President's Message

It is my distinct honor and privilege to welcome you to the New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association's (NJLBA) 93rd Annual Convention. As I complete my second year as President, I am reminded that while much has evolved in the hospitality industry since our inception in the early 1930s, our core purpose remains unchanged. As we celebrate our industry's multi-decadal achievements this week, the Association stands as the same dedicated, deeply committed organization that was founded all those years ago.

The NJLBA has always played, and will continue to play, a critical role in protecting the integrity and value of our members' liquor licenses. We serve as a strong, united voice for the hospitality industry in both the State House and the halls of the Legislature. This week, as we gather at our exciting new location at the Hard Rock in Atlantic City, we represent not just our rich history, but the bright future of our industry. I firmly believe that the future holds immense growth and prosperity, and that by standing together, there is no challenge we cannot overcome.

To that end, I want to emphasize the critical importance of maintaining your NJLBA membership, and I strongly urge you to share this message with fellow licensees. We all know a business owner who is not yet a member but should be. I challenge each of you in the months ahead to reach out to licensees in your respective towns and explain the unmatched value and advocacy of the NJLBA.

By presenting a united front in the coming year, we can ensure our collective voice is heard clearly by our elected representatives, the Governor's Office, and the wider industry. Facing the challenges ahead requires active participation. You can make a direct impact by attending our monthly board meetings, supporting our affiliate members program, and proactively recruiting new members. If every single one of us brings in just one new member in 2027, the NJLBA will be completely unstoppable.

This week's robust agenda demonstrates our ongoing need to stay informed on the latest regulatory updates and operational trends impacting our businesses. We are especially grateful to welcome Division of ABC Director Paul Urbish and his staff, who will be providing essential updates on ABC matters and compliance.

In closing, I would like to extend a special thank you to our premier convention sponsors, affiliate members, journal advertisers, and industry partners whose generous support makes the NJLBA's 93rd Annual Convention possible. To all of our attendees—especially our hard-working members—thank you for taking valuable time away from your businesses to join us. Your commitment is the very reason our conventions succeed year after year.

I am also deeply grateful to our Executive Director, Diane Weiss, and Ava Lucash, Social Media Coordinator for their tireless hard work behind the scenes to make this convention an absolute success.

I hope you all thoroughly enjoy the convention, and I look forward to connecting with you.

Best wishes to you, your families, and your businesses for a safe, happy, and prosperous holiday season.

– **Reggie Hyde**, *President*

Executive Director's Message

It is my absolute honor and privilege to welcome you to the New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association's (NJLBA) 93rd Annual Convention. While the past few years have undoubtedly brought unprecedented challenges for our bars, restaurants, and taverns, this convention—and our Association—stand as enduring symbols of our industry's collective strength, unity, and resilience. Despite rising food and beverage costs, fluctuating gas prices, persistent staffing shortages, and an ever-evolving legislative landscape, I am incredibly proud of how we have risen to meet these hurdles together.

This week's convention is meticulously designed to reflect the rapid shifts in the hospitality landscape and address the most pressing concerns facing licensees today. Within this journal, you will find a robust agenda featuring critical training sessions, expert panel discussions, and workshops engineered to keep your business both informed and empowered. Beyond education, this convention offers an invaluable forum to exchange ideas directly with legislative leaders, the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) staff, our Executive Board, our lobbyist, and our Regional and County Directors. It is an unmatched opportunity to engage face-to-face with the policymakers who play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our livelihoods. I am confident that you will leave Atlantic City this week equipped with valuable insights, practical tools, and renewed inspiration for your business.

Looking ahead to 2027, I strongly encourage you to actively participate in our monthly NJLBA Board meetings. The full schedule is available on our website, with meetings generally held on the second Tuesday of each month—either at our headquarters in Trenton or hosted on-site at a member's establishment. I challenge each of you to bring along a fellow licensee who has not yet joined our ranks. Let them see and hear firsthand the critical advocacy, protection, and good work the NJLBA provides. Staying engaged in these meetings is the single best way to keep your business informed and ahead of regulatory changes.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our exceptional convention speakers, premier sponsors, affiliate members, journal advertisers, and dedicated industry partners. Your steadfast financial and operational support is what makes this landmark event possible every year. A special thank you goes out to NJLBA President Reggie Hyde, our Executive Board, and our County Directors for their tireless leadership and vision over the past year. I must also recognize our veteran lobbyist, Jeffrey A. Warsh, Esq., whose brilliant legal advocacy and guidance remain instrumental in navigating complex state issues and ensuring our collective voice commands respect in Trenton. Most importantly, thank you to all our attendees for taking valuable time away from your operations to stand with us this week.

As we gather at the Hard Rock, let us commit to maintaining this momentum through the upcoming legislative cycle and well into the future. Without your passion, energy, and everyday involvement, the vital work of this Association would simply not be possible. I look forward to meeting with many of you this week, celebrating our shared successes, and wishing you all a safe, happy, and highly prosperous holiday season and a healthy 2027.

Cheers to a fantastic convention!

– **Diane M. Weiss**, *NJLBA Executive Director*

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Exclusively protecting the interests of our on-premise retail consumption licensees.

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DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
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MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

JENNIFER DAVENPORT
Attorney General

PAUL THOMAS URBISH
Director

November 19, 2026

Dear Members of the New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association:

It is a pleasure to participate in the 93rd Annual Convention of the New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association ("LBA"). The LBA has been representing the interests of on-premises retail licensees in New Jersey since the repeal of Prohibition. On behalf of the State of New Jersey's Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control ("NJ ABC"), I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued partnership and compliance over these many years. As I embark on my time at the helm of the NJ ABC, I am honored to be able to continue the collaboration and coordination that was established all those years ago between the LBA and our office.

I am happy to report that the NJ ABC has been hard at work establishing avenues for growth and innovation across the industry, while maintaining our focus on public health and safety for the consuming public. This past summer saw the State of New Jersey host many key matches for the 2026 FIFA World Cup at MetLife Stadium, including the World Cup Final, and numerous events celebrating that tournament across the State. Many of your members held watch parties and other special events at their licensed establishments. The Licensing Bureau issued approximately 220 permits to retail licensees authorizing the safe and responsible sale and consumption of alcohol during these events. The Regulatory Bureau provided guidance on hours of sale and responded to scores of inquiries, while the Investigations Bureau had a presence at various licensed and permitted establishments throughout the 39-day tournament. Our Enforcement Bureau handled charging those entities running afoul of the terms of their permits and licenses and maintained an equitable playing field for all industry members. The tournament was reportedly a massive success for the State and many licensed businesses.

In addition to field work and major events, the NJ ABC has been hard at work updating its regulations. Notably, it recently codified its permit regulations and set forth the requirements and qualifications for most permits issued by the NJ ABC. Over this past year, the NJ ABC has worked closely with the LBA in tracking and commenting on legislation, including the newly enacted cocktails-to-go law and the law on inactive licenses, shopping malls, and intermunicipal transfers.

The directive at the NJ ABC is for all staff to disseminate clear, consistent and accurate information to all inquiring parties, thereby establishing equity throughout the industry and a transparency that will enable compliance with all alcoholic beverage laws and regulations. As many of you are likely aware, the NJ ABC issued a re-vamped Handbook for Retail Licensees on November 2, 2026. I encourage each of you to download a copy and utilize it. I extend my sincere congratulations to the LBA and its members on your success, as well as my hopes for your continued prosperity. I look forward to playing my part in this time-honored partnership.

Very truly yours,

Paul Thomas Urbish
Director



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From the NJ Statehouse Lobby

by Jeffrey A. Warsh, Esq.

Welcome to the Annual Edition of "From the Statehouse Lobby". Here goes…the gargantuan political news of the season is, of course, the massive Democratic wins rung up across the country in what has universally been called "The Blue Tsunami". Nationally, all eyes are on Washington -focusing on the new Congress and what will be a rapidly emerging, knives-out 2028 Presidential primary on both sides of the aisle. But, here at home, the focus has already shifted to 2027, where the entire NJ Legislature (80 Assembly seats and 40 Senate seats) is up for re-election. 2027 is known as an "off-year" election, where the top of the ticket is the State Senate races. While this typically means that the voter turnout will be the lowest in a four-year cycle, this always means that anything can happen. This electoral landscape is further complicated by the likelihood that many, in particular Democrat, members of the NJ Legislature will face primary opponents. This will be a time for the NJLBA to remember our friends in the Legislature and to step up to offer our assistance. Currently, the NJ Legislature is comprised as follows: Senate 25D/15R; Assembly: 57D/R23. Let's go to work.

The Legislature

The NJLBA, at the forefront of our industry throughout COVID, continued our string of successes in 2026 by passing into law permanent premises extensions and permanent cocktails-to-go. Both of these initiatives create real, enhanced license value and, if we ever face another pandemic, we can immediately utilize these proven business survival methods without going back to the Legislature or to the NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control for urgent relief. Kudos to Diane Weiss for riding herd on these issues.

As New Jersey has two-year legislative sessions, we are almost halfway through NJ's 222nd legislative session. The NJLBA has been busy, focusing on issues of everyday critical importance to our Members. The NJLBA is working closely with a few key Members of the Legislature to introduce not just one bill, but a whole package of legislation designed to address some of the on-premise sector's most pressing issues. The NJ wineries, breweries and distilleries regularly get full packages of bills to address their wish lists; it's time for NJ's bar and tavern and club owners to get our own issues addressed. This package of bills and other legislative activity will address: Chinese counterfeit IDs; the strict liability associated with unintentionally serving persons under the legal age; the ability to re-coup the costs associated with serving an underaged person who used a counterfeit ID; the high - and rising higher - dram shop liability premiums; and the ability for on-premise licensees to host sports pools.

The NJLBA Must Play Offense and Defense

The NJLBA must play both offense and defense – at the same time. While we will aggressively work to move the bills above, the NJLBA must also be defensively vigilant. There are well over 100 bills that directly and adversely impact our businesses. For the purposes of this message, I will focus on one major threat in the overall legislative and regulatory matrix. The NJ craft wine, beer, spirits, cider and meade producers are seeking what they call "reciprocity" and what the rest of the industry calls "cross-selling."

continued on next page

From the NJ Statehouse Lobby *continued*

Under this concept, any holder of any NJ craft alcoholic beverage manufacturing license can sell the products of any other NJ craft alcohol manufacturer. This wish list includes both on- and off-premise operations. What we will see emerge in NJ is chains of home-grown NJ craft alcohol liquor stores and bars/taverns. With the entire liquor industry in flux, this is the last thing NJLBA Members need. To make matters much worse, the US Supreme Court in Granholm (2005), ruled that whatever states provide to their in-state licensees, they must provide the same privileges to out-of-state entities. If NJ allows our craft alcohol producers to cross-carry each other's products, NJ would be US Supreme Court-bound to allow California, for example, the same treatment. Then NJ will see "Bar California", "Bar Portland" and "Bar Seattle" ...fast. To put this in perspective, NJ has about 200 craft alcohol manufacturers, while California has over 5000! Another bill within this same concept will allow all NJ grocery stores to carry NJ craft alcoholic beverages – whether they have a liquor license or not! That means these grocery stores would be able to sell all out-of-state craft products! The NJLBA must fiercely oppose these, and other, efforts.

Stay tuned and.....please continue to answer the NJLBA calls for action. Please come to Trenton to testify. Please stay in close contact with your Council Members, Mayors, County Commissioners, Assembly members and Senators. And, as always, please contribute to the NJLBA PAC – the mother's milk of politics.

Cheers! See you in Trenton!

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD TABLE

Petrock's

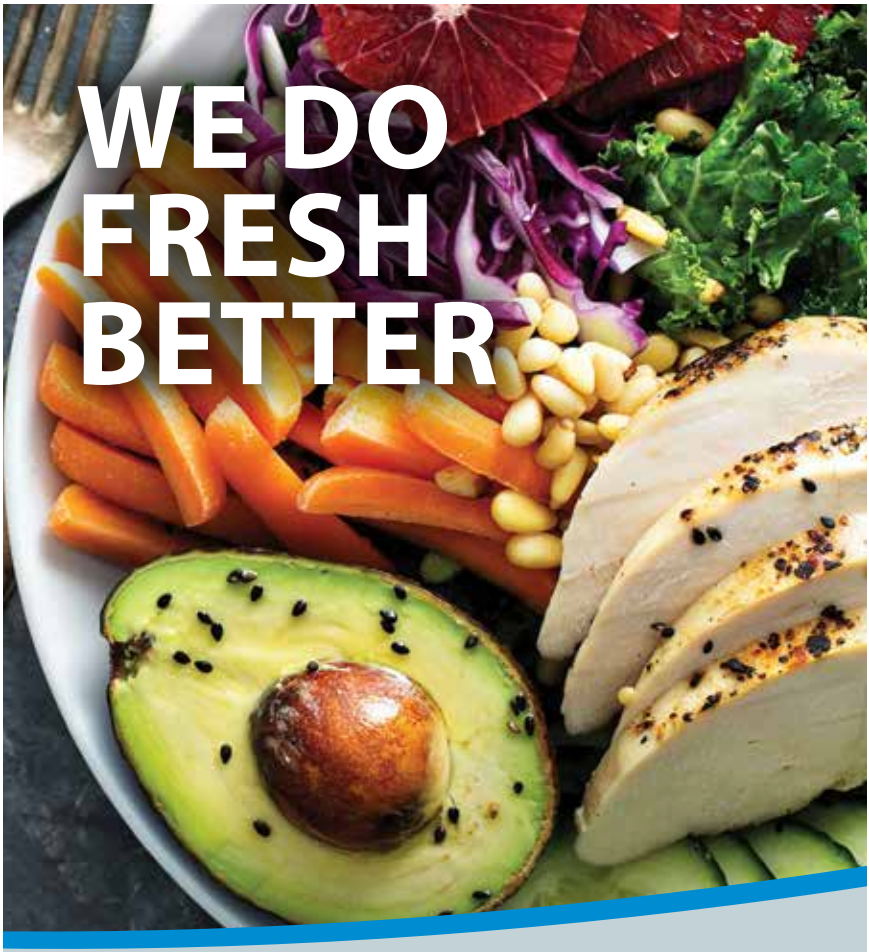
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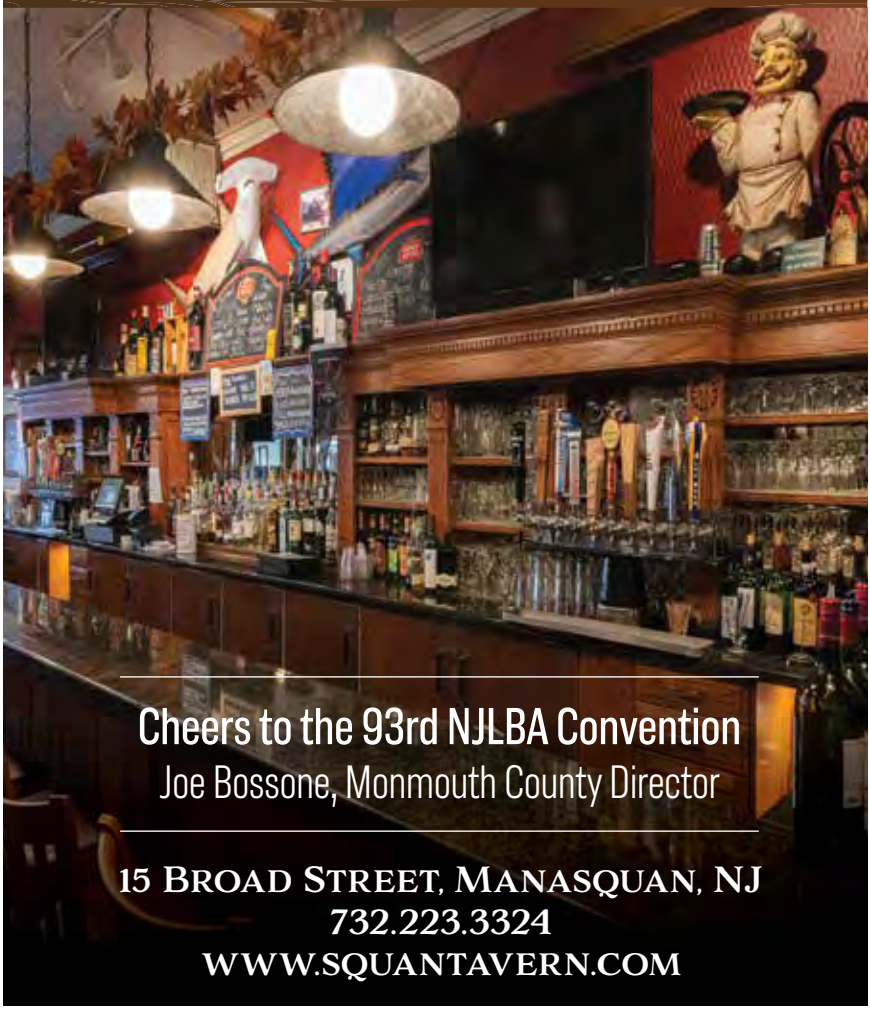
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Cheers to the 93rd NJLBA Convention
Joe Bossone, Monmouth County Director

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www.squantavern.com

Convention Agenda:

Wednesday, November 18, 2026

- 9:30 am — **Registration Desk Opens** – 2nd Floor, Studio 2B
- 10:00 am – 1:00 pm — **NJBRASS (Server Training) and Counterfeit ID Training**
- 4:00 pm — **Hospitality Room Opens**
- 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm — **Welcome Cocktail Reception** – Hard Rock Lobby Bar
  Event Sponsored by Allied Beverage Group, LLC

Thursday, November 19, 2026

- 8:30 am – 10:00 am — **Continental Breakfast** – 2nd Floor, Brighton 1 & 2
- 9:30 am — **Closed Session** – 2nd Floor, Brighton 3 & 4
  NJLBA Executive Board & NJLBA Licensee Members Only
  NJLBA – Voting Session
- 10:00 am — **Smart Tables, Smarter Operations Implementing AI in Your Business**
  Presenter – Chef Tom Macrina – US Foods
- 10:30 am — **Legislative Update** – Presenter NJLBA Lobbyist
  Jeffrey A. Warsh, Esq, Partner MBI
- 11:00 am — **Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control Seminar,**
  Presented by ABC Director Paul Urbish and ABC staff
- 12:00 pm — **Affiliate Member Introductions**
- 12:30 – 1:15 pm — **Luncheon** – 2nd Floor, Brighton 1 & 2
  Cocktails To-Go: What NJ Bar & Restaurant Owners Need to Know about Risk and Insurance, Presented by Ed Lubowicki, World Insurance
- 1:30 pm — **Human Trafficking Prevention Training –**
  Presented by Charles Paddock, Acting Supervisory Special Agent FBI Newark, Special Victims Squad
- 2:30 pm — **How to Keep your LLC in Compliance,** Presenters –
  John P. Murdoch, Esq; The Law Offices of John P. Murdoch, II, Esq. LLC and John E. Hogan, Esq., Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A.
- 3:15 pm — **Mastering ABC Compliance: Navigating regulatory requirements and mastering the vital protocols for a successful ABC inspection.**
  Presenter – Anthony Bowen, President, Bowen Alcohol Compliance
- 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm — **Cocktail Reception and Hors d'oeuvres** – Plum Lounge, Hard Rock
  50/50 Raffle Drawing



In Remembrance of Our Friend

Dominic J. Bossone

March 31, 1938 – January 19, 2026

Owner of the Squan Tavern, Manasquan, NJ since 1964

Dominic was a dedicated member of the New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association (NJLBA) for over 50 years, notably serving as the Monmouth County Director and as State President from 1985 to 1988. For decades, he was an incredibly hands-on member who rarely missed a meeting or event. Dominic was instrumental in the success of the Wellhofer Scholarship Picnic from its very inception, contributing his time to everything from organizing the event and selling tickets to working closely with suppliers and managing the prize table and 50/50 raffle. His enduring dedication helped shape the Wellhofer Scholarship Foundation into what it is today, an organization that has proudly awarded over a million dollars in scholarships to the children and grandchildren of NJLBA members. His loyal customers will forever remember his welcoming smile, his contagious laugh, and his exceptional food.

Dominic was a beloved fixture of the Manasquan community, where he took great pride in raising his family. He remained deeply involved in local life and supported numerous charitable organizations over the years. Dominic was the owner of the Squan Tavern from 1964-2019 when his son Joe, who is currently the Monmouth County Director, took over ownership.

As Monmouth County Director, Dominic successfully fought against proposed midnight closing times for restaurants in Manasquan, protecting local business owners by securing a 2:00 AM closing hour. He was a tireless advocate, always fighting for our industry and our members. We will deeply miss his unwavering dedication, his warm presence, and his support, but most of all, we will miss his friendship.

The NJLBA offers its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and customers. May he rest in peace.

The 93rd Annual Convention is proudly dedicated to the memory of Dominic J. Bossone.

NJLBA Past Presidents' Club

This page is dedicated to the past presidents of the New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association.

We recognize not only these very dedicated individuals, but also those who have gone before us. All of these leaders gave so much of their time and expertise in founding and fostering our trade organization which represents the concerns and issues facing on-premise retailers and the beverage alcohol industry.

Members of this distinguished club are: ** Deceased*

*	Rocco Buinno	1949 - 1953
*	A. H. Geltzeiler	1953 - 1955
*	Kenneth McCormick	1955 - 1956
*	A.H. Geltzeiler	1956 - 1958
*	Joseph Zimmerman	1958 - 1960
*	H. George Buckwald	1960 - 1962
*	M. Garret Pal	1962 - 1964
*	J. Walter Doll	1964 - 1967
*	Joseph Kayto	1967 - 1969
	Peter Vanola	1969 - 1971
	Arthur Mitchko	1971 - 1973
	Peter Vanola	1973 - 1975
*	Harry Kandell	1975 - 1977
*	Ben Risoldi	1977 - 1979
	Jerry Lynch	1979 - 1981
*	Jerry Bertekap	1981 - 1983
*	Carmen Giletto	1983 - 1985
*	Dominic Bossone	1985 - 1988
*	Harold Freundlich	1988 - 1990
*	James Fordyce	1990 - 1992
*	Theresa Sorgento	1992 - 1994
	Paul Bechtel	1994 - 1996
*	Lewis B. Rothbart	1996 - 1998
*	Joseph Ardire	1998 - 2000
	Robert Scerbo	2000 - 2001
*	Frank Zanotti	2001 - 2002
*	Richard Bellshot	2002 - 2004
	James Hill	2004 - 2006
	Melvin Gitler	2006 - 2008
	Fred Barnes	2008 - 2014
	James Bennett	2014 - 2018
	James Filler	2018 - 2025



In Remembrance of Our Friend

George B. Pappa

February 22, 1939 - October 28, 2026

Born on February 22, 1939, in New York, New York, George was the son of Pierre Pappa, an immigrant from Épernay, France and Margaret Pappa (née Gallagher) from Bronx, NY. After graduating from high school, George proudly served in the United States Navy as a member of the Naval Airmen Division, stationed in Alameda, California. Following his military service, he began his career with IBM and later worked for Memorex, where he contributed to the development of some of the earliest computers.

One summer, while searching for a place to rent down the shore, George came across an establishment that was for sale. Rather than rent, he and his brother decided to take a chance and purchase it, marking the beginning of what would become the Tropical Pub. This decision changed his life and allowed him to connect with people that became fast friends and also allowed him to become an active part of his community. He later joined the New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association, where he became an officer and helped organize the annual Wellhoffer Picnic, an event he was involved with for 50+ years. Giving back to the community was a passion for George and he dedicated countless hours to charitable events, causes and numerous organizations throughout his life.

The extraordinary dedication of George and his team of volunteers, who managed the picnic bar for well over 50 years, has been the cornerstone of our annual picnic's success. Because of their decades of service, the Wellhofer Scholarship Foundation has been able to award hundreds of life-changing educational scholarships. The New Jersey Licensed Beverage Association extends its deepest, eternal gratitude to George and his incredible team for building a legacy that will impact our community for generations to come.

Above all, George was a devoted family man. He shared 50 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Susan, building a lifetime of memories, love, and partnership. He was a loving father to Nicole, William, and George, supporting them in their favorite sports, teaching them to ski and guiding them at every stage of life.

The Wellhofer Scholarship Committee Honors It's Many Recipients:

1945	Emanuel Rubin
1946	George K. Godlewski
1947	Gerald Massa
1948	Robert M. Lawrence
1949	William H. Murphy
1950	Frederick Tremello
1951	Robert H. Pine
1952	Raymond Hargrove
1953	Eric Reinhardt
1954	David Gfroerer
1955	Norman A. Webster
1956	Martin Stempel
1957	Bruce A. Hudson
1958	Norman Farber
1959	Alvin Matson
1960	Berwin Guttormsen
1961	Albert A. Metz
1962	Myron Smorodsky
1963	Charles Matlock
1964	Ronald Seamans
1965	Joseph A. Scarola
1966	Robert W. Eldridge
1967	Joseph A. Brown
1968	Barry Speronello
1969	Edward Teeple
1970	Edward Gekosky
1971	William Cummings
1972	Salvatore R. Bruno
1973	Gerard DeLucry
1974	Dean J. Vanover
1975	Kathleen Hennigan
1976	Michael Passarelli
1977	Kathleen Coughlin
1978	David Figueroa
1979	Frank Lazar
1980	Sean Hogan
1981	Elizabeth Grehl
1982	Karen Marachese
1983	Janet Farrell
1984	Jacqueline Collins
1985	Elizabeth Askew
1986	Wayne Haddad
1987	Vicki Pezzuti
1988	Lisa Coxson
1989	Louis Olave
1990	Shazel Fitzpatrick
1991	Christy Boyle
1992	Phillip Wylykanowitz
1993	Steven Otto
1994	George Chewkanes
1994	Jason Garby
1995	Anthony Esposito
1995	Timothy Urie
1996	Anna Baginski
1996	Shaun Deignan
1997	Takiya Wilson
1997	Catherine Ponte
1998	Kenneth Graff
1998	Darren Bacon
1999	Thomas Watson
1999	Lillian Ponte
2000	Eric Buzby
2000	Geneva Moody
2001	Katherine Brandes
2001	Francis Jakubiec
2002	Elisa Balka
2002	Brian Bacon
2003	Eric McCormick
2003	Gregory J. Buzby
2004	Shawn Peterson
2004	Jacklyn L. Buckingham
2005	Michael Balka
2005	Ryan Buzby
2006	Christina Rotsides
2006	Michele Russo
2007	Melissa Nogiewich
2007	Michael Pappa
2008	Taylor Kurilew
2008	Sean O'Connor
2011	Benjamin Nogiewich III
2011	John M. Nogiewich
2012	Joseph T. Bossone
2012	Demetris Rotsides
2013	Jodi DiSilvestro
2013	Amelia Edwards
2014	Timothy Flynn
2014	James J. Bennett, Jr.
2015	Aine Filler
2015	John Walton Little IV
2016	Mason Shuemate
2016	Julia Weise
2017	Katelyn Connelly
2017	Clark Edwards
2017	William Little
2018	Ryan Ellery
2018	Makenzie Friend
2018	Robert Lynch
2018	Olivia Miller
2019	Grace Little
2019	John McGovern
2020	Mara Galvin
2021	Kara Mulligan
2021	Lauren Mulligan
2021	Dylan McGovern
2022	Frank Garruto
2023	Satina Garruto
2024	Haley Huseth
2025	Ayden Barnes
2025	Isabella Powell
2026	Alexandra Gillin
2026	Madison Gigante

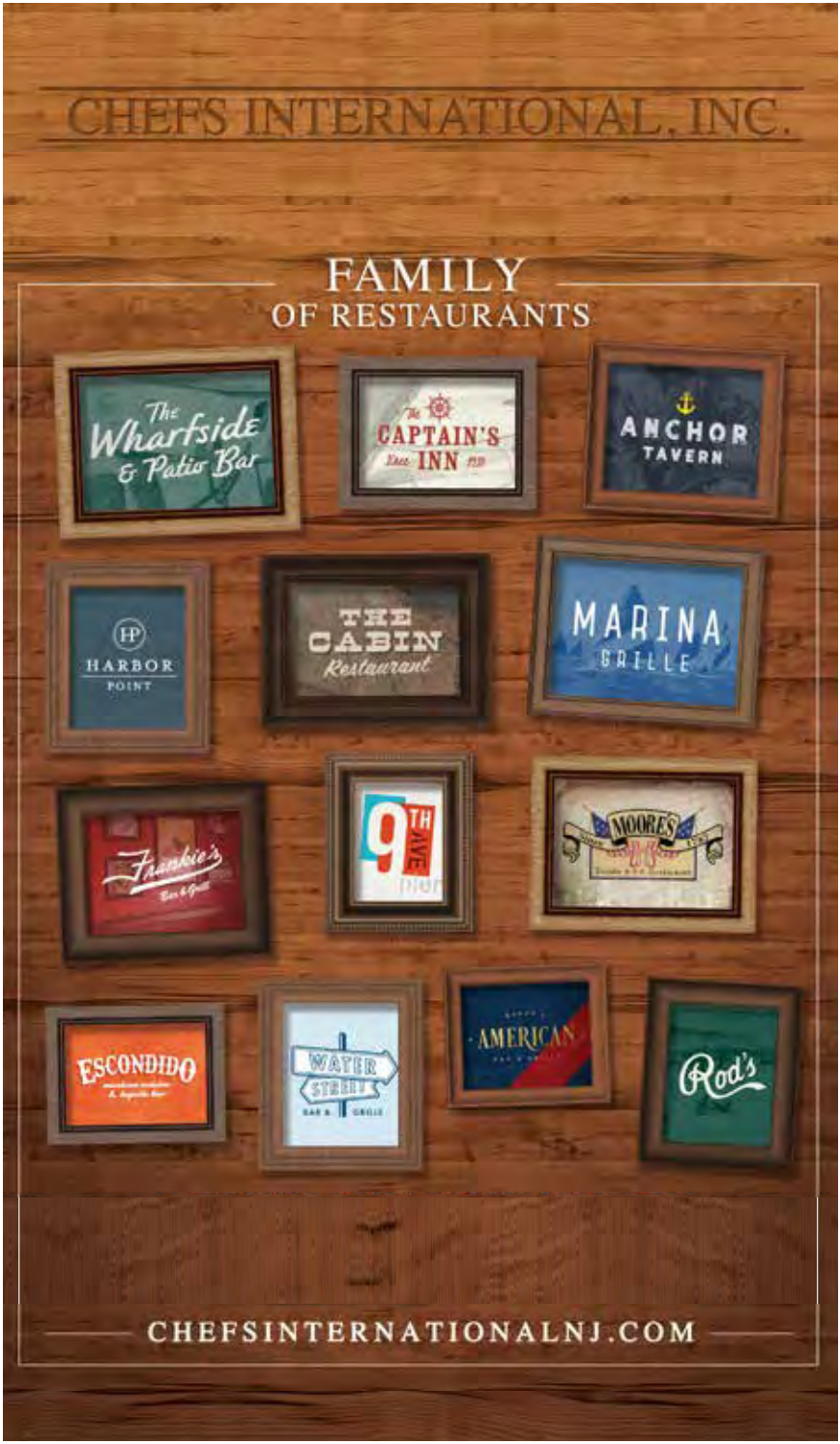


Congratulations NJLBA
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All the best,
Dave Jacey, Hoboken

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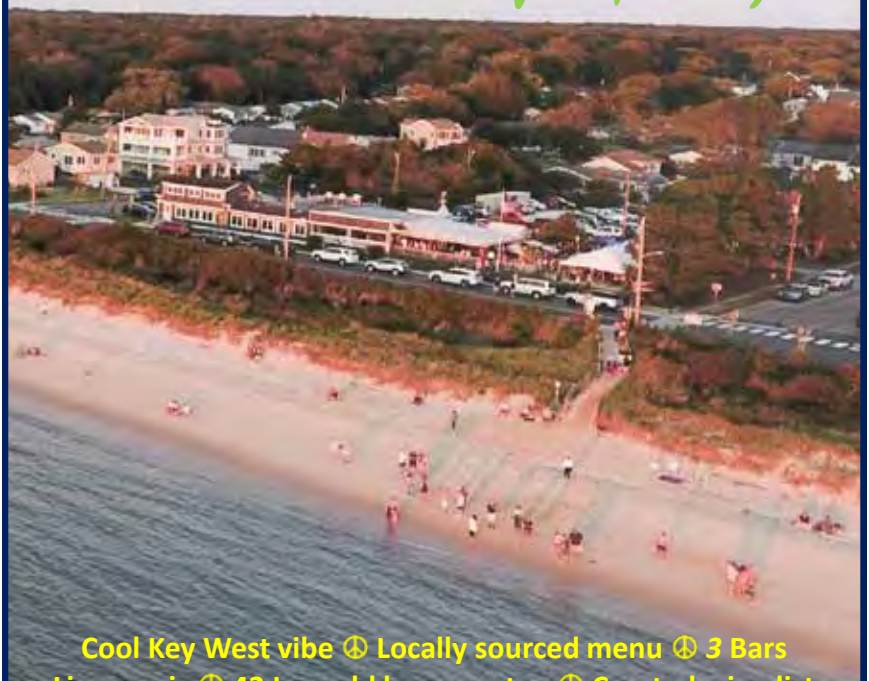

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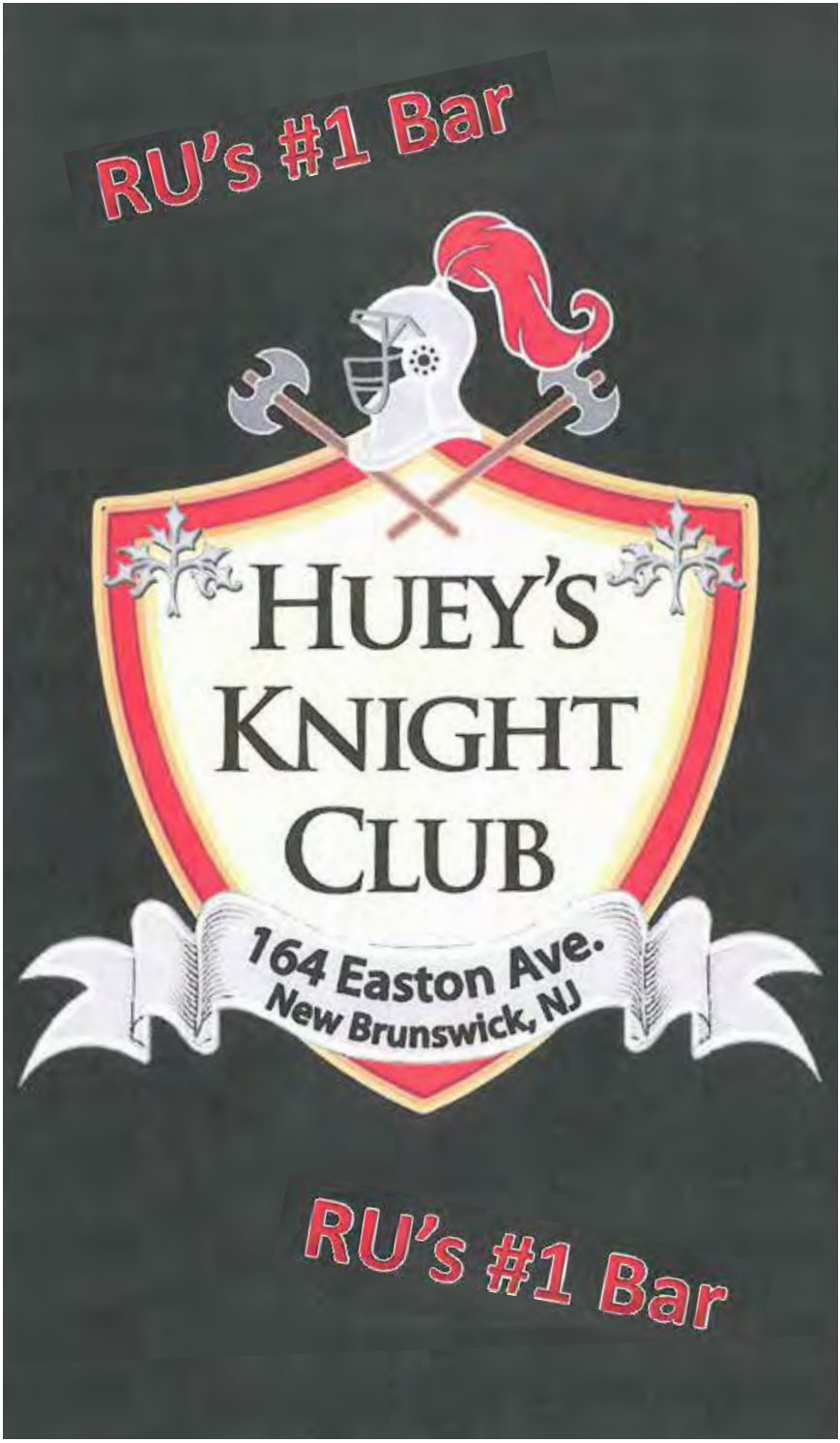
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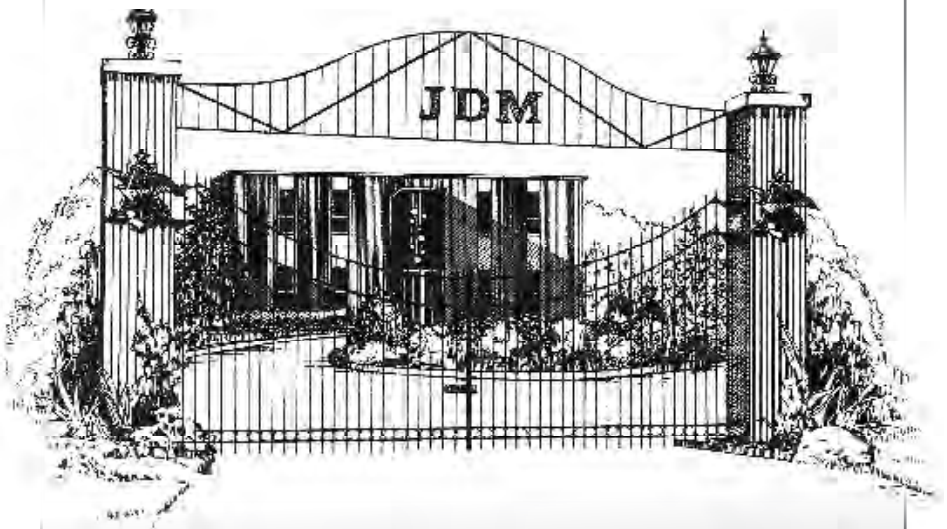
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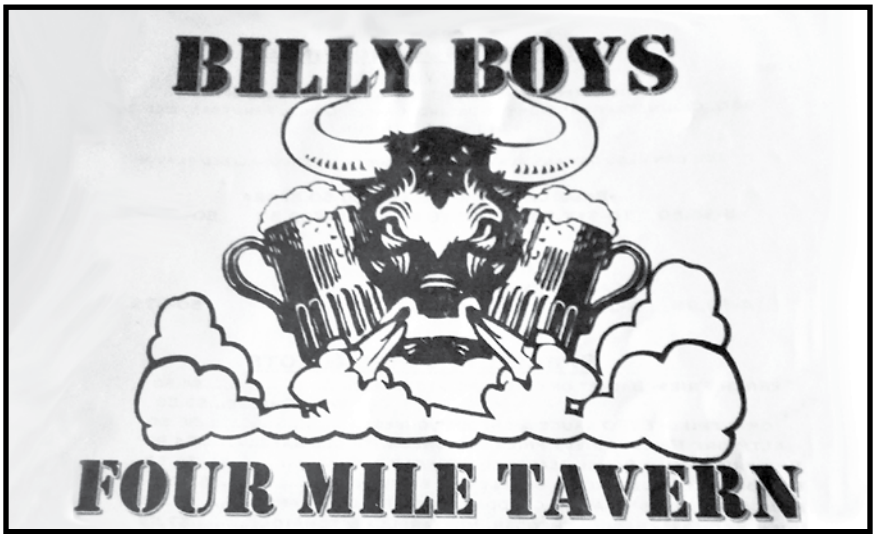
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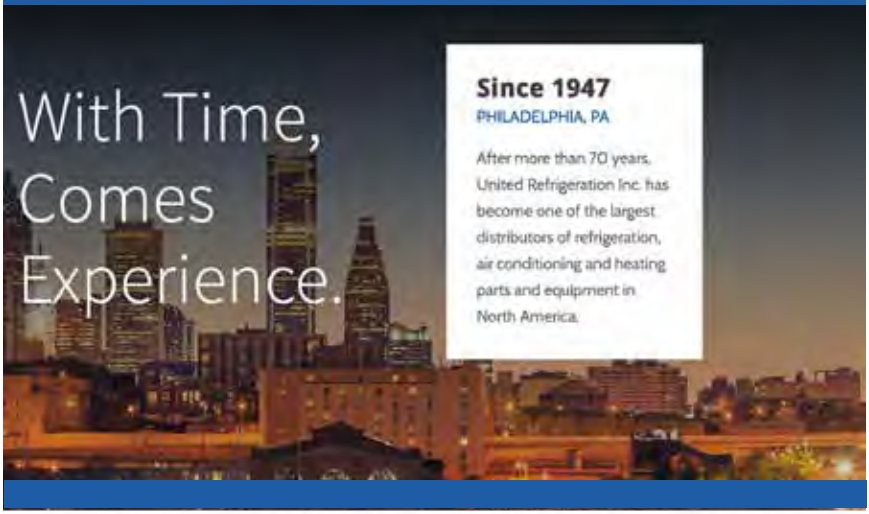
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