

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

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

MINNESOTA GROCERS ASSOCIATION HOLDS FIFTH ANNUAL BIPARTISAN BAG-OFF

St Paul, MN – August 17, 2021 – The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) hosted its fifth Annual Bipartisan Bag-Off held in conjunction with the annual Best Bagger Contest (see separate press release) on Saturday, August 14 at the MGA office located in St. Paul, MN. This event highlighted the Minnesota food industry and the impact it has on serving consumers, providing careers, and investing in its communities. The Bag-Off featured leadership from each of the four legislative caucuses and a member of the Governor's Administration: Assistant Senate Majority Leader Zach Duckworth (R-Lakeville), House Assistant Majority Leader Heather Edelson (D-Edina), Senator Matt Klein (D-Mendota Heights), MN Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen, and House Assistant Minority Leader Peggy Scott (R-Andover).

Baggers truly exemplify the food industry's dedication to customer service. They are the people responsible for the last experience customers have in a store, and the contest provided an insider look at the importance of this role to industry. Additionally, the contest used the ever popular reusable bag, which demonstrates the food industry's commitment to consumer choice and the well-being of the communities we serve.

The participants were judged on speed, distribution of weight between the bags, proper bagging technique, style, and attitude. Department of Commerce Weights and Measure Division Director Greg VanderPlaats served as the official weigher. All legislative participants received a \$500 donation to a food charity of their choice to be presented in their district with the winner receiving \$1,000.

In a tight competition, this year's Bipartisan Bag-Off winner was Commissioner Thom Petersen, who won with amazing speed and bagging technique. He was presented a trophy and \$1,000 to donate to a food charity of his choice to be presented in his district.

The MGA was also pleased to donate \$2,500 on behalf of its 2020 Bag Hunger Campaign to Second Harvest Heartland, which was accepted by Heather Olson of Second Harvest Heartland. Olson expressed her thanks for the exceptional partnership throughout the years.

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are a legacy organization, having served the industry for over 120 years. We have over 300 retail, manufacturer, and wholesale members supporting nearly 1,300 locations statewide. Our member companies employ over 150,000 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.

###