

THE GriffinReport

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END CAPS

STOP & SHOP UNIONS RATIFY THREE-YEAR CONTRACT

Stop & Shop workers in New England have approved a new contract by an overwhelming majority. The contract covers 35,000 union members in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The five unions are United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Locals 328, 371, 919, 1445 and 1459.

According to Local 328, the contract allows for wage increases, affordable health insurance, fair scheduling (two-week schedule in advance), improved dental and vision coverage, defined pension benefits, new additional full-time positions, guaranteed hours, an increase in minimum hours for long-term part-time employees and a health savings account or annual bonuses.

The previous contract expired in late February. Bargaining committees, comprising UFCW union leadership and members from the stores, conducted 57 negotiating sessions with the company and a federal mediator over the course

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Mike Violette Named To Lead AG New England



Mike Violette

The board of directors of Associated Grocers of New England has named Mike Violette its new president.

Violette has been acting COO and will continue in that role, reporting to Michael Bourgoine, who will continue his duties as CEO until his retirement in early July.

Violette has more than 30 years of experience in the food industry, where he has held multiple positions on both the retail and wholesale sides of the business. His career began in his own family's store in Milford, New Hampshire, followed by a career path that led him first to Supervalu and Shaw's Supermarkets in Keene, New Hampshire, and then to AG New England in 1998.

His main focus has been with the sales and retail development department, where he has continuously been successful in adding new customers and driving additional sales, according to AG New England.

"Working with Mike, I have come to appreciate his honesty, candor and insight into this highly volatile and competitive business," said Bourgoine. "He is tenacious, passionate and always willing to tackle any challenge while still finding the time to volunteer to help those less fortunate or to lend a hand to someone in need."

"I have had the pleasure of working with Mike for the past 15 years and believe he will be very successful in guiding the company as we move towards the future and all the challenges it will present. I'd like to congratulate Mike on this well-deserved promotion."

Violette also serves as a volunteer for The Friendly Kitchen in Concord, New Hampshire, and The Capital Region Food Program.

column

Kudos To David Golub & FIA Passes the Gavel To Lorelei Mottese

By Michael Rosen
President, Food Industry Alliance of New York

Let me begin by congratulating David Golub on his retirement as SVP of Price Chopper. David's pursuit of new and exciting endeavors will undoubtedly be met with great success. Our sentiment is, of course, bittersweet, as he will also be leaving his post as FIA chairman.



David Golub



Michael Rosen

David has been a trusted voice at FIA for many years. He was an integral member of our Government Relations Committee. He was a thoughtful and respected voice in shaping policy and strategy on many thorny issues, most recently including state GMO labeling, \$15 minimum wage and 90-day paid family leave. David also served as treasurer and ultimately ascended to lead FIA as chairman.

On behalf of FIA and its members, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to David for his commitment and dedication to the organization and food industry at large.

While David's departure for greener pastures is bittersweet, we are excited to announce that Lorelei Mottese of Wakefern/Shop Rite has agreed to serve as our first woman chairperson, an honor she well deserves.



Lorelei Mottese

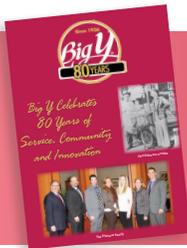
As former mayor of Lincoln Park, New Jersey, Mottese knows a thing or two about working with elected officials, especially when it comes to issues important to business.

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THE NEW Foodservice @Retail



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BIG Y'S 80TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL REPORT

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Column

SUPERMARKET REPORT

The Rewards Of Giving Credit

By John Dumais
President
New Hampshire Grocers
Association



Recognition is one of the most important aspects of any trade association. NHGA places a high priority on acknowledging those who help advance the goals of the state's food and beverage trades.

Take, for instance, the association's scholarship program. We are very fortunate to annually support the education of more than 50 students from our state with \$1,000 scholarships.

We also enjoy the excitement and competition of choosing a Best Bagger, like this year's New Hampshire winner Gabrielle Casey. Her reward was a trip to compete nationally. In reality, every state and national contestant won praise from their families, friends and state associations.

Another example is New Hampshire the Beautiful, an environmental organization financially supported by members of the New Hampshire Soft Drink Association, the Beverage Distributors of New Hampshire Association and the New Hampshire Grocers Association.

This collaborative effort addresses litter control, recycling and environmental education through financial grants. In addition, more than a dozen recognition plaques are presented to local students for the environmental good they have done.

Recently, NHGA recognized several deserving individuals. NHGA's Appreciation Award was presented to New Hampshire State House Representative, Tara Sad. She has been a state representative for 10 years and is the current vice chairwoman of the Environment & Agriculture

Committee. In recent years, she has been a strong advocate for consumer and food industry fairness.

At the national level, each state is allowed to annually nominate a person who has been a strong advocate for the food industry on government issues. This year, NHGA nominated U.S. Sen. Kelly Ayotte. NHGA members were joined by National Grocers Association officials in presenting Sen. Ayotte with the Spirit of America Award in Washington (see opposite page). The senator has heard and understood the concerns of New Hampshire's food industry since the days she was the state's Attorney General. And when she went to Washington, the commitment to grocers' issues has continued.

NHGA's most prestigious award remains the Special Recognition Award. It is reserved for a limited number of people who have accomplished significant achievements in their lifetime that benefited the grocery industry. This year it was awarded to Associated Grocers of New England's Mike Bourgoine. His accomplishments are now legendary. His employment in the food industry spans 45 years, the past 12 years as AG New England's president and CEO. He established a new warehouse, regionally expanded distribution and substantially increased sales to independent operators.

While these are the most significant honors bestowed each year, others are left unmentioned. They are those who volunteer on NHGA's board and committees, those who are actively involved in government relations advocacy and the hundreds who support NHGA functions through sponsorships, exhibits, advertising and attendance.

Yes, it is rewarding to recognize people who have worked hard and selflessly contributed so much to warrant the specific honor bestowed on them. The accolade for the rest of us is that we have these opportunities to express our appreciation to them. That is the ultimate gratitude all of us can achieve.

FIA

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Mottese has been involved with government at the local, state and federal levels for the past 26 years. Her combination of public and private experience makes her uniquely qualified to address issues from the perspective of an elected official, an administration official and a lobbyist for Wakefern Food Corp.

She joined Wakefern Food Corp. in 2000 and serves as the director of government relations. In that role, she leads her team on federal and state legislative initiatives important to the industry, such as healthcare, immigration and tax reform. In New York, she proudly played a key role in FIA's campaign for wine in supermarkets as well as supporting other important FIA initiatives. Her political acumen and multi-state experience

makes her a respected voice in the industry.

She is chairwoman of the Connecticut Food Association Government Relations Committee, past chair of Food Industry Alliance's and NGA's Government Relations Committees; is a longtime FIA and Delaware Food Industry Council board member; and, most recently, was elected president of the Women Grocers Association.

She is the recipient of the 2013 New Jersey Food Council Good Government Award, 2014 *Griffin Report* Women of Influence Award, NJBIA 2014 Leonard Johnson Service Award, CFA's 2014 Hall of Fame Award and NGA's 2015 Great American Award

Mottese is a graduate of William Paterson University and Fairleigh Dickinson University (masters of administrative science). She and her husband John and have two sons, John Robert and Christopher.

End Caps

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the science of nutrition has matured. Guiding Stars also has added more information to help consumers live better, such as recipes and in-depth health and nutrition information at the Guiding Stars website. Guiding Stars was a revolutionary idea that has stood the test of time. Sound science, committed public health experts, transparency; these are all qualities of the Guiding Stars program that make it a hallmark public health success."

In addition, the program is helping to create momentum for food manufacturers to alter their recipes. During the company's 10-year tenure, the percentage of foods that earn a star grew to approximately 35 percent, including a dramatic 17 to 35 percent growth in ratings among private label products, many of which now include more nutritious choices with low-sodium and reduced fat options.

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