

# NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:**

Jamie Pfuhl, President  
Minnesota Grocers Association  
(651) 228-0973  
jpfuhl@mngrocers.com

## **Grocers Recognize Tom Buysse as 2016 Outstanding Grocer**

St. Paul, MN – August 8, 2016 – Tom Buysse, owner of Tom’s Markets in Glenwood and Starbuck, MN was honored by the Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) with its 2016 Outstanding Grocer Award. This award is presented annually to a grocer who has successfully developed a company and is respected by industry peers. Additionally, the recipient must demonstrate contributions to the industry in the areas of government affairs, community service, and involvement in the MGA. The award was presented on July 31, 2016 at the MGA Annual Conference which was attended by over 300 members of the Minnesota food industry.

Buysse was born and raised in Marshall, MN. He attended Pipestone Technical College's two-year supermarket management program and after completing his schooling, received an internship at Spies Super Valu in Brookings, South Dakota. In 1988 Buysse went to work for Hauser's IGA in Prior Lake, where he held multiple positions within the organization. After 16 years with the Hauser group, Buysse felt it was time to look for his own store. When the opportunity arose in 1988 to purchase Hinck's Save-Rite Foods in Glenwood he couldn't pass it up, that store became the first Tom's Save-Rite Foods which later became Tom's Food Pride, and now Tom's Market. In 1994 he added to the company by purchasing Pedersen's Supermarket in Starbuck. To provide the best service possible to the community, Buysse replaced the Glenwood store in 1996. It was twice as big, and had many new amenities. The Starbuck store was expanded in 2000, and he purchased Cenex Convenience stores in both towns in 2007.

Buysse has been a member of the Lions for over 40 years, and belongs to the Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. He is an active member of the MGA, and has served on its Foundation since 2000. During his tenure, the MGA Foundation has awarded over \$594,000 in scholarships.

Buysse and his wife Cindy, married in 1977, and live in Glenwood. They have six children and four grandchildren. Their sons all work in the family business.

Buysse's entrepreneurial spirit exemplifies what it means to be a grocer. His pursuit of excellence makes him a role model for his peers and is why he was chosen as the 2016 MGA Outstanding Grocer.

*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.*

###