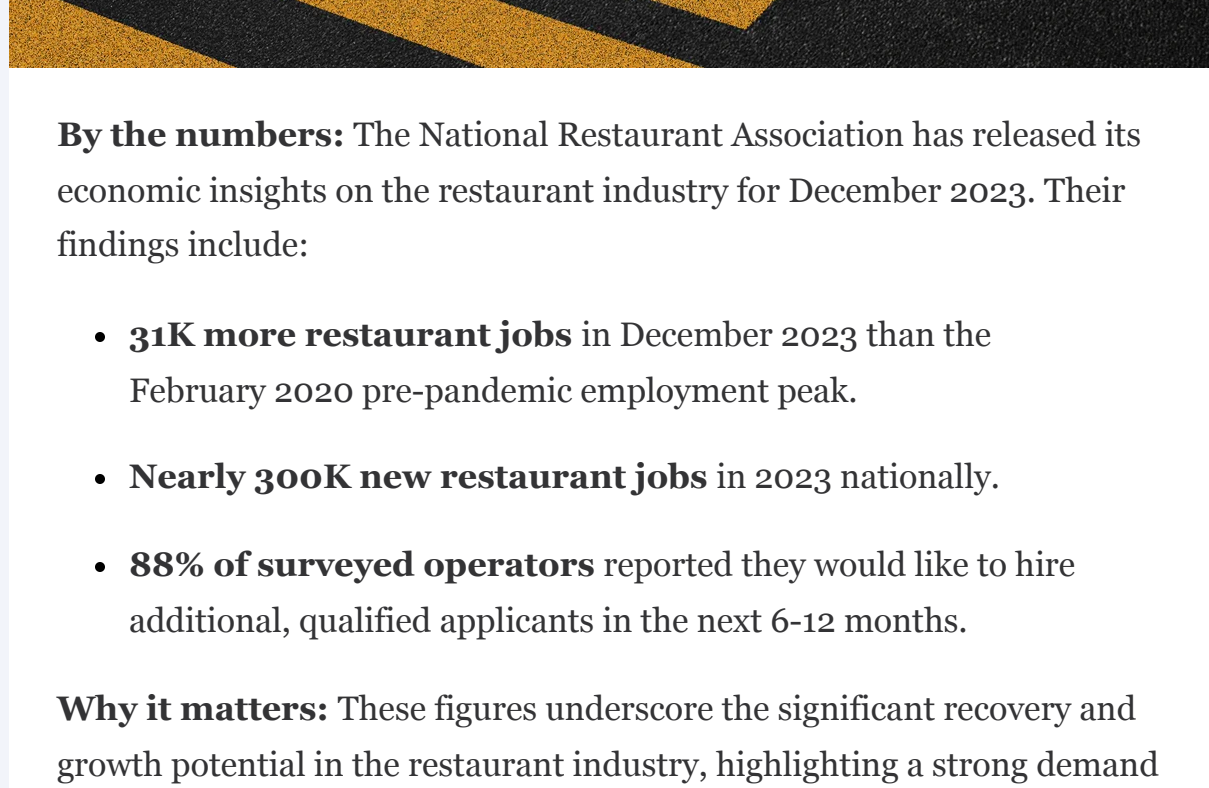


**Our 2024 Legislative Priorities:** This year, we will focus on weighing in on policies that fit into the following issue categories: business, employer mandates, tourism investments, sustainability, taxes, and workforce.

- Read our full legislative priorities [here](#).

**Go deeper:** Join us on Wednesday, February 7 from 9:30 – 10:30 AM for our annual session preview. [The webinar](#) will cover Hospitality Minnesota's 2024 legislative agenda, special events and an outlook of the session to come. [Register here](#).

## From the NRA: Expect a Hiring Boom in 2024



**By the numbers:** The National Restaurant Association has released its economic insights on the restaurant industry for December 2023. Their findings include:

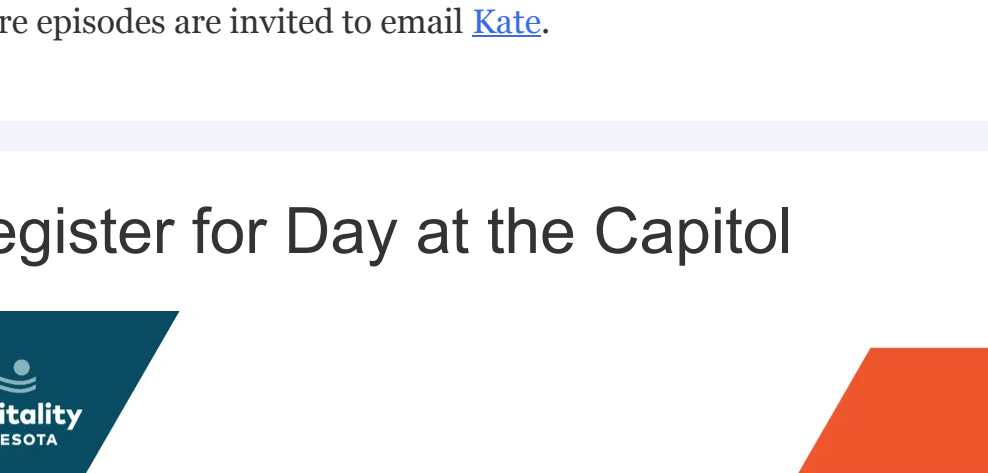
- **31K more restaurant jobs** in December 2023 than the February 2020 pre-pandemic employment peak.
- **Nearly 300K new restaurant jobs** in 2023 nationally.
- **88% of surveyed operators** reported they would like to hire additional, qualified applicants in the next 6-12 months.

**Why it matters:** These figures underscore the significant recovery and growth potential in the restaurant industry, highlighting a strong demand for employment and opportunities for further expansion.

**The bottom line:** As the need for qualified applicants rises, so do our initiatives to connect employers with the talent they need. Check out the new opportunities we have for operators with our [Restaurant Ready](#) and [Apprenticeship](#) initiatives.

- Reach out to [Victoria](#) if you are interested in learning more about how you can take advantage of our workforce efforts.

## New Hospitality Hotdish Episode this Thursday



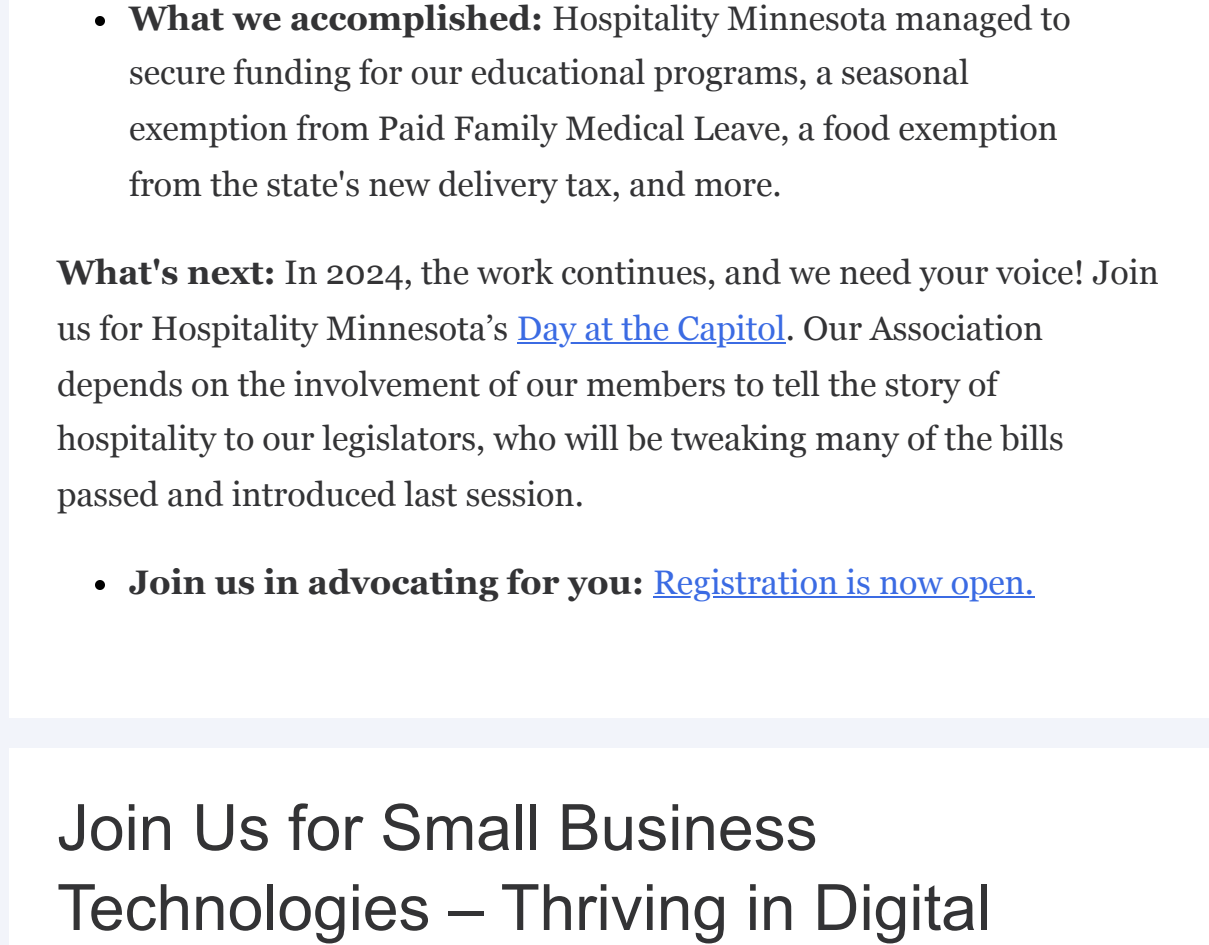
Hospitality Hotdish - Brought to You by Cafe & Bar Lurcat

**What's new:** This Thursday, Howard Anderson of [Odyssey Resorts](#) will be joining Kate Conroy for an episode of [Hospitality Hotdish](#), brought to you by [Cafe & Bar Lurcat](#).

- **What to expect:** Howard and Kate discuss Howard's years rocking a brown polyester tuxedo, having hotdish in Iowa, and making sure his guests and employees alike are taken care of.

**Get involved:** Those interested in coming on the podcast or sponsoring future episodes are invited to email [Kate](#).

## Register for Day at the Capitol



**Join us in advocating for hospitality** and [register today](#) for our 2024 Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, March 13!

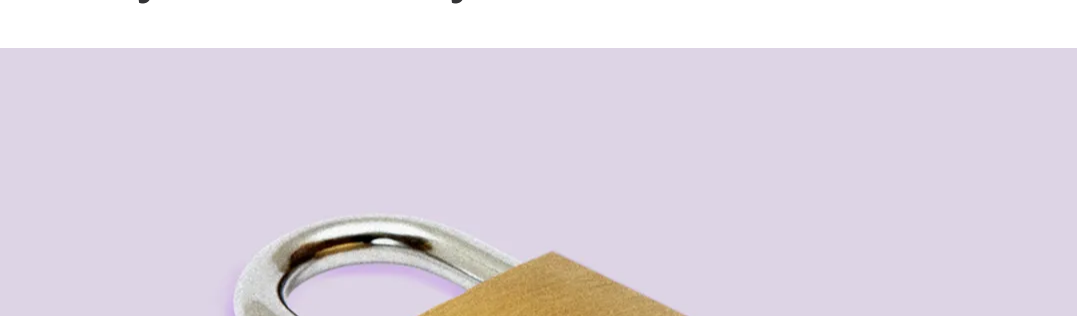
**Why it matters:** In 2023, Minnesotans saw the fastest-moving state legislature in decades, with major implications for the hospitality community.

- **What we faced:** Noteworthy movements from last session included the passage of Earned Sick and Safe Time, Paid Family Medical Leave, Cannabis legalization, and more.
- **What we accomplished:** Hospitality Minnesota managed to secure funding for our educational programs, a seasonal exemption from Paid Family Medical Leave, a food exemption from the state's new delivery tax, and more.

**What's next:** In 2024, the work continues, and we need your voice! Join us for Hospitality Minnesota's [Day at the Capitol](#). Our Association depends on the involvement of our members to tell the story of hospitality to our legislators, who will be tweaking many of the bills passed and introduced last session.

- **Join us in advocating for you:** [Registration is now open](#).

## Join Us for Small Business Technologies – Thriving in Digital Economies



**Learn how to expand your business:** [Join us on Thursday, February 22](#) for a virtual conversation about how small businesses are using essential digital technologies and tools to succeed and expand.

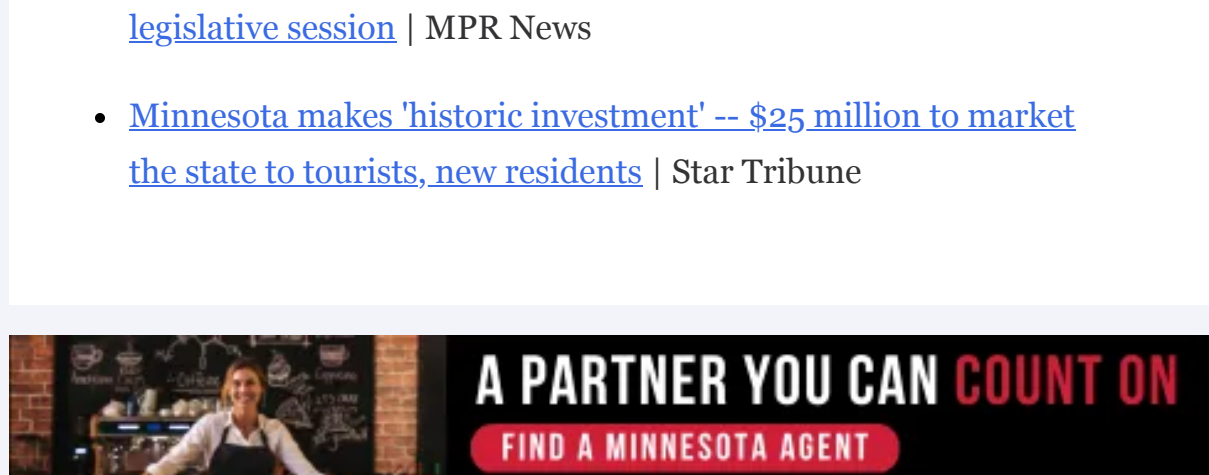
- **Why it matters:** In the digital economy, nearly every business utilizes platforms like Facebook, Google, Instagram, Amazon, Etsy and others to reach customers and sell their products and services. Operators need to familiarize themselves with these digital platforms to survive.

**What to expect:** At this event, we'll hear from a variety of small business professionals about their experiences and have an opportunity to discuss best practices. Kate Raddatz of Park Street PR will moderate a panel that will feature:

- Erik Forsberg, Owner, Devil's Advocate
- Joe Henry, Executive Director, Lake of the Woods Tourism Bureau
- Yao Yaj, Executive Director, Minnesota Hmong Chamber of Commerce

[Register here](#) to reserve your space at this free event.

## MN DEED to Host Small Business Call on Cybersecurity



**What to expect:** Next Tuesday at 2 PM, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development will host [a virtual conversation](#) on Cybersecurity for Small Businesses with a presentation by staff of [Metro State University's MN Cyber Clinic](#).

- **What they're saying:** This conversation will provide valuable insights and practical tips on how to protect your small business from cyber threats.

**Why it matters:** In attending, you will help ensure the security of your customer's data and the reputation of your establishment.

- **Go deeper:** In addition to attending, we encourage you to consider what topics and questions you want to ask and discuss in the meeting.

**Share Your Voice:** You may submit a question ahead of time by contacting [Mark.Simmer@state.mn.us](mailto:Mark.Simmer@state.mn.us)

[Register here](#).

## In the News

- [More Rules Won't Revive Minneapolis](#) (Angie Whitcomb op-ed) | Twin Cities Business
- [Be Cautious with MPLS Labor Board](#) (Angie Whitcomb quoted) | Hospitality Minnesota
- [Brewers Guild wants more regulation for THC drinks out of next legislative session](#) | MPR News
- [Minnesota makes 'historic investment' -- \\$25 million to market the state to tourists, new residents](#) | Star Tribune



## See you back here next week!

To learn more about us, visit our website: [hospitalityminnesota.com](https://hospitalityminnesota.com)

[Members can log into the member portal here.](#)

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