



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Michael Gibbons
National Restaurant Association
Chairman of the Board of Directors

Michael Gibbons is the president and CEO of Mainstreet Ventures, Inc., in Ann Arbor, Mich., a regional restaurant chain that began as a single restaurant venture. The portfolio currently features several diverse restaurant concepts operating in Ohio, West Virginia, Michigan, Maryland and Florida, including Real Seafood Co., Ristorante Gratz, Blue Pointe Seafood, Palio Ristorante, La Dolce Vita, Tidewater Grill, Ciao, Chop House, Zia's, Carson's American Bistro and Carson's Steakhouse.

Gibbons began serving on the Association's Board in 2000, and previously held the positions of treasurer and vice chairman, as well as being a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation. In 2007, Gibbons dedicated one month to serving as a Hennessy traveler, joining a four-person team to tour dining facilities in nominated U.S. Air Force bases worldwide in their quest to earn the coveted Air Force foodservice award, the John L. Hennessy trophy.

Active in state restaurant associations, Gibbons is a former president of the Michigan Restaurant Association and recipient of its highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award, and also received recognition as the 2001 Northwest Ohio as Entrepreneur of the Year. He remains active in Chambers of Commerce in communities where his restaurants are located, and supports numerous charitable organizations, including YMCA, Neighborhood Senior Services, and The Ability Center of Toledo. Additionally, he shares his skills as a teacher and advisor in local community colleges.