

Member Update

Brought to you by **YOUR LOGO**

By Tony Burton • Apr 13, 2026
Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...826 words

In today's April 13, 2026 Update:

- **Now Available:** [Hospitality Minnesota's 2026 State of Hospitality Report](#)
- **2026 Scholarship Breakfast - May 5:** [Register today to celebrate hospitality's next generation](#)
- **Hotels on the Hill - May 12-13:** [Join American Hotel & Lodging Association in Washington D.C.](#)
- **NRA Food Show May 16-19:** [Contact Andrea](#) for Discounted Registration Fees
- **Secure Choice Retirement Program:** [Enrollment Open](#)
- **Operators:** [Share Your Paid Leave Experience](#)
- **ServSafe Offerings:** [Find A Class Near You](#)
- **In the News**

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



2026 State of Hospitality Report: An Industry at a Breaking Point



In case you missed it: Last week, Hospitality Minnesota [released the 2026 State of Hospitality Report](#) the morning of our Day at the Capitol.

The big picture: [The data we collected](#) for this year's report reveals a stark reality: while top-line indicators appear stable, Minnesota's hospitality industry is being squeezed to its limit.

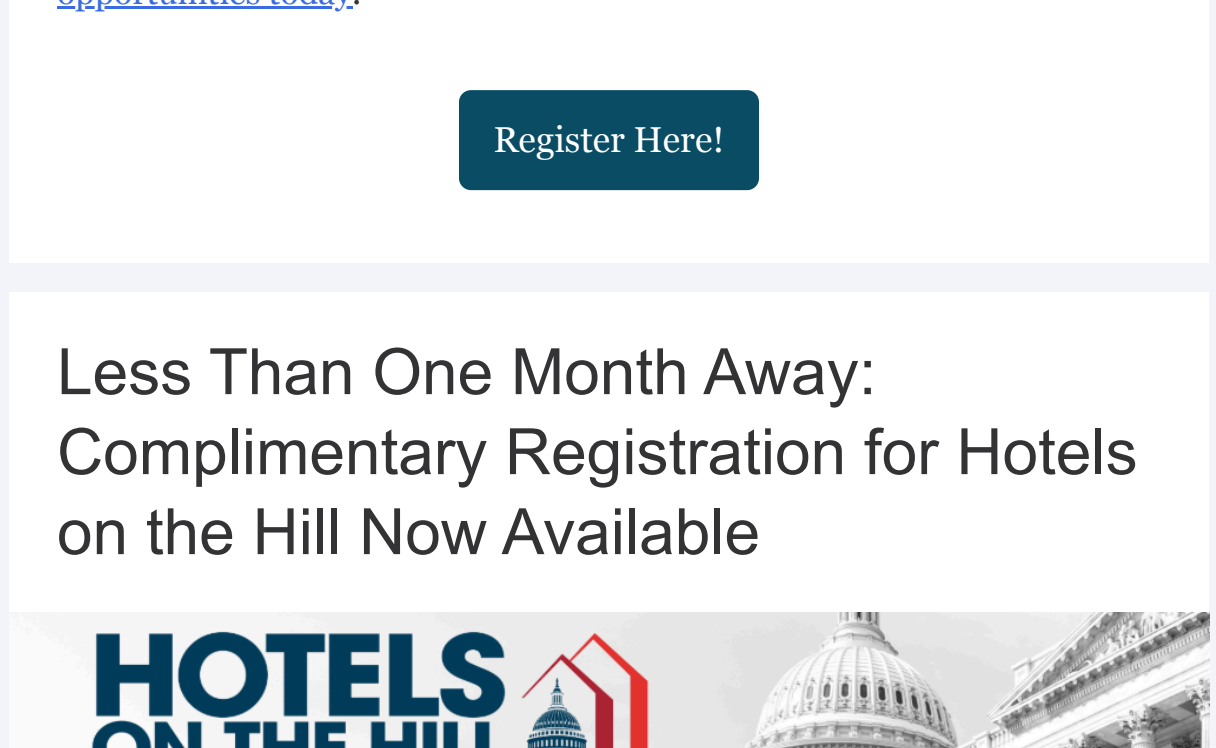
By the numbers: Despite contributing \$8.8 billion to Minnesota's GDP in 2024, the industry's "bottom-line health" is in jeopardy.

- **Financial Health is Declining:** 48% of businesses reported negative financial health in 2025, a 12% increase since 2024.
- **Profits & Traffic are Down:** More than half of hospitality businesses reported lower profits (56.8%) and lower customer traffic (52.4%) in 2025.
- **Regulatory Squeeze:** Local mandates and high sales taxes are stalling recovery; localities with combined sales taxes of 1.25% or higher are seeing recovery rates trend downward by 2-7%.
- **Regional Disparity:** While some suburbs are growing, Minneapolis and St. Paul have lost thousands of hospitality jobs and hundreds of businesses since implementing higher local minimum wages.

The bottom line: Hospitality has long been an economic anchor for Minnesota, but the report warns the industry is at a breaking point. To survive, the industry requires urgent, business-friendly reforms, including tip pooling restructuring and credit card swipe fee reform.

[Read the full report!](#)

Celebrate's Brent Preppernau Mentorship of Hospitality's Future at the 2026 Scholarship Breakfast



You're invited: Join us for [our annual Scholarship Breakfast on Tuesday, May 5, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM at the Beach Club Minneapolis.](#)

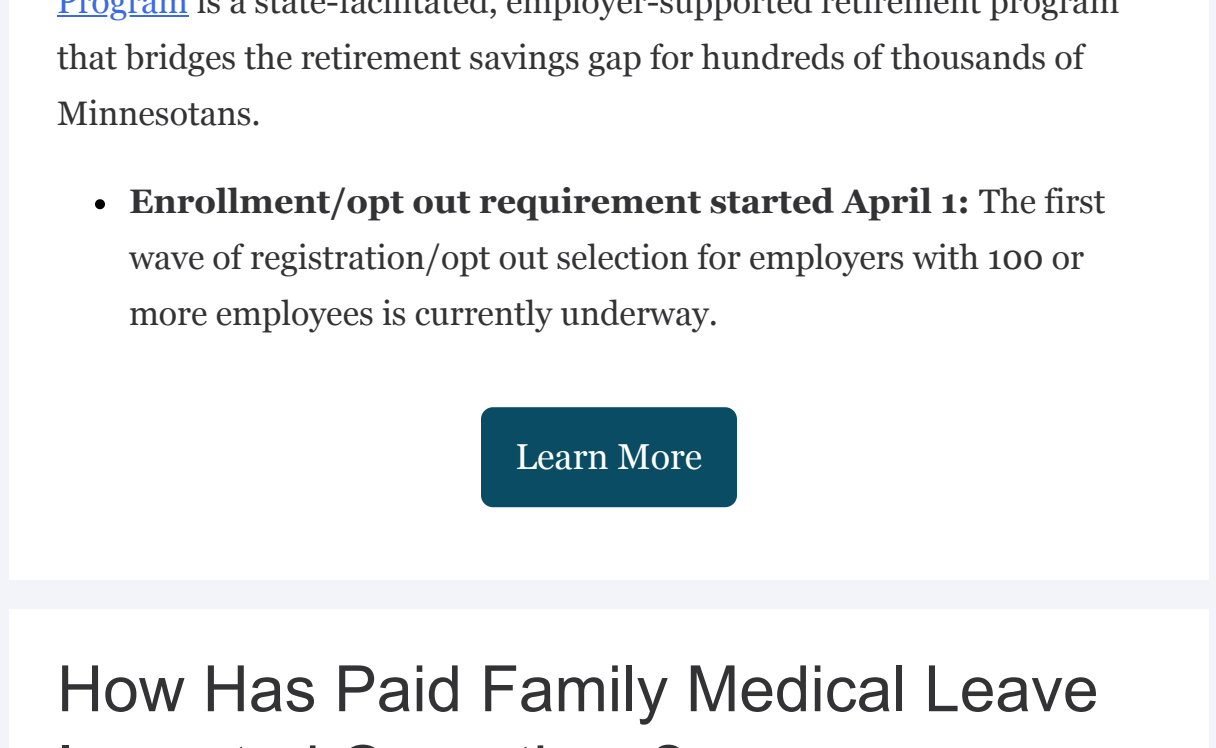
About our 2026 ProStart Mentor of the Year, Brent Preppernau: A mentor at Rogers since 2019, Brent is recognized for his patience, deep culinary knowledge, and commitment to student growth.

- **What sets Brent apart:** Brent emphasizes teamwork and integrity, teaching students that success is defined by effort and experience. Beyond his work at Rogers, he also provides guidance to the Zimmerman culinary team, fostering confidence and skill in every student he meets.
- **Go deeper:** [Click here](#) to read more about Brent's journey to becoming the 2026 ProStart Mentor of the Year.

Interested in sponsoring the breakfast? Support the event and showcase your brand by becoming a sponsor! [Check out our sponsorship opportunities today.](#)

[Register Here!](#)

Less Than One Month Away: Complimentary Registration for Hotels on the Hill Now Available



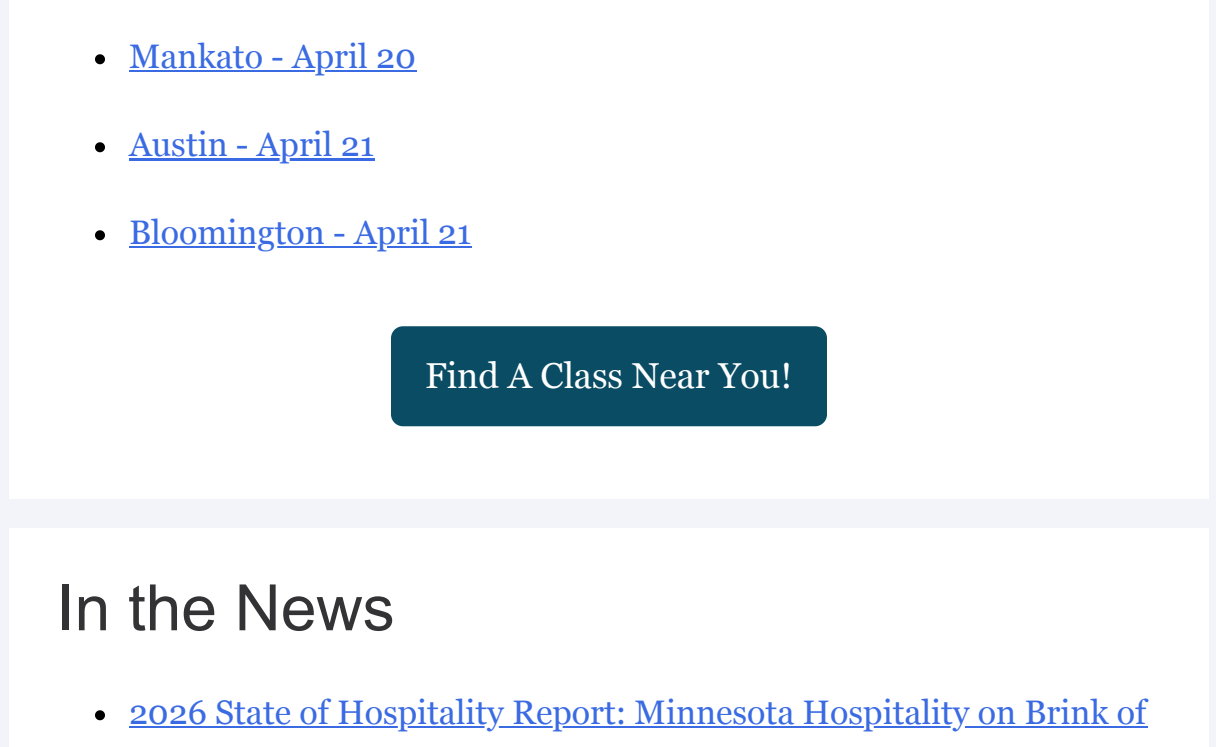
Calling all lodging advocates: Hotels on the Hill, the lodging industry's premier advocacy event, is taking place [May 12-13, 2026, in Washington, D.C.](#)

- **Why it matters:** Direct advocacy results in change. In-person advocacy remains our strongest avenue for effective advocacy.

Complimentary registration: To remove barriers to participation, AHLA has announced registration will be free for AHLA members this year.

[Register for Free NOW!](#)

Don't Miss the 2026 National Restaurant Show May 16-19



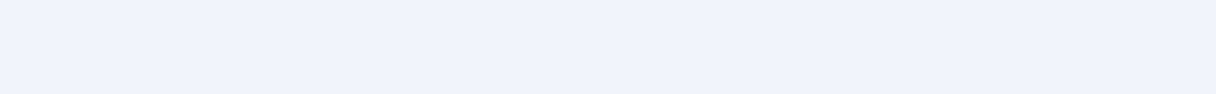
NRA Food Show Returns: The National Restaurant Association's Food Show is [returning to McCormick Place in Chicago, May 16-19, 2026.](#)

Member Perk: Hospitality Minnesota members are eligible for exclusive registration discounts.

- **Next step:** [Email Andrea](#), our Membership Manager, to claim your discount code before you register.

[Learn More!](#)

REMINDER: Minnesota Secure Choice Retirement Program Enrollment Open



Enroll/opt out today: The [Minnesota Secure Choice Retirement Program](#) is a state-facilitated, employer-supported retirement program that bridges the retirement savings gap for hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans.

- **Enrollment/opt out requirement started April 1:** The first wave of registration/opt out selection for employers with 100 or more employees is currently underway.

[Learn More](#)

How Has Paid Family Medical Leave Impacted Operations?

Share your perspective: Hospitality Minnesota is collecting member feedback on the state's Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program to shape our advocacy strategy for the 2026 legislative session.

[Share Your Experience](#)

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!

- [Fridley - April 16](#)
- [Mankato - April 20](#)
- [Austin - April 21](#)
- [Bloomington - April 21](#)

[Find A Class Near You!](#)

In the News

- [2026 State of Hospitality Report: Minnesota Hospitality on Brink of No Return](#) | Hospitality Minnesota
- [Report: Minnesota's hospitality industry 'on the brink of no return'](#) | Star Tribune
- [Minnesota hospitality industry 'needs major reform' to survive, report says](#) | KSTP
- [Elk River culinary team to compete nationally](#) | CBS Minnesota
- [Michelin Guide announces expansion to include Minneapolis restaurants](#) | MPR News
- [Restaurant for Sale - Covered Bridge Restaurant Near Rochester](#) | Todd Fitz

See you back here next week!

To learn more about us, visit our website: [hospitalityminnesota.com](#)
[Members can log into the member portal here.](#)

Was this edition useful?
 Yes No

[Leave feedback](#)

Your responses are anonymous

Follow Hospitality Minnesota on our various channels!
[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by **AXIOS HQ**