

From Last Year's Grocers' Day



As the legislature and administration convene in Montpelier for the second half of the new biennium, VGA & VRA are there to follow and advocate issues important to the industry. You are invited to participate in the associations' annual legislative conference on February 23.

2011 began with a new governor and administration, new lieutenant governor and new senate leader. The program offers members of the industry a unique opportunity to learn more about the legislative process, meet key lawmakers and receive updates on important issues before the General Assembly. Face to face meetings with state legislators allows members an excellent opportunity to discuss issues of concern by sharing first hand experiences of how their businesses are affected by state policies.



Potential Issues:

- Rebuilding After Irene
- Internet Taxes
- Health Care
- State Finances
- Beverage Tax Proposals
- Energy & Future Electric Rates
- Alcohol Issues
- Employer Provided Uniforms
- Disposable Shopping Bags
- Bottle Deposits
- And more . . .

*Legislative Day at the Capitol is a chance to meet fellow members as well as your elected representatives.
It is an investment in your business.*

VGA & VRA members are welcome to invite their legislator to join them at our luncheon program at the Capitol Plaza. (No charge for legislators)

Please let the association office know so that we can plan accordingly.

Be sure to join VGA & VRA in Montpelier on February 23!

Legislative Conference Schedule of Events

8:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee

Room 10, State House

9:30 a.m. Conference Begins

Room 10, State House

Invited Guests:



Governor Peter Shumlin

Lt. Governor Phil Scott

Speaker Shap Smith

**Susan Gretkowski & Heidi Tringe
of MacLean, Meehan & Rice**

11:15 a.m. State House Tour (Optional)

12:00 noon VGA Legislative Luncheon

*Capitol Plaza Hotel, 100 State Street - Montpelier
(Across from the State House)*



Keynote Speaker:

James Pindell

**"A Front Row Seat to the
Presidential Election Process"**

James Pindell authors WMUR's Political Scoop and provides on air political analysis for WMUR-TV (ABC affiliate, Manchester, NH). The Washington Post called him the "Insider's Insider" for his coverage of New Hampshire politics and he is the only reporter to cover both the Iowa Caucuses and New Hampshire Primary as a beat for local outlets. He has also worked for The Boston Globe, The Des Moines Register, Campaigns and Elections Magazine, and the Indianapolis Star.

1:30 p.m. State House Meetings

An afternoon State House Schedule will be available to members wishing to return to the capitol.

4:00 p.m. State House Reception

Hosted by Vermont Specialty Food, Vermont Cheese Council, Vermont Brewers, Vermont Wineries & Distilled Spirits Council