



Press Contact:  
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## Colorado Restaurant Association Announces Updated 2021-2022 Board of Directors

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 22, 2020

Denver, CO – **The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA)** is pleased to announce recent changes and additions to its Board of Directors, including the Board's newly elected chairman, **Beth Gruitch**, owner of Crafted Concepts restaurant group in Denver, who has taken over the role from Scott Engelman, owner of the Truffle Pig and principal of SEAdvisors in Steamboat Springs.

After a devastating 19-month period of pandemic-related economic hardship, it is exciting to share the CRA's new Board of Directors, an outstanding group of hospitality industry professionals who will continue working tirelessly with the CRA to support and advance the restaurant industry across Colorado.

### **New 2021 CRA Board of Directors members include:**

- **Jason Gumer**, Corporate Director of Administration and Associate Counsel at Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. (Black Hawk)
- **Carrie Hart**, Senior Vice President, Accounting and Finance for Snooze, an AM Eatery (Arvada)
- **Melissa Strong**, Owner and Operator of Bird & Jim restaurant (Estes Park)

### **New 2021 CRA Chapter Presidents include:**

- Pikes Peak Chapter: **Travis Blaney**, Partner of Streetcar 520 (Colorado Springs)
- Telluride Section: **Lucas Price**, Owner of La Cocina de Luz (Telluride)

### **The full CRA 2021-2022 Board roster includes:**

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

- Immediate Past Chairman: **Scott Engelman**, Principal, SEAdvisors/Truffle Pig (Steamboat Springs)
- Chairman: **Beth Gruitch**, Co-Owner, Crafted Concepts (Denver)
- Vice Chairman, Government Affairs/Chairman-Elect: **Daniel Ramirez**, Director of Operations, Los Dos Potrillos (Centennial)
- Vice Chairman, Convention & Events: **Aileen Reilly**, General Manager/Proprietor, Apple Blossom, Coperta (Denver)
- Vice Chairman, Membership: **Rayme Rossello**, Owner, Comida (Aurora)
- Vice Chairman, Communication: **Dana Query**, Owner, Big Red F Restaurant Group (Boulder)
- Vice Chairman, At Large: **Rick Stucy**, Owner/Member, Wheeler Restaurant Group, LLC (Burger King; Castle Rock)

- Vice Chairman, At Large: **Marc Steron**, Managing Partner, Shanahan's Steakhouse (Denver)
- Colorado Restaurant Foundation Vice-Chairman: **Rich Schneider**, Owner, Raquelitas Tortillas (Denver)
- Contoller: **Christopher Davis-Massey**, Owner/COO, ChoLon Restaurant Concepts, LLC (Denver)
- Treasurer: **Laura McGinley**, CFO, Wahoo's Fish Tacos
- Secretary: **Jason Gumer**, Corporate Director of Administration and Associate Counsel at Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. (Black Hawk)
- President & CEO: **Sonia Riggs**, Colorado Restaurant Association (Denver)

#### **ELECTED DIRECTORS:**

- **Mark Brinkerhoff**, Co-Founder/Owner, Brinkerhoff Hospitality (Centennial)
- **Clay Caldwell**, Owner, Mo'Betta Gumbo Inc. (Loveland)
- **Todd Clark**, DOO/Partner, Matsuhisa Colorado (Aspen)
- **Catherine Cooney**, Director of Recruiting, Cooney Consulting & Recruiting (Denver)
- **Adam Deutschmann**, General Manager, Bargreen Ellingson (Denver)
- **Ryan Fletter**, Owner & Wine Director, Barolo Grill (Denver)
- **Jason Ganahl**, Founder, GQue BBQ & Ice Cream Farm (Lone Tree)
- **Troy Guard**, Chef/Owner, TAG Restaurant Group (Denver)
- **Carrie Hart**, SVP, Accounting & Finance, Snooze an AM Eatery (Arvada)
- **Peter Hogle**, COO, Frasca Hospitality Group (Boulder)
- **Greg Howard**, Owner, Patty Jewett Bar & Grill (Colorado Springs)
- **John Imbergamo**, President, The Imbergamo Group, Inc. (Denver)
- **Heidi Klein**, VP On-Premise Sales, Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits of Colorado (Aurora)
- **Laura McGinley**, CFO, Wahoo's Fish Tacos (Boulder)
- **Kenneth Monfort**, Director/Business Dev, Monfort Companies (Denver)
- **Todd A. Moore**, District Manager, Colorado, Centerplate – A Sodexo Company (Denver)
- **Franco Pisani**, Chef/Owner, Paravicini's Italian Bistro, Sopra Antipasto Wine Bar (Colorado Springs)
- **Larry Reinerth**, Owner/Operator, Reinerth Enterprises Inc. (Centennial)
- **Mark Stanley**, President, Phantom Partners Corp. (Culver's; Colorado Springs, Aurora, Thornton)
- **Melissa Strong**, Owner, Bird & Jim (Estes Park)
- **Chris Weil**, Regional Manager, FOODMatch Inc. (Centennial)



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### **CHAPTER PRESIDENTS:**

- Boulder County: **Tony Milazzo**, Owner, Sundown Saloon (Boulder)
- Breckenridge: **TJ Messerschmitt**, Twist/Relish
- Durango: **David Woodruff**, General Manager, El Moro Spirits & Tavern
- Mile High: **Ashley Hoffman**, Director of Learning & Dev., Restaurants of America (Centennial)
- Northern Colorado: **Skip Bassett**, Franchise Business Consultant, Culver's (Johnstown)
- Pikes Peak: **Travis Blaney**, Partner, Streetcar 520 (Colorado Springs)
- Steamboat Springs: **Nick Sharp**, Director of Operations, Rex's Family of Restaurants
- Telluride Section: **Lucas Price**, Owner, La Cocina de Luz

### **PAST CHAIRMEN:**

- **Paul Aylmer**, CFO & General Counsel, Epicurean Group (Centennial)
- **Rob Dawe**, Skylar Management Company, LLC (Denver)
- **Robert Hahn**, Asset Sources (Denver)
- **Rob Haimson**, Owner, Magnum Properties, LLC (Greeley)
- **Steve Kanatzar**, Owner, The Airplane Restaurant (Colorado Springs)
- **Karen Kristopeit-Parker**, General Manager, The Butchery (Arvada)
- **Matt Larson**, Kenny's Steak House (Greeley)
- **Dennis McCann**, President, J.D.'s Bait Shop Sports Grill (Greenwood Village)
- **Ed Novak**, Owner, Zane's Italian Bistro (Denver)
- **Craig Reed**
- **Mark Valente**, Sanborn and Company (Denver)
- **Richard Weil**, Owner, National Restaurant Consultants (Denver)
- **Rich Yoke**

### **DIRECTORS EMERITUS:**

- **H.A. Andy Divine**, Professor Emeritus (Retired), University of Denver
- **Mike Nemeth**
- **Eddie Robinson**, Manager, Robinson Management, LLC (Denver)

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### **About the Colorado Restaurant Association**

The Colorado Restaurant Association (CRA) is dedicated to the enhancement and success of Colorado's foodservice industry. Founded in 1933, the CRA is the leading trade organization for the state's dynamic restaurant scene. The CRA represents, educates, and promotes a \$14 billion



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industry comprised of more than 12,000 eating and drinking establishments and 280,000 workers. [corestaurant.org](http://corestaurant.org).