A LETTER FROM JOHN RUFF

Past President of Chicago Section IFT and CFBN Board Member

As a former president of the Institute of Food Technologists and Board Member of Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network (CFBN), I’m proud that the Chicago Section (CSIFT) was a founding member of CFBN. These outstanding organizations are partnering together to help keep Chicagoland at the leading edge of food technology and innovation.

Throughout the year, CSIFT and CFBN have been jointly hosting technology events, and working to bring the food & beverage industry of Chicagoland closer together. For example, CFBN is proud to support CSIFT’s Chicagoland Food Science Foundation Scholarships, which help to develop, promote, and provide Chicago-area food science students with essential scholarships that also support the food and beverage industry’s ever-growing need for high quality food scientists.

Also, both organizations are ready for the IFT Annual meeting and Expo, coming up July
15-18 at McCormick Place. It is a thrill to have this incredible show back in Chicago, and is a further sign of the region’s important role as a hub for the food & beverage industry nationally and internationally. IFT18: A Matter of Science + Food will feature 1,200 exhibitors, 23,000 attendees, and 100 learning sessions. There you can experience the newest products, latest trends, and cutting-edge innovations all assembled under one roof to help you be the first to learn and see what’s next in the science of food. Register today at http://www.iftevent.org.

NETWORK NEWS

MEMBER BLOG NOW LIVE!

We have added a new feature to our website: a Member Blog! The purpose of the Members’ blog is to enable the sharing of valuable expertise and knowledge with a large business community across the region through high quality content that aims to educate, inspire and inform. While the page is public and all submissions are accessible to the entirety of the internet, only members can submit content. Submission guidelines are available in the Member Perks section of our website. Login to learn more. We look forward to sharing and learning from your insights!

SEARCHABLE CO-PACKER DATABASE AVAILABLE!

Launched as a Beta Test version, MEMBERS are exclusively invited to use our co-manufacturing resource database. This database features Chicagoland area co-packers and manufacturers, and new content is added regularly. Feel free to send us input and feedback and welcome additional co-manufacturing resources. Contact memberships to submit information or comments.

INNOVATION BREAKFAST: FOOD & BEVERAGE REVOLUTION...CHICAGO STYLE!

July 12, 2018 by Alan Reed

This month's Innovation Breakfast, Food & Beverage Revolution...Chicago Style was sponsored and hosted by our friends at Fifty Gazelles. The panel discussion featured speakers from two innovative Chicago companies—Home Chef, the nation’s third largest home meal delivery service, and Foxtrot, an upscale convenience store and mobile delivery service. The innovators, shared insights about the changing market in food and beverage, retail service, and executing on consumers’ needs.

READ MORE

MAKING DAIRY, WHAT’S FOR DESSERT?

July 12, 2018 by Donna Berry

Ice cream, refrigerated desserts and baked goods such as cookies, cakes and pies are trending these days. The Specialty Food Association’s 2018 State of the Industry report attributes this to millennials, who collectively cannot get enough of these sweet treats.
A LOOK BACK AT SMART FOOD EXPO

July 3, 2018 by Tabetha Hawkins

The 2018 inaugural Smart Food Expo was a fantastic opportunity for food industry innovators to educate, network and showcase their products. This year's event took place at the spacious McCormick Place convention center, situated in the Chicago Loop. Chicagoland Food and Beverage Network hosted the "Start-up Zone," showcasing a few of Chicagoland's wonderful startups (TeaSquares, Tiesta Tea, FruitBelt, Simple Mills, Harvest Superfood Balls) and their displays.

BUILDING A FOOD SYSTEM WE CAN ALL BE PROUD OF

June 29, 2018 by Kathy Nyquist

Kathy Nyquist said that she, "had the genuine pleasure of sharing a few remarks about sustainable food systems with a group of food industry professionals in Chicago. It was an event hosted by Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network, formed last year to catalyze the 4,500 food companies in Chicago into an economic engine to drive growth, create jobs and revitalize neighborhoods across the region."

FARMER'S FRIDGE AND PLANTE MORAN AT BIG DATA BREAKFAST

July 6, 2018 by Mary Ellen Shoup at FoodNavigator

Speaking at the recent Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network innovation breakfast, Moshier said food companies are increasingly recognizing the value of data and how to leverage it into actionable insights. A quick scan of CNBC's top 50 disruptors turns up multiple food companies such as Gingko Bioworks that is taking yeast and bacteria and turning it into food flavors.
THANK YOU TO OUR RENEWING MEMBERS!

Thank you to our renewing members for your ongoing commitment, and for keeping our network strong! The Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network includes over 60 corporate members and almost 100 individual members (and counting). Thank you for continuing to be a part of the Network!

ANOTHER MEMBER PERK: THE MEMBER DIRECTORY

We are a Network in more than just name! Through our Exclusive Member Directory CFBN Members can search about and connect to industry professionals and service providers, all of whom are valued CFBN members and partners.

Please be sure that all your information is correct, and that your privacy settings are set to your preference. If you need assistance, please contact Betsy for help.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER SOCIAL: NETWORKING WITH KRAFT FOOD ALUMNI

August 1, 2018
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Field Building, 135 S. LaSalle St., 43rd Floor, Chicago, IL.

Enjoy views, drinks and appetizers while making new friends and developing business relationships. As a Network, we know that the connections you have with others are significant to the growth of your company and your career. To that end, we are partnering with Kraft Foods Alumni to host a summer social--we encourage you to mix, mingle, and create connections! There is no formal agenda; we look forward to meeting and networking with you!

CFBN & CSIFT get a discounted rate!

Register Now

SPINS: CRACKING THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS CODE

Join us at SPINS Brand Training on July 25-26, to learn how to leverage consumer insights to drive sustainable growth for your brand. New speakers just announced! Alongside the SPINS team of experts, industry leaders from CFBN
Member Bluedog Design, Argentum Strategy Group and Spiral Sun Ventures will share real-world application, tips & tricks. Don’t miss the opportunity to learn from this wealth of experience in translating consumer insights into action.

As the leading provider of insights, analytics, and consulting services for the Natural, Organic, and Specialty Products Industry, SPINS offers a unique cross-channel view of retail data and consumer behavior trends across the dynamic health & wellness landscape.

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

**THE INNOVATION BREAKFAST IS ON VACATION IN AUGUST. SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!**

**SAVE THE DATE: CFBN 2ND ANNUAL MEETING**

October 10, 2018
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Tyson Annex, 400 S Jefferson St, Chicago, IL 60607

Save the date! It's time for our Second Annual Meeting. We look forward to celebrating our successes and setting our agenda for the coming year. More details will be available soon!

**SUBURBAN SERIES: NETWORKING IN KANE COUNTY**

August 22, 2018
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

FONA International, 1900 Averill Rd, Geneva, IL

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.

Register Now

**FOOD FOR KIDS SUMMIT**

November 12-14, 2018
4:30 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. Check our Member Benefits page for the code.

STAY IN THE KNOW! Our food & beverage industrywide events calendar 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!

SENIOR FINANCIAL ANALYST - SIMPLE MILLS

- Lead Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss, and Cash forecasting for the company. Partner with key stakeholders across the company to understand assumptions for the model.
- Scenario plan how strategic business decisions impact company financials. Communicate risk & opportunities to the Finance team.
- Manage cross functional budgets across Marketing, Operations, Sales, & SG&A. Track monthly budget to actuals and update forecasting models accordingly.
- Execute monthly leadership financial dashboard.
- Complete ad hoc financial analyses to drive financially savvy business decisions.
- Partner with Accounting to optimize accounting processes (A/R, A/P, Fixed Assets, Inventory, etc.).

ACCESS FULL JOB POST HERE

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - KINSA GROUP

- 4-8 years of experience in sales, marketing, or similar field
- Must have experience with a CRM (Salesforce suite, particularly Sales Cloud highly preferred), with ability to navigate, and generate and analyze reports
- Ability to represent the company and the brand well to customers through effective, professional communication and relationship development.
- Highly proficient in Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Bachelor’s degree
- Travel as needed (25%) within designated market
- Mileage reimbursement provided in addition to a cell phone allowance

ACCESS FULL JOB POST HERE

WAREHOUSE INVENTORY SUPERVISOR - PEPSICO

- Manage the receiving and delivery of raw materials/finished products in a timely manner
- Utilize docks, warehouse layout, and route truck loading patterns that minimize loading time
- Ensure the optimal inventory levels of full goods are maintained in order to fulfill daily

ACCESS FULL JOB POST HERE
sales needs
- Provide timely service to sales department while minimizing warehouse and production costs
- Develop team to solve day-to-day operational issues and reach short- and long-term performance goals
- Deliver effective change leadership while driving business changes and minimizing people impact
- Communicate and collaborate cross-functionally to assist team to solve operational issues
- Builds people capability through effective employee relations, hiring, training, and communication for front-line hourly personnel
- Motivate team members to achieve plan goals

ACCESS FULL JOB POST HERE

INDUSTRY NEWS

HOW SIMPLE MILLS CEO BUILT AN ALL NATURAL EMPIRE
If there’s one thing to be learned from listening to over a year of #WeGotGoals, it’s that building a business or achieving a major goal is rarely as easy as these rockstar goal-getters make it seem. READ MORE »

BREAK UP WITH PAPER; COMMIT TO DIGITAL; EMBRACE FOOD SAFETY
Whether it be for improved business management, safeguarding against food safety compromises or ticking all the boxes to keep the FDA at bay, record keeping is the backbone to a food company keeping the lights on and remaining in operation. READ MORE »

PILSBURY DOUGHBOY MOVES TO CHICAGO
After shelling out $375 million to purchase the Pillsbury brand and other baking products from J.M. Smucker, an East Coast private-equity firm plans to create a new company, Hometown Food, headquartered in Chicago. 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!

Initial Funding Provided By:

Members
OUR MISSION
To drive inclusive economic growth in Chicagoland by bringing together the region's food and beverage industry stakeholders to pursue collaborative opportunities.