

Good morning members,

I want to thank you for all the support we have received since our announcement of having to cancel 2020 Swedish Days. It truly was a very hard decision for our Board and one that was not taken lightly. To some, it may seem premature or too early, but being able to give advance notice to all those involved (and there are hundreds), we knew we had to decide now. We hope to be able to bring visitors to Geneva, when it is deemed safe to do so, and will do everything we can to assist each of you when Geneva can open again.

Today you can build a snowman. Tomorrow you can wear shorts. These days, every day is a surprise. Stay positive. Stay strong. We are YOUR Geneva Chamber and we are positively stronger together!

Sincerely,

Paula Schmidt
President, Geneva Chamber of Commerce

WEBINAR (free)

Strengthen Your Membership with Proactive Crisis Communication Strategies

Presented by ChamberMaster

April 23 @ noon

Register [HERE](#)

During a crisis situation, communicating with you membership is critical. Providing information that is relevant and doesn't waste their time is an opportunity to share key messaging, gain trust, and demonstrate value.

From Illinois Restaurant Association (IRA)

WEBINAR

Join the Illinois Restaurant Association, Plante Moran, and Laner Muchin **TODAY Friday, April 17 at 1:00 p.m. for a webinar** as we discuss HR challenges for restaurants during the current COVID-19 crisis. Topics will include unemployment insurance, paid sick leave requirements through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), furloughs, layoffs, employee benefits, and how to ensure Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans are forgiven.

Tax and accounting professionals Dave Andrea, John Barsella, and Michael Kruker of Plante Moran, along with Labor and Employment attorney Rob Bernstein of Laner Muchin, will provide overviews of the regulations and requirements facing employers and offer guidance for restaurants as they navigate this ongoing crisis.

This webinar is open to everyone. [Click here](#) to register. Please send all questions you would like addressed during the webinar to [Matt Quinn](#).

PRESIDENT TRUMP RELEASES GUIDE TO OPENING UP AMERICA AGAIN

Yesterday, President Trump unveiled Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, a three-phased approach based on the advice of public health experts.

The IRA will be analyzing the impact these guidelines have on our industry and meeting with state and local public health officials regarding the reopening strategy for Illinois.

[Click here](#) to read more from the White House. [Click here](#) to download the guidelines.

PPP MONEY EXHAUSTED, TELL CONGRESS MORE FUNDING IS NEEDED NOW

Yesterday, the Small Business Association (SBA) officially ran out of money for the Paycheck Protection Program. Negotiations on Capitol Hill have yet to generate a path forward to replenish the money.

The IRA is working alongside the National Restaurant Association, Independent Restaurant Coalition, and state restaurant association partners to lobby Congress on much-needed improvements to the loan and relief programs created in the CARES Act.

Please help amplify our efforts by taking a few moments to [email your Representatives and Senators](#) and tell them:

- You support bipartisan efforts to provide additional funding.
- You support Congress taking action to make loan terms and other requirements flexible to reflect the unique operational and business model of restaurants.

From U.S. Chamber of Commerce

SAVE SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVE

As part of the U.S. Chamber's new [Save Small Business Initiative](#), we are organizing a **national #SaveSmallBusiness Day of Action TODAY (Friday)**.

[Please click here to access the #SaveSmallBusiness Digital Toolkit](#), complete with suggested social media copy and custom graphics that you can use on your social media channels. In the toolkit, you will find content calling for more emergency funding as well as more universal small business support messaging.

We hope you will join us in a morning blitz of social posts between **8 am and noon TODAY**.

Please also share the toolkit with any others who may be willing to join the chorus on social media. Please use the hashtag [#SaveSmallBusiness](#) and @USChamber will look out to like and share your posts.

Together, we'll remind Congress just how critical small businesses are to our country and our communities, and we'll not let another day go by without the funding these small employers need to keep their businesses afloat and their workers employed.

***UPDATED U.S. CHAMBER 501(C) SIGN-ON LETTER TO CONGRESS ***

The U.S. Chamber is sending an updated letter asking members of congress to extend eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program to all nonprofit organizations when they consider the next COVID-19 emergency assistance legislation.

Please [click here](#) to read and sign the letter—and encourage your nonprofit members, other than 501(c)(3) organizations to do the same to help us get as many signatures as possible from the nonprofit community—before the deadline **next Thursday, April 23 at 3 pm.**

Please note that only one signature from each organization is required.

As a reminder, we encourage you to ask your members of congress to send similar sign-on letters as those penned by [Congressman Chris Pappas and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick](#), and [U.S. Senator Jerry Moran](#) to congressional leadership to continue to advocate on behalf of chambers, trade associations, and other nonprofit groups.

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO AID MID-SIZE BUSINESSES

Yesterday, the U.S. Chamber sent a [letter](#) to the U.S. Federal Reserve System and the U.S. Department of the Treasury highlighting the importance of and providing recommendations for their recently announced creation of a Main Street Lending Program and the Paycheck Protection Program Lending Facility. The U.S. Chamber also commended the creation of lending facilities— which will provide necessary liquidity to medium and large businesses— and encouraged the continued work towards restoring confidence to the business community and financial markets during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEW GUIDES AND RESOURCES FROM THE U.S. CHAMBER

The U.S. Chamber continues to create, update, and evolve its various guides and resources to continue bringing you and your members the information you need during this difficult time.

[Click here](#) to view the new Independent Contractor’s Guide to CARES Act Relief. We encourage you to share this new guide with your members.

In addition to the new Independent Contractor’s Guide to CARES Act Relief, we encourage you to continue utilizing and sharing the following items as you see fit:

- [Coronavirus Emergency Loans Small Business Guide and Checklist](#)
- [Temporary Paid Leave and Family Medical Leave Guide](#)
- [Economic Injury Disaster Loan \(EIDL\) Program Guide](#)
- [Employee Retention Tax Credit Guide](#)
- [Coronavirus Small Business Guide](#)
- [Coronavirus Response Toolkit](#)

From our Representative Lauren Underwood

As we face the coronavirus pandemic together, **I invite you to join me for a Facebook Live Town Hall on Tuesday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m.** This will be an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the work I’m doing in Congress to help our community face the health and economic impacts of coronavirus.

[CLICK HERE TO SHARE YOUR CORONAVIRUS QUESTIONS](#)

Please know that my team is here to help you during this time. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please do not hesitate to call my office at (630) 549-2190 or (202) 225-2976. I also encourage you to read my [Coronavirus Community Resource Guide](#). It has information about good public health practices and guidance for where to turn for income support. It also has resources for parents navigating childcare, and small business, seniors, and more.