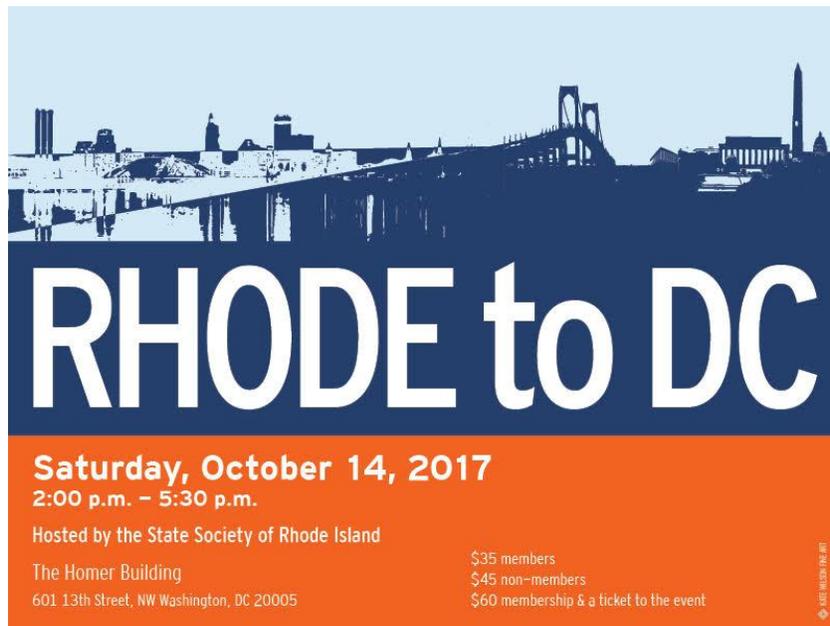


## State Society of Rhode Island Celebrates Four Years of Building Bridges Between Rhode Island and Washington



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Washington, D.C., September 22, 2017** – The State Society of Rhode Island will host its first annual **Rhode to DC** event on Saturday, October 14 to celebrate Rhode Island in the District! The State Society of Rhode Island will be featuring Rhode Island businesses, organizations, and their products in Washington. Rhode Islanders who have made important contributions to the state will also be honored with the State Society of Rhode Island Leadership Award. This flagship event will be held at the Homer Building at Metro Center.

Tickets for Rhode to DC can be purchased at a member or non-member rate:

\$35 for current members; \$45 for non-members and \$60 for new membership dues + a Rhode to DC event ticket.

### About Our Rhode to DC Supporters

Rhode to DC is made possible through the support of corporate and institutional sponsors as well as individual donors, member dues and the invaluable support of enthusiastic volunteers. All corporate and individual donations or sponsorships are tax deductible.

The State Society of Rhode Island welcomes event or annual sponsorships from corporations or non-profit organizations that operate in Rhode Island.

<http://www.statesocietyofrhodeisland.com/sponsorsdonations/>

Several opportunities exist for individuals to sponsor Rhode to DC or annual State Society of Rhode Island programs that will strengthen relationships between Rhode Island and the nation's capital.

<http://www.statesocietyofrhodeisland.com/member-registration/>

The State Society of Rhode Island is pleased to announce four Leadership Award honorees:

### Brian D. Goldner

Brian is the Chairman and CEO of Hasbro, Inc. and a film producer. Hasbro is headquartered in Pawtucket with expanded operations in downtown Providence. Brian literally transformed Hasbro in 2007 while serving as Executive Producer of the hit movie *Transformers*, which grossed \$709.7 million at the box office and led to a multi-billion dollar franchise. In 2008, Brian was named CEO of the Year by MarketWatch.com. In 2016, Hasbro passed the \$5B revenue mark for the first time in company history. Under his leadership, Hasbro has been continually recognized as a global leader in its approach to corporate social responsibility. Hasbro recently ranked among the World's Most Ethical Companies for the sixth consecutive year. Following the death of his son, Brandon, from an accidental heroin overdose, Brian and his wife Barbara Goldner distinguished themselves as leaders concerning the nation's opioid drug crisis. They honored Brandon's memory by helping to create "Brandon's Beach" in downtown Providence. Brian has also served as Director at The Gap,

The Miriam Hospital and The Rhode Island Hospital. He is a member of the Producers Guild of America and serves on the board of trustees at Moses Brown School in Providence. Brian is an alumnus of Dartmouth College.

### **Mark Hellendrung**

Mark is the President of Narragansett Beer and an astute businessman with incredible vision. His success as the former president of Nantucket Nectars led to his next and latest challenge, Narragansett Beer, which he purchased in 2005. A builder of brands, he has helped to put Rhode Island's beer community on the map and led the creation of a number of 'Gansett specialty beers that celebrate Rhode Island's heritage. These brands include Dell's Shandy, Lovecraft Honey Ale, Allie's Donuts Porter, and Autocrat Coffee Milk Stout. Mark holds a Master's in Accountancy from Bentley College's McCallum Graduate School of Business and a Bachelor's degree from Brown University.

### **Christian McBurney**

Christian is the founder of *Small State Big History*, a project of the [Online Review of Rhode Island History](#). The Review was formed to promote the state's wonderful history and "offer a variety of articles intended for a popular audience, but with an eye for accuracy over legend." Christian was raised in Kingston, Rhode Island in a home built in 1809. His passion for history dates from as early as his high school years when he wrote a book on the history of Kingston. In 2004, he published a more seasoned version of this history. At Brown, Christian wrote his thesis on colonial South Kingstown planter society before pursuing the study of law at New York University School of Law. Christian practices tax law in Washington with a major international law firm where he advises private equity firms, investment funds and a range of clients concerning transactions, partnership interests and other matters.

### **Pat Moran**

Pat is the Development Chair for Downtown Providence Parks Conservancy. Building on a formidable record of success as a fundraiser for various artistic and cultural organizations in Rhode Island, Pat plays a key role in raising critical funds for the redevelopment of downtown Providence and is an expert in community outreach and event planning. She is responsible for overseeing the DPPC Funding Campaign to Transform Greater Kennedy Plaza. Pat is a member of the Women's Leadership Group at United Way and Co-host of the Women Helping Women Fundraiser through Crossroads of Rhode Island. Pat is also a past president and trustee of the Providence Preservation Society, Chairperson of the Providence Foundation's 40th Gala Celebration and Co-chair of the Opening Night for the Champion of the Arts Fundraiser in the PVDfest Providence International Arts Festival 2016. Pat is a graduate of Providence College.

### **About the State Society of Rhode Island**

As one of several vibrant state society organizations, the State Society of Rhode Island (SSRI) is a 501(c)(3), nonpartisan organization in Washington, D.C., serving as the premier resource for Rhode Islanders and friends of Rhode Island who live, work, or study in the nation's capital. Our active Board of Directors provides social, community service, cultural, and educational events to our membership, creating networking opportunities and a strong Ocean State community in Washington along with ever stronger relationships between Rhode Island and Washington. SSRI is a member of the National Conference of State Societies (NCSS), the non-profit umbrella association for each of the 50 states and 5 territories that have an active society. SSRI works with NCSS on programming throughout the year, apart from the events that are hosted by SSRI exclusively for our members.

A special thanks to our sponsors who have helped make this event possible! This includes: The Narragansett Brewing Company, Dave's Coffee, Granny Squibb Iced Tea, Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau/Go Providence, Rhode Island Red Food Tours, Anchor Toffee, EatDrinkRI, and Yacht Club Soda.

For more information about the State Society of Rhode Island, visit [statesocietyofrhodeisland.com](http://statesocietyofrhodeisland.com)

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