



Press Release  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Julie Babyak of Big Y to lead Frozen & Refrigerated Association of the Northeast (FRANE) as Chairwoman, welcomes new Executive & Board Members and Honors Ron Suchecki of Ateco/Mrs. T's as their 2015 Member of the Year.**

At their Annual Meeting held at Chatham Bars Inn, the members of FRANE unanimously welcomed Julie Babyak of Big Y as the Association Chairwoman for the next two years. Babyak takes the helm from Jim Wright of C&S, who has served as Chairman for the last two years. Jim leaves the Association poised for continued growth as it enters its 61<sup>st</sup> year of serving the perishable industry.

Julie brings with her a wealth of knowledge and incredible enthusiasm for the industry and the Association that will allow FRANE to continue its mission of supporting its members and providing unparalleled programs and benefits to its entire membership. As her first order of business, she welcomed the following industry leaders to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Elected to serve on the Executive Committee are Rob Cohen, Bozzuto's and Ernie Silvia, Acosta Sales & Marketing. They join, Julie, along with other Executive Committee Members, Bill Lyons, Bill Lyons & Associates, Rick Billings, Turkey Hill, Clem DeLiso, Pioneer Cold, Dave Izzo, Palermo's Pizza, Brian McNulty, Mama Rosie's, Gregg Raffensperger, Delizza Patisserie and Ron Suchecki, Ateco/Mrs. T's. Together, they round out the Executive Team that will work directly with the Board and past Association Leaders 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: Jason Adams, Pioneer Cold, Meghan Burke, Pepsi Co., Chris Capaldi, Advantage Sales & Marketing, Mark Criswell, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Alan Fisher, ESM-NE, Peter Marchant, Crossmark, Rich Mitlitsky, Mitlitsky Eggs, Matt O'Hare, Johnson O'Hare, and Todd Pattie, Ahold USA. 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 event marked the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association. In celebration, the Association awarded their coveted Member of the Year award to Mr. Ron Suchecki, Ateco/Mrs. T's. This award was presented in memory of Val Vivenzio, long-time supporter, Past President and President Emeritus of the Association. Val's commitment to

the industry, the Association and its members, is echoed in the efforts of Mr. Suchecki. Mr. Steve Nordstrom was on hand to remember Val and recognize Ron as well.

This year's business session was jam packed with inspiration and leadership as Mr. Jeff Rumachik, Executive VP/COO, National Frozen & Refrigerated Association, Mr. Steve Nordstrom, Director Dairy & Frozen, Big Y and Mr. Kevin Coupe, Morning News Beat addressed the crowd and offered trends, analysis and insights into our amazing industry.

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 24 scholarships and to date, awarding close to \$650,000 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.

These programs, along with their sold out signature events, the Annual Ryan Marrocco Memorial Golf Tournament, to be held May 24, 2015 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)