

CFA JANUARY 2012 NOTES from the PRESIDENT

On January 19, 2012 at the Farmington Club in Farmington, CT, CFA will hold an extremely important event- - our annual meeting and wine tasting reception. The event has become a great networking venue for CFA retail and associate members. The agenda includes reports on the status of our association, the legislative outlook for 2012, and introduction of new members plus the opportunity to sample wines produced by some of Connecticut's finest vineyards. Moreover, we are pleased that Congressman Chris Murphy and potential Democratic candidate for the US Senate will be our guest speaker at the event.

Our planning process for 2012 is well under way. The legislative committee held its first planning meeting to review and prioritize the issues that we will be facing during the "short" session which begins in early February and runs through May 8. This session deals only with committee bills and as such CFA has already met with the chairs of the General Law Committee and the Office of Policy and Management to push for action on Sunday Sales and Wine in Supermarkets. Our new "Wine in CT Supermarkets" study is due to be finalized by Jan 15 and will be presented to the Office of Policy and Management. Unfortunately, CFA has learned that Environment Committee Chair, Richard Roy, will be introducing legislation that would require that products sold in Connecticut that have been genetically modified be so labeled. Connecticut would be the second state in the nation to pass such legislation which would put additional costs on our industry.

At the recent combined Board of Directors/Legislative Committee meeting, Republican House leader Larry Cafero confirmed that, in addition to the Republicans gaining seats in the General Assembly in 2012, the key to our legislative success will be a strong grass roots program in which CFA members establish personal relationships with their local legislators

CFA's membership roll continues to grow. We are pleased to welcome these new 2012 non-retail members: Blount Fine Foods, Harvest Power, Waste to Water, Pure Coffee, Security First Insurance, and the Bachman Company.

Reminders: No minimum wage increase in 2012 (Stays at \$8.25 per hour) and effective January 1, 2012 stores with more than 50 employees must offer paid sick leave to employees after they work 680 hours.