



Press Release
November 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FRANE Welcomes new Executive and Board Members at their Annual Convention & Business Conference

At their Annual Meeting held at The Renaissance Downtown Providence, the members of FRANE welcomed decision makers from the Frozen & Refrigerated Industry throughout the Northeast and celebrated another year of sold out events and a growing membership base! FRANE Chairwoman, Julie Babyak, Big Y, recapped the year for the Association, including FRANE's continued commitment to education through their Scholarship programs, in which FRANE and the family of Ryan Marrocco have awarded over \$660,000 and another \$10,000 through the FRANE Member Memorial Fund! Building on back-to-back years of solid growth, FRANE again welcomed 10 new members this past year.

As part of the business session, Julie welcomed the following industry leaders to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors:

Elected to serve on the Executive Committee is Andy Linsky, Guida's Dairy. He joins, Julie, along with other Executive Committee Members, Rick Billings, Turkey Hill, Chris Capaldi, Advantage Solutions, Rob Cohen, Bozzuto's, Mike Dauphin, Johnson O'Hare, Clem DeLiso, Pioneer Cold, 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, they 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 and returning Board members: Andrew Connell, C&S, David Flannery, Organic Valley Fresh, Keith Gustafson, Cabot Creamery, Chris Kostko, Gorton's, Michael Karavetsos, HP Hood and Jim Ryan, Murry's Fine Foods. 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 motivation and insight as the group welcomed Ms. Regina Beidler, Farmer Ambassador, Organic Valley Fresh and Ms. Tracy Anthony, Vice President, Clements Marketplace. Of course, Friday's Millennial program didn't disappoint and included a culinary demonstration from students and alumni of Johnson & Wales. Congratulations to their 2017 Emerging Leaders - Bilal Janjua from Advantage Solutions (2nd year winner), Emily Davidsson from Acosta Sales & Marketing, Molly Dube from Advantage Solutions, Kevin Bumpus from JOH and

Christine Dibona from Advantage Solutions- who were all recognized at Friday night's dinner. All in all, the weekend was a huge success and momentum is building for yet another amazing year!

Not only was the business conference a huge hit, but the location and venue, second-to-none. Guests enjoyed lunch and a tour at Trinity Brewhouse, a narrated trip around the area with the Providence RiverBoat and amazing activities all within walking distance. As the group settled in for dinner, laughs were plenty on Friday as the group welcomed Providence's own Mike Murray, aka The Deaf Comic and danced the night away on Saturday with Providence's own Steve Smith and The Naked.

Looking toward 2018, FRANE's Annual Scholarship Program Applications will be available in January and registration for their Annual FRANE/Ryan Marrocco Memorial Golf Tournament, scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2018 at Pine Hills, is now open. In addition, they will again support local food banks with their Annual Volunteer Events in March and June. And, mark your calendar, Taste Day is coming to the Boston area in October 2018!

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