

# Two MGA Board Members will Join Michigan Retailer Boards as the Associations Join Together



As the Michigan Grocers Association joins forces with the Michigan Retailers Association (MRA), two current members of the MGA Board of Directors will serve in leadership capacities with the Retailers Association. Effective January 1, 2018:

- MGA Treasurer **Bryan Neiman**, Neiman's Family Market, will serve on the Michigan Retailers Association Board of Directors and Legislative Committee. MRA represents more than 5,000 businesses and their 15,000 stores and websites.

- MGA Director **John Leppink**, Leppink's Food Centers, will serve on the Michigan Retailers Services, Inc. (MRS) Board and the Audit Committee. MRS is the wholly owned subsidiary of MRA that provides a wide-array of profit-boosting membership services to Association members.



Bryan Neiman

Bryan is President & CEO of Neiman's Family Market, with four locations in Alpena, Tawas, St. Clair, and Clarkston. His parents, Hal and Jean Neiman, founded the company in 1983 by opening the Alpena IGA store, which later became Neiman's Family Market. The new year will mark 35 years as a growing, successful family business. The St. Clair store is currently undergoing a \$2 million upgrade.

Joining his family's business in 2007 as a Store Director, Bryan previously worked for The Fresh Market in North Carolina and

Indiana. He holds a bachelor's degree in organizational communications from Capital University.

"My goal in serving on the MRA board is to represent grocery retailers by sharing my retail food industry knowledge and my passion for the people and businesses that make the industry a success," Bryan says. "As an MRA board member, I hope to promote the food industry's continued success."

Bryan and his wife, Stephanie, have been married 22 years. They have three children: Eliza age 16, Ruby age 13, and Rex who is seven. Bryan and his family live in St. Clair where they are very active in the community.

John Leppink is president of Leppink's Incorporated, where he oversees the total store operations of four Leppink's Food Centers, three Leppink's Pharmacies, 10 Save A Lot food stores, and one North Bank Hardware store with his business partner Rich Cole. In addition to the various retail operations, John and Rich operate LCL Development, LLC, which is a property leasing company that currently oversees 30 active rental properties.

Leppink's Food Centers began in 1928 when

John's grandfather, also named John Leppink, opened "John Leppink's Quality Cash Market" located in Belding. From there the company has grown to six Leppink's Food Centers, with John's cousin, Ransom Leppink, owning and operating two of them.

As a third-generation grocer, John grew up working in the stores. He is a graduate of Western Michigan University's Food Marketing Program.

"I look forward to working with MRA to make our state stronger," John says. "My goal is to find opportunities to share my grocery industry expertise to make sure grocers continue to have a strong voice in our state."

John and his wife, Jackie, have been married 33 years. They have three grown children who all work in the food industry: Robert is Leppink's Center Store Director; Arianna is the Marketing Director and she assists with LCL Development; and Andrew is a Director with Quality Food Centers in Seattle.

"We're delighted to have Bryan and John join our Board of Directors," said MRA President and CEO **Jim Hallan**. "Their breadth of experience will be invaluable in helping us strengthen our organization and understand the challenges of grocers in this ever-evolving world of retail."

Bryan and John will join a retired grocer currently serving on MRA's board: **MGA Member Meijer's** former CFO **James Walsh**.



John Leppink