



Press Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FRANE Recognizes Rick Billings from Turkey Hill as their 2018 Member of the Year; Honors Big Y Foods, Inc. as Retailer of the Year and Welcomes new Executive and Board Members



At their Annual Meeting held at The Hilton Mystic, the members of FRANE unanimously honored Mr. Rick Billings from Turkey Hill as their 2018 Member of the Year. This coveted award goes annually to the one member who exemplifies an unwavering commitment to the Frozen & Refrigerated Industry. Rick has served in many roles for FRANE and his vast experience, commitment to the industry and tireless work on behalf of the association and its members, is without compare.

In addition, FRANE recognized Big Y Foods, Inc. as their 2018 Retailer of the Year. As Julie Babyak completes her term as Board Chair, the Board thanked her for her tireless service on behalf of the Association. This year's award winners join the elite list of past members that include Mr. Ernie Silvia, Mr. Ron Suchecki, and Stop & Shop.



At this collaborative event, welcoming decision makers from the Frozen & Refrigerated Industry throughout the Northeast, Leaders of the Association recapped the year, including their sold out events, their continued commitment to education through their Scholarship program, in which FRANE and the family of Ryan Marrocco have awarded close to \$700, 000, and their continued double digit new member growth. As part of the Association's Annual Meeting, they welcomed the following industry leaders to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Serving on the Executive Committee are Membership Co-Chair, Rob Cohen, Bozzuto's, Business Conference Chair, Mike Dauphin, JOH, Golf Co-Chair, Jim Fernandes, JOH, Membership Co-Chair, Association Co-Chair, Dave Izzo, Palermo's Pizza, Andy Linsky, Guida's Dairy, (Retired)Golf Co-Chair, Bill Lyons, Bill Lyons & Associates, Golf Co-Chair, Sal Marrocco, Stop & Shop (retired), Charitable Giving Chair, Brian McNulty, Mama Rosie's, Association Co-Chair Ernie Silvia, Acosta Sales & Marketing and Membership Co-Chair, Ron Suchecki, RJS Consulting. Together, along with the Immediate Past Chair, Ms. Julie Babyak, Big Y Foods, Inc. and Mr. Jim Wright, C&S Wholesale Grocers, they 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 representing their Retailer members: Molly Devaney, Highland Park Market, David Keenan, Roche Bros., and Joel Brissenden, Stop & Shop. Rounding out the elections, John Lombardi, CMC Foods, Rich Mitlitsky, Mitlitsky Eggs, Marcelle Smalley, Kemp's, David Sussman, ESM, Alex Murch, C&S Wholesale Grocers, Corinne Ventola, Turkey Hill and James Messer, HP Hood were also elected to serve 3 year terms. 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 critical information for today's leaders as they welcomed Mr. Rick Alpern, President, Single Source Marketing and Mr. Kurian Thomas, Senior VP and Practice Leader, Americas at IRI. Both addressed the crowd and offered trends, analysis and insights into our amazing industry and connecting with today's consumers. With Industry leaders that represented a significant portion of the Northeast Market, the topics were relevant, timely and critical to driving consumer sales.

And finally, this annual meeting served to recap the amazing year the Association has enjoyed. With continued double digit, new member growth, they celebrated the accomplishments of this past year. The Scholarship program continues to grow, this year awarding 20 scholarships in memory of Ryan Marrocco and another 10 in member of past FRANE members. To date, FRANE and the family of Ryan Marrocco have awarded close to \$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.

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