

NEWS RELEASE



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Minnesota Grocers Association Recognize 2025 Award Winners and Hall of Fame Inductee

St. Paul, MN – August 7, 2025 - The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) has a long-standing tradition of honoring the best of the best by annually presenting awards to those in the industry who demonstrate excellence, have made significant contributions, and are highly respected by their peers. This year's award winners are a testament to the vitality of the grocery industry in Minnesota. The awards were presented on July 27, 2025, at the association's annual conference in Brainerd, MN. This is the state's premier event showcasing the accomplishments of those in the Minnesota food industry.

The MGA is proud to announce Andrea Teal of Teal's Management in Cold Spring, MN, as the recipient of the 2025 Outstanding Grocer Award. A fourth-generation grocer, Andrea's deep-rooted passion for the industry began early, starting with carryout duties and weekend bookkeeping in her teens.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota with degrees in entrepreneurship and marketing, Andrea assumed the role of General Manager at Teal's Market in 2010. Over the past 15 years, she has led the company's operations across 12 grocery stores and spearheaded its expansion into new markets, including the successful launch of three liquor stores and one Caribou Coffee location.

Andrea has been an engaged member of the MGA for many years and has served on the MGA Board of Directors since 2009. Her visionary leadership, commitment to innovation, and dedication to the industry embody the spirit of the Outstanding Grocer Award.

The MGA is proud to present the 2025 Outstanding Vendor Award to Tom Hall, Group Vice President – Central Region at KEMPS. This award honors individuals who demonstrate exceptional innovation, outstanding customer service, and dedicated involvement in the MGA—qualities Tom embodies throughout his distinguished career.

A University of Minnesota graduate, Tom began his sales career with KEMPS in the Minneapolis–St. Cloud market. His talent and leadership quickly propelled him through the organization, serving as Branch Manager in St. Cloud–Brainerd and Sales Director in Minneapolis. In 1989, he was promoted to lead KEMPS' Milwaukee operations, a position he held for 16 years.

In 2005, Tom returned to Minnesota to oversee KEMPS' ice cream and milk divisions. Following the 2020 acquisition of KEMPS by Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), he was appointed to lead National Sales. Most recently, he assumed the role of Group Vice President for the Central Region at DFA and also serves as President of the KEMPS Foundation.

Tom's leadership, commitment to the industry, and enduring relationships with colleagues and partners have earned him deep respect and admiration. His legacy of excellence makes him a truly deserving recipient of the 2025 Outstanding Vendor Award.

The MGA is honored to induct Jim Almsted, Owner of Almsted's Market in Crystal, MN, into the MGA Hall of Fame. This prestigious recognition celebrates Jim's decades of outstanding service, leadership, and lasting contributions to Minnesota's food industry.

Jim's journey in grocery began in 1968 as a bag boy at the Fridley Red Owl—a humble start to what would become an extraordinary 60-year career marked by dedication, entrepreneurship, and deep community engagement. Over the years, he would go on to own and operate four grocery stores across the Twin Cities, building not only successful businesses but also lifelong relationships.

A graduate of the University of Minnesota with a degree in business, Jim began his professional career at SuperValu as a private label buyer. He steadily advanced to division buyer and field representative before opening his first store, Almsted's New Market in St. Louis Park, in 1989. He later operated Sunny Side SuperValu (1992), Almsted's SuperValu in St. Louis Park (1996), and Almsted's SuperValu in Crystal (2000), and was also a shareholder in the Cub Foods location in Plymouth.

Jim's commitment to the industry extended far beyond his own stores. He served on the MGA Board of Directors for over 25 years and was named Grocer of the Year in 2009. His unwavering passion for the grocery industry and his steadfast support of his community make him a truly deserving Hall of Fame inductee.

This year's award recipients exemplify the vital role local grocers and the broader food industry play in strengthening their communities. Their stories reflect a deep, multi-generational commitment to serving consumers, building meaningful careers, and supporting the neighborhoods they call home.

The Minnesota Grocers Association (MGA) is the only state trade association that represents the food industry of Minnesota from farm to fork. We are one of the oldest trade associations in the state, celebrating over 125 years of advancing industry. We have over 300 retail, manufacturing, 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 retail food industry as a leader and advocate in government affairs.

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