

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grocers Recognize 2016 Award Winners, Hall of Fame Inductee

St. Paul, MN – August 5, 2016 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) has a long-standing tradition of honoring the best of the best by annually presenting awards to those in the industry that demonstrate excellence, have made significant contributions to the industry, and are highly respected by their peers. This year's award winners are a testament to the vitality of the grocery industry in Minnesota. The awards were presented by MGA Board Chairman, Patrick Miner, and MGA President, Jamie Pfuhl on July 31, 2016 at the MGA's Annual Conference in Brainerd, MN. This is the state's premier event for the food industry. The evening showcases the pride and tremendous accomplishments of those in the Minnesota food industry and was attended by more than 300 members of the industry.

The 2016 Outstanding Grocer award was presented to Tom Buysse, owner of Tom's Markets in Glenwood and Starbuck, MN. This award is presented annually to a grocer who has successfully grown a company and is respected by industry peers. Tom Buysse has created a thriving business by meeting the changing needs of the communities and has been an active supporter of the association.

Jim Briggs, Manager for Central Minnesota/Western Wisconsin branch of 7up/Snapple Bottling Group in S. St. Paul, MN, was honored by the MGA with its 2016 Outstanding Vendor award. This award is given to those who show innovation in customer support, excellence in customer service, as well as involvement in the MGA. Jim Briggs works diligently to provide his retail partners the best service possible and his commitment and support of the MGA is remarkable.

Janel Haugarth, who retired last year from SUPERVALU was inducted into the Minnesota Grocers Association's Hall of Fame in recognition of her outstanding service and exemplary contributions to Minnesota's food industry. Janel Haugarth has earned respect and admiration for a lifetime of outstanding commitment to the food industry. Her outstanding leadership and vision made this induction to the MGA Hall of Fame a well-deserved acknowledgement. She was also presented the National Grocers Association's (NGA) Industry Service Leadership Award by Peter Larkin, President of NGA.

The MGA is a state trade association representing the food industry since 1897. We have over 200 retail members with nearly 1,100 stores statewide, as well as approximately 100 distributors and manufacturers. Our member companies employ over 125,000 union and non-union Minnesotans. We actively advance the common interest of all those engaged in any aspect of the food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

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