A LETTER FROM LISA DEMME

Marketing Director, Thought Leadership FONA International and CFBN Board Member

It's no secret that Chicago is seeing some incredible changes in the food and beverage industry. But the growth and innovation aren't just within city limits. It's time to also acknowledge the amazing food and beverage industry companies that are based in the suburbs. The special kind of excitement across the whole industry is also making waves in suburban Chicago, where many companies are energetically striving to meet changing consumer needs.

As a Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network (CFBN) board member, it has been an honor to see these innovative suburban companies join our network, and participate in building the food and beverage community across Chicagoland. CFBN has a mission to extend the network, and further build the community. On Wednesday August 22, CFBN will collaborate with host and sponsor FONA International and co-host Kane County Economic Development to kick off Suburban Series: Networking in Kane County. Through this event, we seek to welcome and celebrate the amazing food and beverage industry in Kane County, including members such as JelSert and St. Charles Trading Company. We also look forward to meeting company representatives from OSI, Roquette, ALDI, Greencore, the Northern Illinois Food Bank and many others.
This event marks the beginning of a new series of suburban events that will continue into 2019. Our hope is to bring our exciting and expanding network to every part of Chicagoland. You don’t want to miss it! Click HERE to register.

We look forward to seeing you there!

NETWORK NEWS

NEW MEMBER BLOG

Have you checked out our new member blog? We want YOU to start the conversation! Want to learn more about our members? This new space gives our members a platform to talk about Chicagoland’s food and beverage industry! Check out these cool new entries from our members, Johanna Seidel and Patricia McDermott with ConnectFood!

Mock Calls: Highly Encouraged
By Johanna Seidel

How Digital Solutions Support Supply Chain Transparency and Traceability
By Patricia McDermott

SUMMER SOCIAL: HOT NETWORKING COOL DRINKS *RECAP*

Last week, we kicked off the month of August with our friends at CPG Professional Networks. Together, we hosted an event where attendees had the spotlight. It was a great opportunity to connect with each other and with people from across the industry, so we appropriately named this event, “Hot Networking, Cool Drinks.”

READ MORE

PODCAST WITH "TALK DAIRY TO ME"

By Annie Kramer

Check out this podcast on "Talk Dairy to Me" with Annie Kramer. She's speaking with our Executive Director, Alan Reed, as he dissects the food and beverage industry in Chicagoland, and the CFBN mission! Click the icon to hear this podcast.

MASTERING THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE COLD CHAIN

By Rachel Snider

The U.S. cold chain is growing more complex as changing consumer demands, new federal regulations and warmer weather patterns spur shippers to adjust their approach to refrigerated truckload and LTL transportation. What do these changes mean for shippers? Check out this article, with insight from our executive director, Alan Reed.

READ MORE
WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Our network continues to grow! We are excited to welcome Sosland and Datassential to the CFBN, which includes over 60 corporate members and almost 100 individual members (and counting). Thank you for being a part of the Network!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUBURBAN SERIES: NETWORKING IN KANE COUNTY

August 22, 2018
4:00 PM to 7:00PM
FONA, 1900 Averill Rd, Geneva, IL 60134

CFBN is on the road! You are cordially invited to join us for happy hour to learn about Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network, and meet other food & beverage industry professionals based in Kane County. If you are interested in building meaningful business relationships, growing your network and increasing your visibility, we hope you will join us.

SAVE THE DATE: INNOVATION BREAKFAST

September 13, 2018
7:00 AM to 9:00 AM

Save the date! Details of our monthly Innovation Breakfast will be posted soon on our website and social media!

EXPERT PANEL: HOT TOPICS IN SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

September 13, 2018
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
7230 N. Caldwell, Niles, IL

We will have an all-star panel discussing “Hot Topics in Supply Chain Management” including transportation experts from AFN (our host), supply chain leaders from Enjoy Life Foods and World’s Finest Chocolate, subject matter experts from consultant West Monroe Partners, and many more. The panel will be moderated by Harry Haney of Loyola SVCC and Alan Reed of CFBN.
WHAT ARE FOOD INVESTORS REALLY LOOKING FOR?

September 25, 2018
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Perkins Coie, 131 S. Dearborn St. #1700, Chicago, IL

Raising a round of funding is no easy task. There’s a lot to worry about and a lot to prepare for. What can you do to maximize your visibility and desirability? Come for happy hour and learn from our panelists how to increase your chances of landing the next big deal!

UPCOMING PARTNER EVENTS

SWEETENER SYSTEMS CONFERENCE

October 23, 2018
5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Hyatt Lodge, 2815 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook, IL

Global Food Forums will hold its 3rd annual Sweetener Systems Conference, October 23, 2018, at the Hyatt Lodge, McDonalds Campus, Oak Brook, Ill. USA. This technical program will provide insights and actionable information on hot topics related to sweeteners and sugar reduction.

CFBN Members receive a 10% discount on registration for this conference! Check our Member Benefits page for the code.

FOOD NAVIGATOR-USA SUMMIT: FOOD FOR KIDS

November 12-14, 2018
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
W. Chicago City Center, Chicago, IL

Join us for the inaugural FoodNavigator-USA Summit: Food for Kids. Organized by the publishers of FoodNavigator-USA, the number one daily news service for the food and beverage industry, FoodNavigator-USA Summit: Food for Kids focuses on food and nutrition for every life stage.

CFBN Members receive a 25% discount on registration for the Food For Kids event! Check our Member Benefits page for the code.

CLEAN LABEL CONFERENCE

March 25-27, 2019
Time TBD
Westin Hotel, Itasca, IL

Global Food Forums® 6th annual Clean Label Conference in

Register Now
2019 is an in-person product development event focused on providing practical, how-to formulation advice to R&D and applied product development specialist working in this arena.

CFBN Members receive a 10% discount on registration for this conference! Check our Member Benefits page for the code.

PROTEIN TRENDS & TECHNOLOGIES SEMINAR

May 21-22, 2019
Time TBD
Westin Hotel, 400 Park Blvd, Itasca, IL

Global Food Forums will hold its 3rd annual Sweetener Systems Conference, October 23, 2018, at the Hyatt Lodge, McDonalds Campus, Oak Brook, Ill. USA. This technical program will provide insights and actionable information on hot topics related to sweeteners and sugar reduction.

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STAY IN THE KNOW! Our industry-wide events calendar for food & beverage events across Chicagoland is updated regularly.

CAREER BOARD

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!

EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR - KRAFT HEINZ

- Five years of experience managing and delivering software development projects
- Agile scrum experience – including, ideally, training and certification – that shows you’ve been applying the approach well for at least three years
- In-depth knowledge of Jira/VersionOne
- Proven expertise as a lean practitioner
- The ability to bring out the best in others and lead by example
- Strong analytical, planning and organizational skills, and a talent for managing competing demands

SCRUM MASTER - BMO HARRIS BANK

- Build a culture in which nimble techniques and principles are second nature, and where team members have the confidence to iterate, adapt, evolve and move on
- Run daily Scrums that unite your team around clear goals, encouraging involvement in everything from chartering and backlog sizing to sprint planning and retrospectives
- Raise issues and remove barriers, resolving any conflicts constructively
• Coach and mentor Product Owners in modern business processes and techniques, helping them manage the product backlog
• Keep a close eye on statuses such as velocity and burn down/up, reporting as necessary

BRAND MANAGER - FAIRLIFE LLC

• Lead the development and execution of consumer marketing plans for key fairlife product lines
• Lead agencies in the development and execution of marketing plans
• Support development of key innovation and integration into the fairlife portfolio
• Partner with key stakeholders in development of financial plans, budget and commercial plans
• Thought leader in development of consumer research
• Lead development and tracking of key brand KPIs
• Partner with IMC in development of annual connections plans and tactical execution
• Develop creative briefs and provide constructive feedback to partners

Our Career Board is currently free to use for CFBN members and non-members. Check it out and look for jobs, post jobs, get career advice, and get connected to opportunities around Chicagoland.

INDUSTRY NEWS

HOW THIS VEGAN FOOD ENTREPRENEUR LANDED IN 187 GROCERY STORES
LaForce Baker is the founder and executive chef at Moon Meals Inc., a company providing plant-based meals including vegan meats, cheeses, and sauces to major retailers and foodservice operators. READ MORE »

CHICAGO TRIBUNE FOOD BOWL: A 3-WEEK FOOD & BEVERAGE FESTIVAL
Chicago Tribune’s first ever FOOD BOWL offers a 3-week crash course in the fine art of cuisine from Tuesday, August 7 through Sunday, August 26. The festival showcases the distinct tastes and flavors of Chicago from its neighborhoods to its award winning restaurants and world-class chefs. READ MORE »

KRAFT HEINZ GIVES LEGACY BRANDS A HEALTHY MAKEOVER TO STAY RELEVANT
Kraft Heinz CEO Bernardo Hees recently spoke with The Wall Street Journal about the company’s push to increase sales by giving its well-known READ MORE »

THANK YOU
Thanks to our Founding Partners and Members. Your support makes this organization and its mission possible. Thank you for your investment in growing the region’s food & beverage industry and in making a better Chicagoland!

Founding Partners

Funding Provided By:
OUR MISSION
To drive inclusive economic growth in Chicagoland by bringing together the region’s food and beverage industry stakeholders to pursue collaborative opportunities.