



Press Release  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **FRANE Recognizes Ernie Silvia from Acosta Sales & Marketing as their 2016 Member of the Year; Welcomes new Executive and Board Members**



At their Annual Meeting held at The Sagamore, the members of FRANE honored Mr. Ernie Silvia from Acosta Sales & Marketing as their 2016 Member of the Year. This coveted award goes annually to the one member who exemplifies an unwavering commitment to the Frozen & Refrigerated Industry. Ernie has served in many roles for FRANE, most recently joining the Executive Committee in 2015. Ernie's vast experience, commitment to the industry and tireless work on behalf of the association and its members, is without compare. Ernie joins the elite list of past members that include Mr. Ron Suchecki, Big Y Supermarkets and Stop & Shop.

At this collaborative event, welcoming decision makers from the Frozen & Refrigerated Industry throughout the Northeast, FRANE Chairwoman, Julie Babyak recapped the year for the Association, including FRANE's sold out events, their continued commitment to education through their Scholarship program, in which FRANE and the family of Ryan Marrocco have awarded over \$660, 000, welcomed 13 new members and laid out the plans for their continued growth. As part of her plan for growth, Julie welcomed the following industry leaders to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Elected to serve on the Executive Committee are Chris Capaldi, Advantage Solutions, Clem DeLiso, Pioneer Cold and Mike Dauphin, Johnson O'Hare. They join, Julie, along with other Executive Committee Members, Rick Billings, Turkey Hill, Rob Cohen, Bozzuto's, Dave Izzo, Palermo's Pizza, Bill Lyons, Bill Lyons & Associates, Sal Marrocco, Brian McNulty, Mama Rosie's, Ernie Silvia, Acosta Sales & Marketing and Ron Suchecki, RJS Consulting. Together, along with the Immediate Past Chairman, Mr. Jim Wright, C&S Wholesale Grocers, round out the Executive Team that will work directly with the Board to further grow and develop the FRANE Association.

The Board of Directors also gained a wealth of knowledge and leadership with the election of the following new Board members: Steve Denhof, Land O Lakes, Joanne Dwyer, Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, Jim Fernandes, Advantage Solutions, Alex Hardej, Advantage Solutions, Andy Linsky, Hillandale Farms, Robert Melfi, Ateco / Mrs. T's, and Brian Spears, Sargento. Together, these leaders will work

with the Association's existing Board and continue to enhance the presence of FRANE within the marketplace.

This year's business session was jam packed with inspiration and leadership as Ms. Julie Henderson, NFRA, Mr. Mark Tarzwell, Ateeco / Mrs. T's and Mr. Kevin Coupe, Morning News Beat addressed the crowd and offered trends, analysis and insights into our amazing industry. In addition, this event welcomed Dr. Russell Zwanka and students from SUNY's Food Marketing Track, Carolyn DelBianco, Liz Myzyka, Katherine Maglione and Ema Savic. As part of their Industry Panel on Friday afternoon, these students were joined by 4 of FRANE's Emerging Leader Winners – Meaghan Burke, Chris Capaldi, Bilal Janjua and Tyler Violette – and offered our guest their first-hand insights into the Millennial Shopper.

And finally, this annual meeting served to recap the amazing year the Association has enjoyed. With continued new member growth, they celebrated the accomplishments of this past year. The Scholarship program continues to grow, this year awarding 20 scholarships and to date, awarding over \$660,000 to deserving students of their member companies. In addition, they have continued to support the Food Banks throughout the Northeast with their annual Volunteer Event in March and June, in which this past year, close to 100 members volunteered at Food Banks in Boston, Western Ma, Maine, NY and CT.

This year, the group marked the relaunch of their hugely successful FRANE Taste Day to be held on March 1, 2017 at Chez Josef. These programs, along with their sold out signature events, the Annual Ryan Marrocco Memorial Golf Tournament, to be held May 23, 2016 and their Annual Convention and Business Conference in September, has this Association poised for continued growth.

As an Association, their goal is simple, to support the frozen, refrigerated and fresh foods members of this industry by providing valuable programs and benefits for its membership. Relying on their core principles for their guidance – adding business value, educational support and giving back to their members and their communities – the members of FRANE are confident that with the “continued support of our retailers, wholesalers, brokers, logistics providers and manufacturers, this Association will continue to thrive and grow in this ever changing marketplace.” Membership is open to all dairy, frozen, ice cream companies along with all companies that serve that industry. Call 203-597-7215 or visit [www.frane.org](http://www.frane.org)