

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP



Food industry professionals benefit from joining forces with the most powerful and knowledgeable group of restaurant industry advocates in Missouri. From City Hall, to the State Capitol, and on up to Capitol Hill, Missouri Restaurant Association provides a voice for the state's restaurant and hospitality businesses. With a variety of services and resources available, MRA will help make your life easier and your business stronger.



MRA-endorsed work comp insurer offers aggressive pricing, a 5% premium credit, and customized safety programs for restaurants.



Exclusive healthcare pricing and solutions for MRA members of every size..



Increase your visibility with job applicants and decrease time spent in the hiring process by 80%. MRA members receive a 10% discount on \$29 monthly fee for unlimited platform. StaffedUp will revolutionize the way your business attracts and hires employees.



Exclusive provider of the MRA LABOR & EMPLOYMENT LAW HOTLINE. MRA members receive expert legal consultation at no cost.



MRA offers training and materials for Managers Certification, Food Handler Program, Alcohol Training & Certification, and ServSafe Allergens Training.



Soundtrack Your Brand offers the world's largest selection of background music for restaurants—your single source for fully licensed music, with BMI and ASCAP fees included at considerable savings.



Receive preferred pricing on credit card processing and payroll processing with on-site training and installation. Heartland Hires makes hiring fast and easy.



MRA members can save up to 20% on their music licensing fees by paying timely and online.



MRA members save 33% on mandated labor law compliance poster.



When a photo at a participating restaurant, GiftAMeal donates to a local food bank to provide a meal to someone in need. It's very straight forward for you to join — a small flat fee with no contract or commitment.



Premium internet-based (VoIP) telephone solutions for business. Save up to 50% off current services, with 10% savings guaranteed.

Free install, premium features free.



Full-service online marketing platform offers MRA members a 10% discount on pricing plans.

Free trial program for MRA member restaurants.

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LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

As an effective advocate for the industry, MRA improves the business climate in which restaurants operate, thereby improving your chance to operate successfully and create career opportunities for Missourians in every community across the state. Among the legislative victories MRA has achieved in recent years are the following.



MRA LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES

DRINKS TO GO

During the COVID-19 pandemic when restaurant dining rooms were ordered closed, or allowed to open only with limited hours or capacity, MRA worked with the Governor's office to suspend state laws regarding to-go alcohol sales. The ability to provide carryout beverage sales provided a lifeline to a struggling restaurant industry. As the Covid-related emergency suspensions were about to expire, MRA lobbied the Missouri General Assembly to approve legislation to allow restaurants to continue selling alcoholic drinks to-go on a permanent basis.

LIQUOR LIABILITY

If not for MRA, restaurants serving liquor by the drink would pay much higher premiums for liquor liability insurance - if they could even find a carrier willing to write coverage in our state. Importantly, the Association also raised the evidentiary standard to "knowingly served a visibly intoxicated person" and stipulated that blood alcohol levels are not legally sufficient to prove visible intoxication.

UNDER-REPORTED CASH TIPS

If not for MRA's work, restaurants could be held responsible for employees' personal income tax when the Missouri Department of Revenue's testing methodologies led them to suspect employees had failed to report all their cash tips. Restaurants who had received and paid assessments were given refunds after MRA introduced and passed legislation to prevent DOR from issuing such assessments.

SALES TAX ON MANDATORY GRATUITIES

MRA introduced and passed legislation stipulating that sales tax is not required on mandatory gratuities. MRA successfully argued that tips are taxed as labor and therefore also subjecting them to sales tax was double taxation.

SALES TAX ON DELIVERY CHARGES

MRA worked to pass legislation that stipulates sales tax is not required on reasonable delivery fees when such fees are separately stated on the invoice.

FEDERAL TAX REFORM

Working in conjunction with the National Restaurant Association, MRA worked to ensure the FICA Tip Credit was not repealed as part of the recently-passed Tax Cuts & Jobs Act, and that the Act included tax relief for small businesses doing businesses as pass-through entities.

2% SALES TAX COLLECTION ALLOWANCE

MRA prevented a repeal of this important provision that allows businesses to retain 2% of sales tax collected as compensation for acting as the tax collector for the state. In preventing the repeal of the 2% sales tax collection allowance, MRA improved the bottom-line of a business by approximately \$1,600 for each \$1 million in taxable sales.

