



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 5, 2014

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MICHIGAN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION NAMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

LANSING, MI – The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is pleased to announce the addition of Jennifer Szwec and Ted Behen to its Board of Directors.

Szwec is a joint venture partner with Outback Steakhouse and was voted to the MRA Board of Directors at the April meeting. Prior to recently relocating back to Michigan, Szwec spent four and a half years managing 14 Outback Steakhouse locations in New York City and Long Island. During that time, she served on the New York Restaurant Association Board of Directors and was a two-time Partner of the Year award winner within the Outback Organization. She has been with Outback for 17 years and resides in Davisburg.

Behen is president of Sysco Detroit and was voted to the MRA Board of Directors at the July meeting. He joined Sysco Detroit as a marketing associate in 1986. He was promoted to vice president of sales in 2007 and then to executive vice president in 2012. Behen was promoted to president of Sysco Grand Rapids in 2013 and was recently named president at Sysco Detroit; bringing him back to where he began his career more than 28 years ago. He resides in Rochester Hills.

“It’s always exciting to welcome new members to the MRA’s Board of Directors,” said Brian DeBano, president and CEO of the MRA. “The Board plays an integral role in ensuring the association provides value to our members. We’re excited to have these new individuals involved, bringing years of industry experience to our organization.”

Restaurants play a vital role in the state’s economy. The MRA Board of Directors helps guide the association on all aspects of its business, including government affairs activities during this important election year.

The Michigan Restaurant Association (MRA) is the recognized leader of Michigan's hospitality industry, providing essential services to the foodservice community. Founded in 1921, the MRA represents nearly 4,500 Michigan foodservice establishments. The industry plays an integral role in Michigan's economy, employing almost 400,000 people and creating more than \$13.4 billion in annual sales.

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