

NEWS RELEASE

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Del Monte Foods' Knetsch Elected Chair of Food Products Board

James Knetsch, Vice President of Operations for Del Monte Foods, Inc., based in Rochelle, IL, has been named chairman of Midwest Food Products Association's (MWFPA) board of directors for 2019.

As chairman, Knetsch will assume leadership of MWFPA's governing body and will preside over quarterly meetings of the Association's board of directors. That body adopts policies and provides strategic guidance and oversight for the Association.

"I am confident Jim will provide strong, objective and thoughtful leadership to the Board based on his deep understanding of the food industry, said MWFPA President Nick George. "Our Association remains a leading voice in the Midwest. James' experience and leadership will provide valuable guidance to MWFPA and our members."

Knetsch has worked for Del Monte for 25 years and was previously the company's director of vegetable operations. He has been a member of the Association's Board since 2014

having served this year as vice-chairman. He also serves on MWFPA's Illinois Legislative Committee.

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“MWFPA plays an important role in representing the interests of food manufacturers” said Knetsch. “Del Monte has been a strong supporter of the Association and its efforts to advance the interests of manufacturers on key issues affecting them. I will work to ensure the Association continues to be an indispensable resource to every member company.”

Several changes and additions to the MWFPA Board of Directors were announced recently at the group’s annual convention held in Wisconsin Dells, WI:

Kip Guyon (Pinnacle Foods) and Rob Anderson (Bonduelle, USA) agreed to serve additional 3-year terms.

Joe Breid of Bush Brothers & Company retired from the Board and is being replaced by Brad Krings, also of Bush Brothers. Bob Porter (Layton Systems), who also stepped down from the board, will be replaced by Dean Becker of A&K Development.

MWFPA welcomed its newest Board members – Jeff Griep of B&G Foods and Mark Enter of Lakeside Foods.

MWFPA officers for 2018 are:

Chair: James Knetsch, Del Monte Foods

Vice-Chair: Rob Anderson, Bonduelle USA

Sec/Treas: Mark Enter, Lakeside Foods

Past Chair: Jon Brekken, Seneca Foods Corp.

In addition to the above officers, the MWFPA Board of Directors includes:

Dean Becker – A & K Development Col. Inc.

Jeff Griep – B&G Foods

Brad Krings – Bush Brothers & Company

Ken Sevcik - Fairbault Foods

Ryan Downs - GLK Foods

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Joe Yanda - Lakeside Foods

Bob Goeres - Lodi Canning Co.

Steve Hughes - Lyco Manufacturing

Chris Jones - McCain Foods USA, Inc.

Kip Guyon – Pinnacle Foods

The Midwest Food Products Association represents the business interests of the region's dynamic food products industry. The association lobbies on legislative and regulatory matters; promotes safe food processing practices; investigates new technologies; funds industry research; and plans industry events. It represents over 100 processing facilities in Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota.