



# Member Update

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By Tony Burton • Dec 01, 2025

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## In today's December 1, 2025 Update:

- Stars of the Industry: Steve Benowitz to be Inducted Into Hall of Fame
- Thursday: National Partners to Host Tax Webinar
- Friday: Last Chance for Stars of the Future Early Bird Registration
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- Get ServSafe Certified This Winter at a Class Near You!
- In the News

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## Steve Benowitz to be Inducted into Hospitality Hall of Fame



**Let the celebrations begin:** Hospitality Minnesota is honored to induct three new hospitality trailblazers into the Hall of Fame, including [Steve Benowitz](#), at this year's Stars of the Industry Awards.

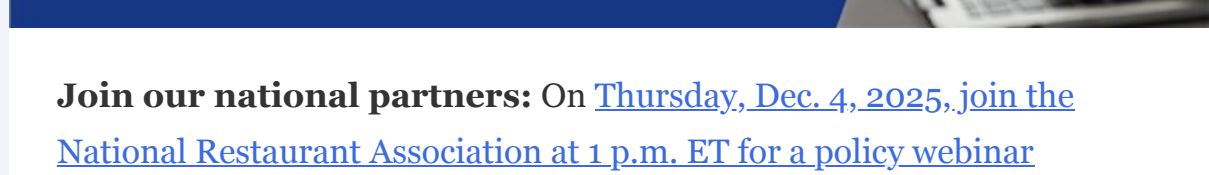
**About Steve:** Steve's career is the definition of leadership rooted in entrepreneurship and vision.

- **Pioneering and Enduring Entrepreneurship:** Benowitz began his remarkable five-decade career in 1976 by investing his savings to open his first bar, demonstrating bold risk-taking and grit that led to a portfolio of iconic establishments (like the 331 Club and transforming properties into concepts like the Rail Station Bar and Grill).
- **Vision for Community Gathering Spaces:** His core success is rooted in the vision of creating establishments that are enduring neighborhood fixtures and welcoming gathering spaces, committed to providing great food and a genuine sense of belonging for patrons.
- **Legacy as a Mentor and Trailblazer:** Beyond ownership, Benowitz transitioned into a founder and mentor role with Craft & Crew Hospitality, actively shaping the company's culture and growth while significantly impacting the countless employees he has mentored and the communities he has enriched.

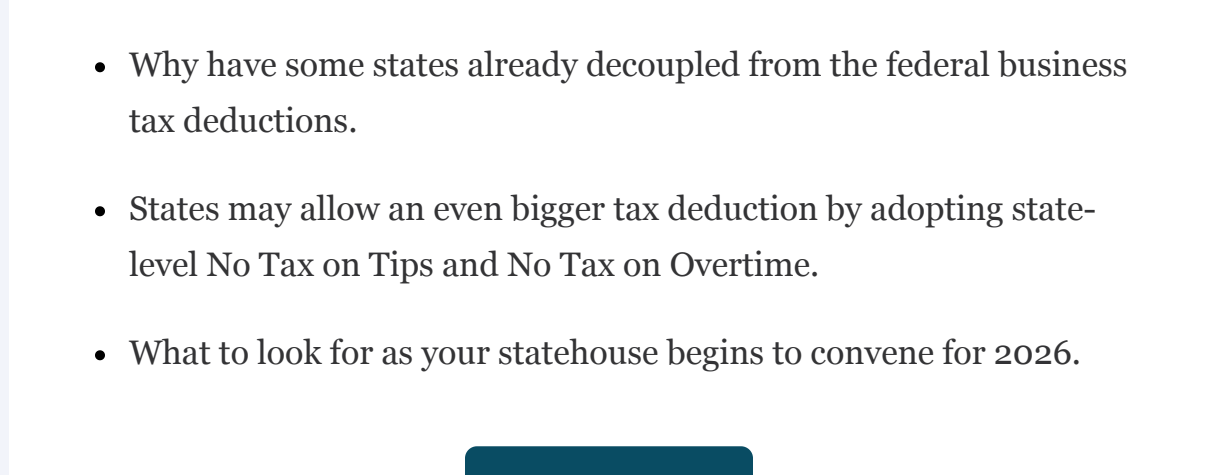
**Individual Registration has closed.** Please contact Andrea at 651-925-4015 or by email at [andrea@hospitalitymn.com](mailto:andrea@hospitalitymn.com) if you are interested in attending.

- [Sponsorship and Advertising Opportunities are still available!](#)

[Read About Steve](#)



## Thursday: NRA to Host Webinar on Impacts of New Federal Tax Law



**Join our national partners:** On [Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025, join the National Restaurant Association at 1 p.m. ET for a policy webinar](#)

breaking down how states are responding to the new federal tax laws.

**What to expect:** How state-level tax codes may respond to recent federal changes, what that means for your bottom line, and how to prepare for both the opportunities and challenges ahead.

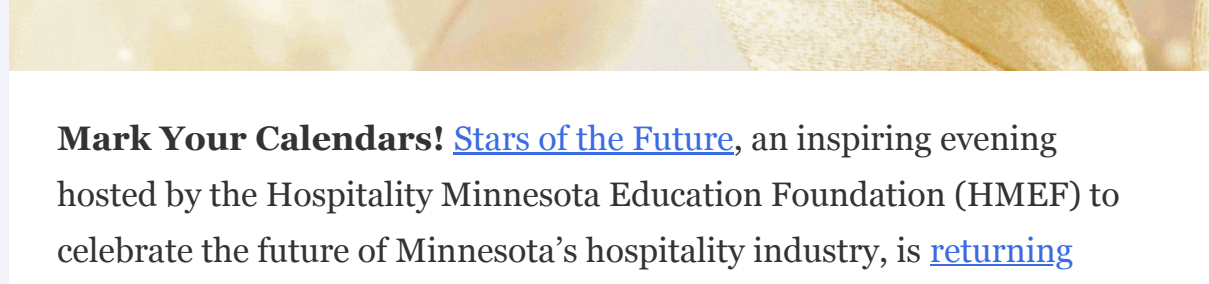
### Key takeaways:

- Why have some states already decoupled from the federal business tax deductions.
- States may allow an even bigger tax deduction by adopting state-level No Tax on Tips and No Tax on Overtime.
- What to look for as your statehouse begins to convene for 2026.

[Register Here](#)



## Stars of the Future Early Bird Registration Rates End Friday



**Mark Your Calendars!** [Stars of the Future](#), an inspiring evening hosted by the Hospitality Minnesota Education Foundation (HMEF) to celebrate the future of Minnesota's hospitality industry, is [returning January 22 to the Renaissance Depot in Downtown Minneapolis](#).

**Why it matters:** Your participation supports HMEF's mission of investing in our industry's future by training the workforce of today and inspiring the leaders of tomorrow. HMEF has made a tremendous impact on students across Minnesota offering the ProStart and Hospitality & Tourism Management career-building programs to schools.

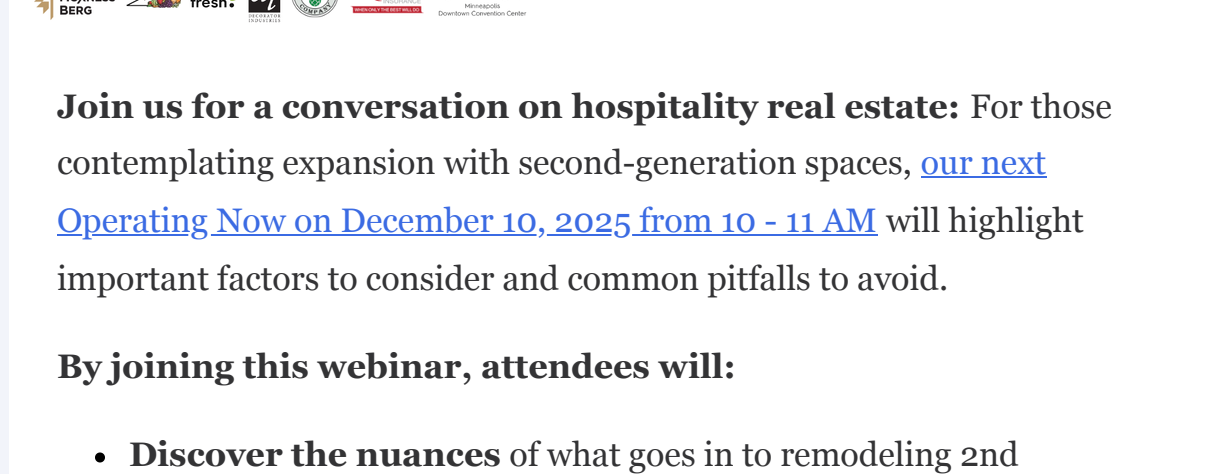
- **About the event:** Stars of the Future is more than a fundraiser to support Minnesota students pursuing their dreams in culinary, lodging, tourism, and hospitality management, it's a night to celebrate the spirit, drive, and potential of our industry's future workforce.

**How to participate:** [Early bird registration](#) closes Friday. Those interested are also invited to sponsor a table at the fundraiser or donate an auction item to make an impact.

[Register Now](#)



## Next Week: Operating Now on Hospitality Real Estate



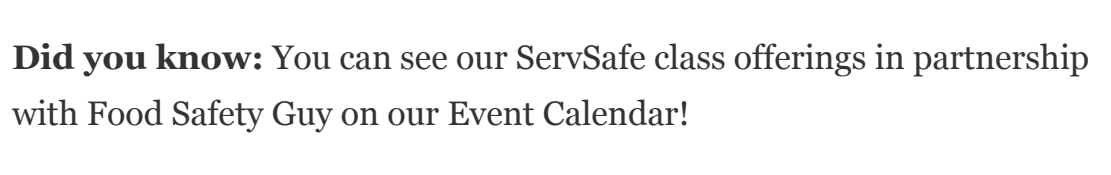
**Join us for a conversation on hospitality real estate:** For those contemplating expansion with second-generation spaces, [our next Operating Now on December 10, 2025 from 10 - 11 AM](#) will highlight important factors to consider and common pitfalls to avoid.

### By joining this webinar, attendees will:

- **Discover the nuances** of what goes in to remodeling 2nd generation space.
- **Gain an understanding** of what may be helpful to include in a Letter of Intent during the early stages of a real estate transaction to help avoid pitfalls in the future.
- **Explore operational considerations** of real estate to help manage business costs and enhance efficiency.
- **Hear about often-overlooked details** regarding the intersection of cannabis operations with commercial lending covenants, lease structures, and risk management strategies.

[Register Now](#)

## Register Your Team for an Upcoming ServSafe Class



**Did you know:** You can see our ServSafe class offerings in partnership with Food Safety Guy on our Event Calendar!

- **Why it matters:** Except for satellite or catered feeding sites, all food enterprises in Minnesota are required to have at least one full-time employee who has completed a Food Manager Certification program like ServSafe™.

[Find Your ServSafe Class](#)

## In the News

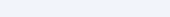
- [John Marshall High School students learn about the hospitality industry from the pros](#) | KIMT News 3
- [Where are the best places to eat in Northfield, MN?](#) | Star Tribune
- [Family-owned Twin Cities restaurant works to feed those in need on Thanksgiving](#) | CBS Minnesota

## See you back here next week!

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