



# Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Sep 14, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3 mins...795 words

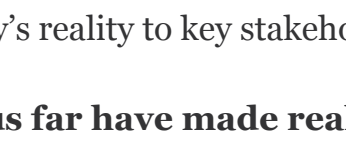
## In today's September 14, 2026 Update:

- **Share Your Perspective:** [September 2026 Hospitality Conditions Survey Now Live!](#)
- **2026 Hospitality Conference:** [Ken Baker of Roasted Data Joins Speaker Line-Up](#)
- **Now Accepting Nominations:** [Submit Your Hospitality Trailblazers for our Stars of the Industry Awards](#)
- **October 13 USI Insurance Webinar:** [Exempt vs. Nonexempt Wage Laws](#)
- **Healthcare Open Enrollment:** [Learn More About Hospitality Minnesota Options](#)
- **ServSafe Offerings:** [Find A Class Near You](#)
- **In the News**

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



## Input Needed: September Hospitality Conditions Survey



**Share Your Perspective:** Hospitality Minnesota is once again partnering with the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis for this month's [Hospitality Conditions Survey](#).

- **Why it matters:** Your input informs our advocacy efforts and explain our industry's reality to key stakeholders.

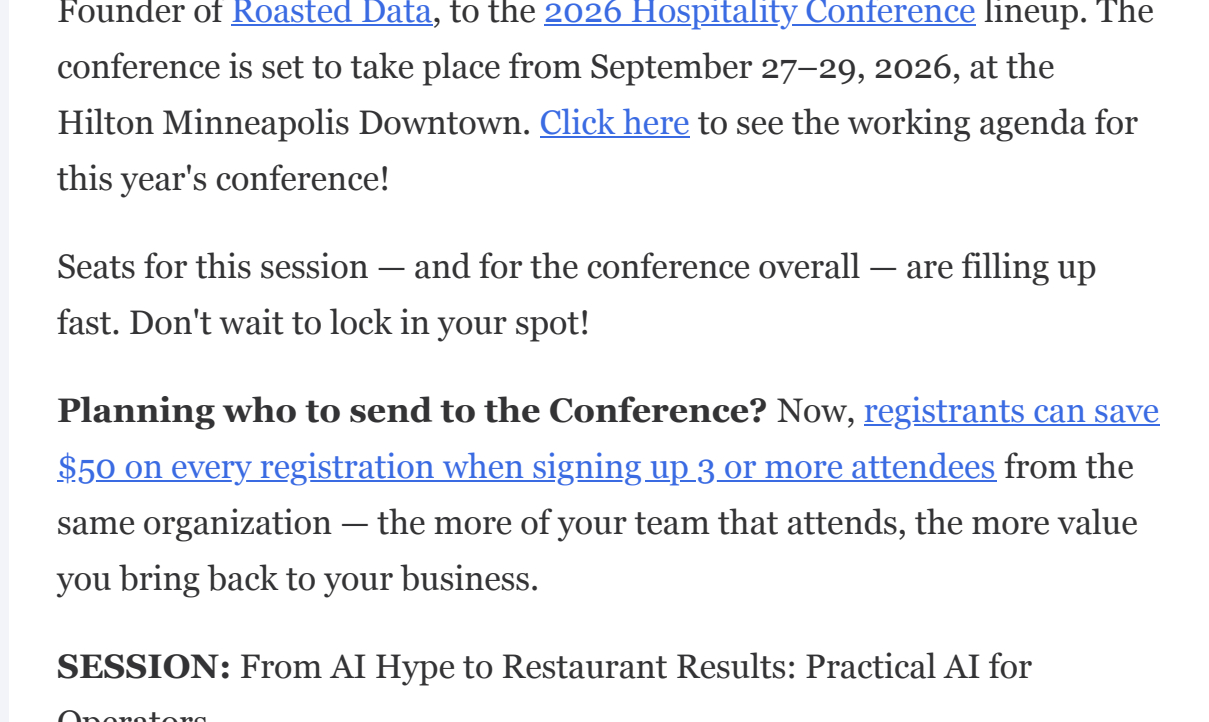
**Survey responses thus far have made real impact.** The results of the last survey ([see the Spring 2026 key takeaways here](#)), earned us critical media placements and helped inform several of our key legislative priorities to secure long-term solutions for the industry.

- **Go deeper:** Read the Federal Reserve's review of the Spring 2026 Survey results [here](#).

[Take the Survey!](#)



## Ken Baker of Roasted Data to Talk AI at 2026 Hospitality Conference



**Let's talk AI!** Hospitality Minnesota is excited to welcome [Ken Baker](#), Founder of [Roasted Data](#), to the [2026 Hospitality Conference](#) lineup. The conference is set to take place from September 27–29, 2026, at the Hilton Minneapolis Downtown. [Click here](#) to see the working agenda for this year's conference!

Seats for this session — and for the conference overall — are filling up fast. Don't wait to lock in your spot!

**Planning who to send to the Conference?** Now, [registrants can save \\$50 on every registration when signing up 3 or more attendees](#) from the same organization — the more of your team that attends, the more value you bring back to your business.

**SESSION:** From AI Hype to Restaurant Results: Practical AI for Operators

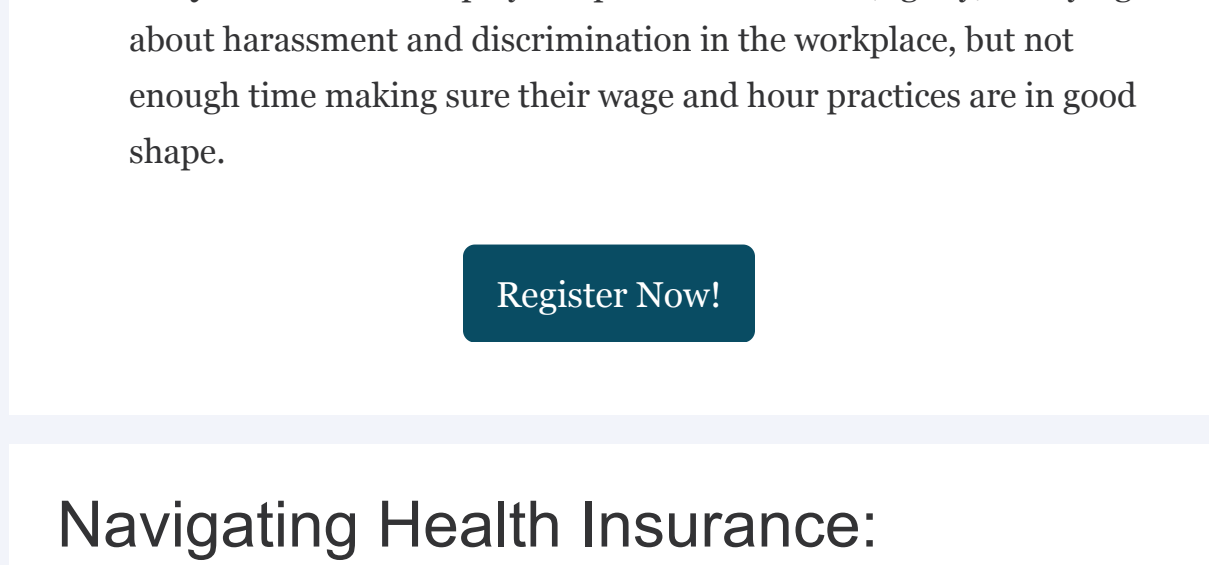
- AI is moving fast, but restaurant operators do not need another presentation about what might happen someday. They need to know what they can actually use now.

In this practical session, Ken Baker will share real examples of how restaurant leaders can use AI today to save time, improve decision-making, and identify opportunities to improve profitability. He'll focus on a handful of high-value use cases, what it takes to implement them, and where operators should be cautious.

**About Ken:** Ken Baker is the founder of Roasted Data and a hospitality finance and operations executive with more than 30 years of experience, including more than 15 years specifically in the restaurant industry. He has held senior finance leadership roles with multi-unit restaurant companies, including serving as CFO, with responsibility spanning finance, accounting, FP&A, labor strategy, systems, and operational performance.

[Register Now!](#)

## Nominate Your Trailblazers for Stars of the Industry Awards



**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. **The deadline to nominate is October 22, 2026.**

**About the program:** The Stars of the Industry Awards honor the remarkable people and operating teams shaping our state's restaurants, hotels, resorts, campgrounds, and supplier partnerships.

- **About the categories:** This year, we're accepting nominations for 11 different awards. [Read the description and eligibility requirements for each category here.](#)

[Submit Your Nominations!](#)

## Register Now for Next Month's USI Webinar on Exempt vs. Nonexempt Laws

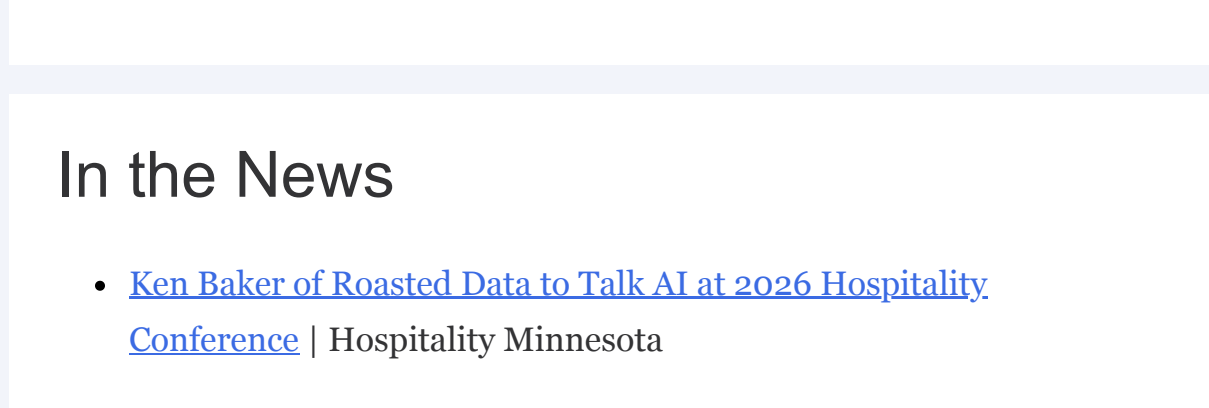


**October 13 USI Employer Solution Webinar:** [Understanding Exempt vs. Nonexempt and Other Difficult Wage and Hour Laws](#)

- **Why it matters:** Employers spend a lot of time (rightly) worrying about harassment and discrimination in the workplace, but not enough time making sure their wage and hour practices are in good shape.

[Register Now!](#)

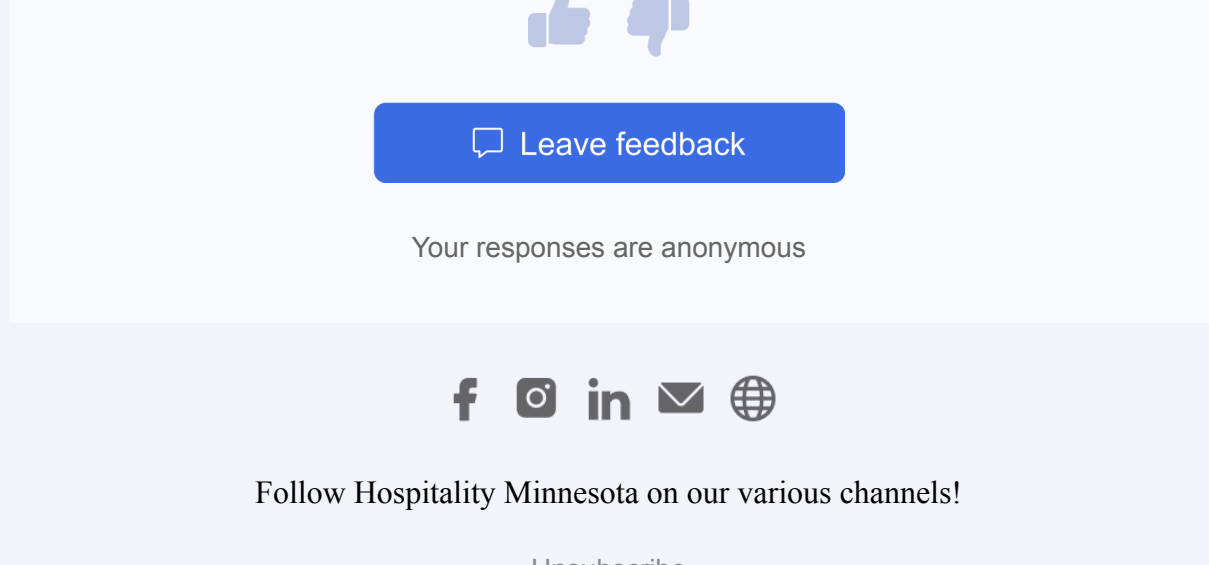
## Navigating Health Insurance: Streamlined Options for Your Team



**Let's talk health insurance:** It's the season of open enrollment, and securing reliable health coverage doesn't have to be complicated. Through [our partnership with HealthMarkets](#), Hospitality Minnesota members and their teams have direct access to flexible healthcare solutions.

[Learn More!](#)

## 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!

- [Minneapolis - September 17](#)
- [Minneapolis - September 18](#)
- [Mankato - September 21](#)
- [Woodbury - September 22](#)
- [Austin - September 23](#)

[Find a Class Near You!](#)

## In the News

- [Ken Baker of Roasted Data to Talk AI at 2026 Hospitality Conference](#) | Hospitality Minnesota
- [Kyle Van Noy Asks Minnesota Vikings Fans For Food Recommendations](#) | Minnesota News Country
- [This year's Minnesota State Fair saw new food favorites and record-breaking entries](#) | Kare 11
- [Group works to rescue 10,000 pounds of Minnesota State Fair food leftovers](#) | CBS News

## See you back here next week!

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