Why renew with CFBN for 2019?

Renewing our membership for the Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network was an easy decision. Chicagoland is an exciting hub of food related activities and CFBN is the one organization in Chicagoland that’s successfully building a community for industry collaboration. So, it’s no surprise that CFBN has grown – in members, as well as in services and opportunities. There is value in the connection, and access points that it provides to all food and beverage industry professionals.

With the rapid pace of change within the food and beverage industry in Chicagoland and globally, it’s a critical time to be connecting and collaborating with other companies, with start-ups, and with something other than “the usual suspects.” These connections are critical for driving innovation in organizations large and small. As we start 2019, we’re excited to see what change and transformations will be unveiled as industry innovations and connections continue to evolve. And I know that CFBN will be leading the way.

The building of this hub, and what it provides to all of us in the food and beverage industry is a primary reason that we, here at Mars KIND International, have chosen to renew our membership. We wholeheartedly seek to support the continued growth
and development of the Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network, and the development of an innovative food & beverage eco-system here in the region.

Connections, collaboration and mutual benefit – important concepts for us all as we look ahead at 2019. Join me in supporting CFBN, renewing your membership, or becoming a part of the expanding network in 2019.

Thank you, and Happy New Year,

David Jaggi,
Innovation Director,
MARS KIND International and CFBN Member

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Upcoming CFBN Events

**Natural Foods Forecast 2019:**

What are the top trends in the market's hottest category?

Jan. 30, 2019
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

WeWork, The National Building, 125 S. Clark Street, Chicago

*Just released*. **SPINS’ Top Ten Trend Predictions** – Get a sneak peek into the trends, innovations, and products [here](#) that will be debuting, dominating, and disrupting the Natural products industry in 2019. Want to learn more? Get expanded coverage direct from SPINS’ Natural Insights experts at our live event on January 30.

Registration is almost full on this event - save your spot today!

Register Now

**Behind the Scenes: Food Financial Transactions**

...Ever wonder what it's like to sell your food business?

Feb. 27, 2019
8:00 pm - 10:00 pm

CohnReznick, 200 S. Wacker Dr., South Wacker Room, Chicago

Join us for a look behind the scenes of what it's like to sell or re-capitalise your company. Your company has been
built, sustained growth, and developed within the marketplace. But now, as company leaders, you have to make a decision as to the direction you wish to head next - towards growth and internal expansion or towards potential sale. CohnReznick will moderate a discussion examining the considerations and implications of these two major paths. Investment bank and private equity industry insiders will provide actionable insights into what matters most for a potential transaction.

Save the Date...full details and registration coming soon!

CFBN Recap

CFBN RECAP: January Innovation Breakfast

For our first event of the 2019 calendar, Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network partnered with Fifty Gazelles for the first Innovation Breakfast event of the year. Innovation Breakfasts are now headed into their 3rd year of offerings, under the guidance and content cultivation of Fifty Gazelles' Jeremy Anderson. One of CFBN's most popular series, Innovation Breakfasts examine “innovation” across all platforms and categories and offer attendees an insider’s look into the mindset, actions, and pursuits of companies who are innovating in product development, company culture, and more.

January’s event, held at the Fifty Gazelles/Blue Dog space in the West Loop, focused on three Chicagoland leaders who have been recognized for their “innovative” approach to company culture and team development. Katlin Smith of Simple Mills, Barb Pegesk of FONA International, and Michelle Hayward of Bluedog provided insight into why their companies have been recognized as some of the best in Chicagoland to work for, especially for women.

Read our blog post here

Network News
**Spread the Warmth**

Presented by our member Tiesta Tea

Jan 17, 4:00 - 8:00 PM

Spread the Warmth is an event held by the Tiesta Tea Foundation every January to provide warmth and everyday necessities to our fellow Chicagoans in need. Each year, volunteers from across our community gather together to pass out hot tea and Warmth Kits, filled with food and warm clothing items to those in shelters, soup kitchens and on city streets.

Learn more about Spread the Warmth [here](#)

**Celebrity Bartending Event**

Presented by Healthy & Natural Chicagoland

Jan 22, 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Join our friends at Healthy & Natural Chicagoland for an event that will feature local "celebrity bartenders" from local nonprofit organizations that promote healthy and natural living to their constituents including [Blessings in a Backpack](#), [Greater Chicago Food Depository](#) and [Purple Asparagus](#) and there may be a few other surprise celebrity guests.

This promises to be a special evening, and a fantastic opportunity to raise both funds for important local organizations. The three nonprofits will share ALL TIPS (cash only please) for the evening and 30% of your ticket purchase goes to the nonprofit participants. Space is limited so RSVP today!

Learn more about the Celebrity Bartending Event [here](#)

*Members, visit your member perks for a special discount on this event!* 

**2019 Food & Agribusiness Safety Management Webinar | Recent Challenges in Food Recall**

Presented by our member Cottingham & Butler

Jan 29, 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The produce industry is still reeling from the November announcement from the Federal Government to not eat romaine lettuce. In this webinar we will discuss why FDA took this action and what it means to both the produce industry and the food and beverage industry as a whole.

Are there lessons for others in the food industry from this action, and if so what are
they? Is this just an issue with growers of produce or does it have lessons all the way up and down the supply chain?

Learn more about the webinar [here](https://chicagolandfood.org/admin/emails/log/details/?emailId=121852684&persistHeader=1)

11th Annual American Food Innovate Summit

**Presented by FoodWorld**

Feb 4, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM | Feb 5, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Join America's leading innovators at this year's Food Innovate Summit to discuss, share and learn how to: enhance your formulation with the most innovative and exciting ingredients, discover and define the latest and future trends in consumer behavior & buying patterns, and much more

Learn more about the summit [here](https://chicagolandfood.org/admin/emails/log/details/?emailId=121852684&persistHeader=1)

2019 SFA Business Summit

**Presented by network partner, Specialty Foods Association**

April 7-11 7:15 AM - 5:00 PM

Gain an understanding of the HPP technology and its applications in food processing, including equipment engineering and maintenance, considerations in designing validation and challenge studies for microbial inactivation, and commercialization case studies.

Learn more about the course & workshop [here](https://chicagolandfood.org/admin/emails/log/details/?emailId=121852684&persistHeader=1)

*Members, visit your member perks for a special discount on this event!*

High Pressure Processing Short Course & Workshop

**Presented by our member IFSH**

April 8-11 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Gain an understanding of the HPP technology and its applications in food processing, including equipment engineering and maintenance, considerations in designing validation and challenge studies for microbial inactivation, and commercialization case studies.

Learn more about the course & workshop [here](https://chicagolandfood.org/admin/emails/log/details/?emailId=121852684&persistHeader=1)
Members, visit your member perks for a special discount on this event!

Our food & beverage industry wide events calendar is updated regularly and 2019 promises to have an exciting roster of events!

Check out new opportunities in the Chicagoland area!

Our members are always looking for talented candidates to fill positions within their organizations. We’re here to connect you to those wonderful opportunities. Check out these latest postings from our members!

Project Manager (Recent Grads Welcome) - Imbibe

Responsibilities Include:

- Assist the Sales team in driving projects internally from initiation through completion
- Collaborate across all departments (Sales, R&D, Marketing, Operations, Finance) to ensure timely flow of information and that all deadlines are met
- Assist customer with all of project related needs, this includes daily communication both via email and phone conversations, as well as onsite customer sessions

Take me to this job post.

Director of People and Culture

Responsibilities Include:

- Gain working knowledge of how CRED men’s backgrounds may impact the work environment; work with supervisors to facilitate reasonable accommodations
- Lead new enterprise in setting corporate culture oriented around supporting men through CRED’s path towards sustained economic prosperity
- Design human resources program from the ground-up, including developing an employee handbook highlighting company mission, culture, philosophy, policies, procedures, benefits program and regulatory requirements
- Oversee recruitment and hiring efforts, including candidate evaluations, background checks and new employee orientation; support employee benefit enrollment
Take me to this job post.

Industry News

Plant-based food maker Beyond Meat files $100M IPO

Beyond Meat noted in its SEC filing that it expects growth to continue as more outlets in the U.S. and abroad carry the product at stores or offer it on restaurant menus. READ MORE »

Is Marijuana food's next functioning ingredient?

Now that nine U.S. states and the District of Columbia have legalized recreational use of the substance — and 12 more states are considering “going green” this year — this sentiment is evolving. READ MORE »

Want to stay up-to-date on the latest industry news? Visit our news tab on our website!

Network Connections

"CFBN has been an amazing partner for Kraft Heinz Springboard! The team puts on incredibly valuable events that benefit companies both small and large. The network is designed to foster the food and beverage industry in Chicago, and the group lives up to this goal. Alan has formed a bright and capable team around him, and have recruited major industry influencers to the network. CFBN has taken the lead on a number of our events, that resulted in a knock-out first incubator cohort for Springboard. The connections run both wide and deep, and I cannot recommend CFBN more highly for anyone interested in bettering the Chicagoland Food and Beverage Community."
Say Hello To Our New Members!

Our network continues to grow! We are excited to welcome Tilia LLC, Mud Lark, Curion, Cresco Labs to our network, which includes over 70 corporate members and over 100 individual members (and counting). Thank you for being a part of the organization!
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OUR MISSION
To drive inclusive economic growth in Chicagoland by bringing together the region's food and beverage industry stakeholders to pursue collaborative opportunities.