



Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Dec 22, 2025

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...841 words

In today's December 22, 2025 Update:

- **January 22: Stars of the Future** – 15 ProStart teams, one unforgettable evening
- **2026 Minnesota Minimum Wage Updates** – What you need to know
- **Half of Gen Z wants to dine out more** – Report offers insight for all operators
- **Three chances to make your voice heard** – Advocacy isn't optional anymore – show up where decisions get made
- **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.

ONE MONTH ALERT: Stars of the Future at the Renaissance Depot



One month away! [Stars of the Future | January 22 at the Renaissance Depot](#)

If you were with us last year, you already know—this is an event you don't want to miss. And if you haven't experienced Stars of the Future yet, this is your year.

- **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.

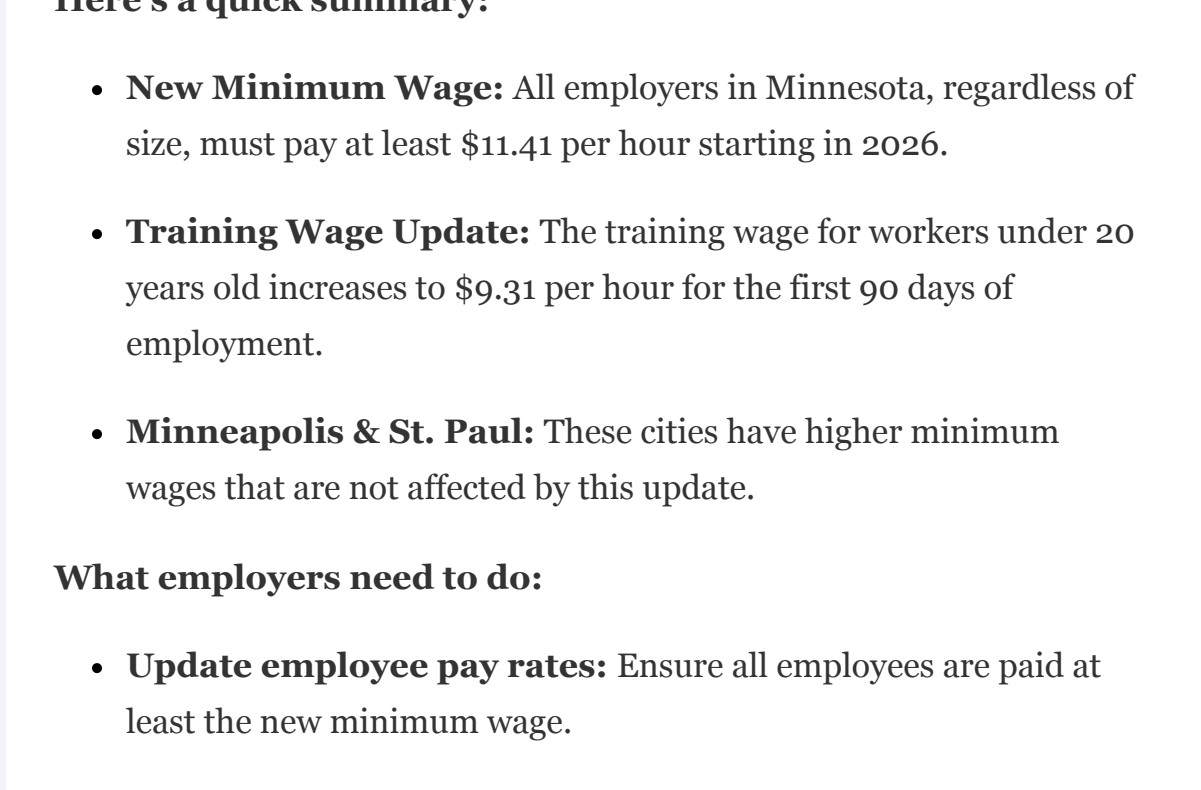
Why it matters: Your participation directly supports HMEF's work training today's students and inspiring tomorrow's industry leaders. Through [ProStart](#) and [Hospitality & Tourism Management](#) programs in schools across the state, we're building the workforce pipeline our industry needs.

- **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](#)

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.

Additional Resources:

- [Learn more about Minnesota's minimum wage rates.](#)
- [Download the updated minimum wage poster.](#)
- [Learn more about Minneapolis minimum wage.](#)
- [Learn more about Saint Paul minimum wage.](#)

Morning Consult Shines Light on Insightful Gen Z Dining Behaviors

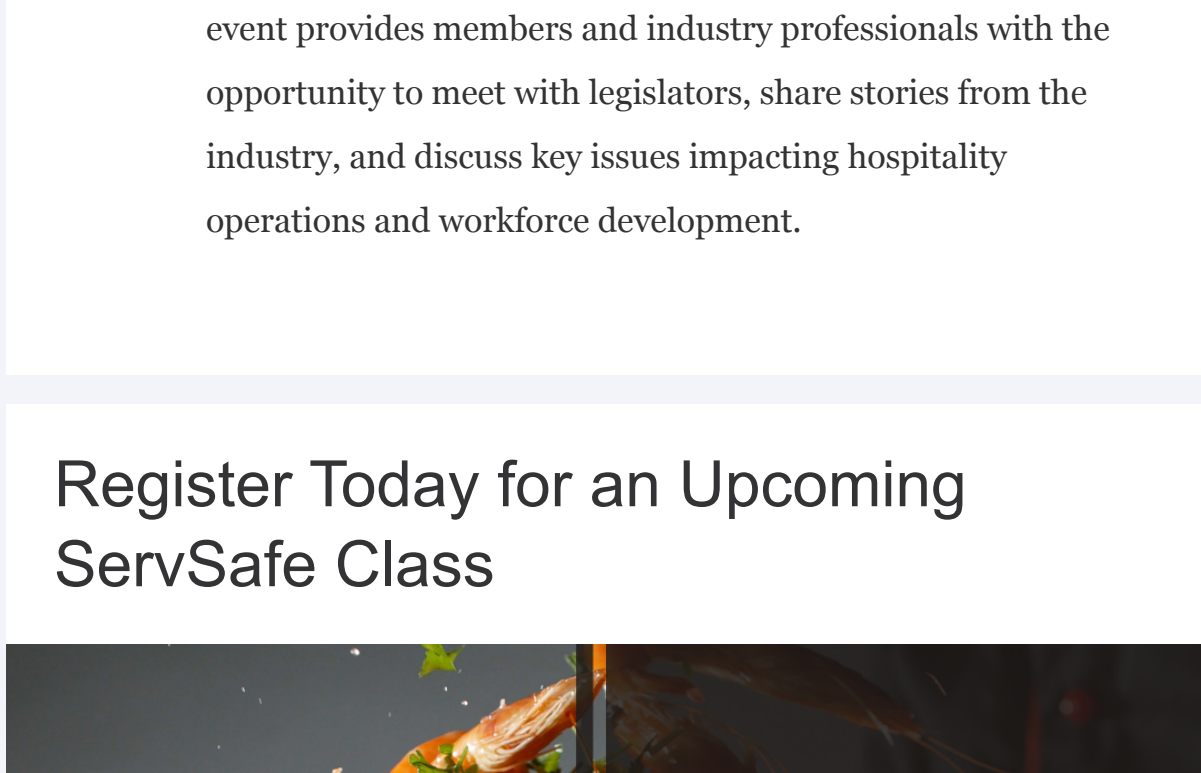


A potential silver lining for dining: Morning Consult recently published [their latest polling trends in Food/Beverage](#), which featured three key takeaways for hospitality business projection in the near future...

- **Gen Z hopes to dine out more.** 50% of Gen Z adult's report wanting to dine out more in the future.
- **Gen Z still prefers in person, fast-food experiences.** 81% of Gen Z reported to prefer dining in when ordering from a fast-food restaurant.
- **Viral moments can set brands above the rest.** Guinness went viral on social media for creative drinking challenges in relation to the brand and because of [a recent Netflix adaption](#).

[Read the Report](#)

Mark Your Calendars for 2026 Advocacy Opportunities

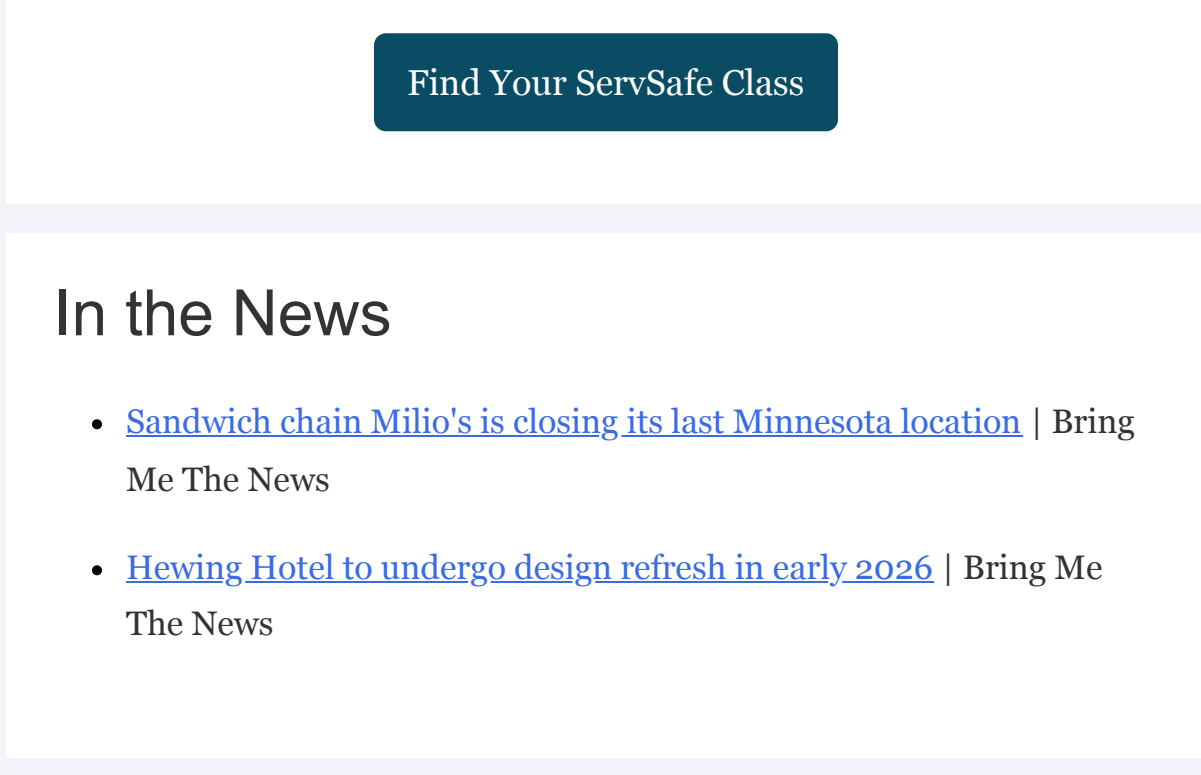


Attention advocates: Today, we're highlighting three opportunities in 2026 for hospitality operators to be heard on the problems that keep our industry up at night on all levels of government.

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

- [Sandwich chain Milio's is closing its last Minnesota location](#) | Bring Me The News
- [Hewing Hotel to undergo design refresh in early 2026](#) | Bring Me The News

See you back here next week!

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