



The Vegetable Growers Association of New Jersey

John Banscher, President

(www.njveggies.org)

(www.facebook.com/Njveggies)

July 2017

Dear VGANJ Member:

Once again, it is time to renew your VGANJ membership. Membership is \$100 and includes attendance to the Educational Sessions and Trade Show (free coffee & danish each morning) for the farmer and a guest, and the Tuesday evening Social & Auction. The guest may be the farmer's spouse, partner, manager or child. There will be a charge of \$25 for any additional attendees to the Annual Convention. Next year we will raise the price of memberships that are paid for at the convention to \$125.00. We are doing this to avoid the long lines we have had in the past with people registering. Please remember if you pay your dues before the convention, check with the registration desk for badges before going to the one day pass/new membership window.

In the past the Commercial Vegetable Production Guide was always included with your dues for free. Due to higher printing costs and fewer copies being printed, we will have to charge \$10 for this NEW guide. You can access it on the Rutgers website and print out any pages you want for free. In the past the Extension offices have sold the book for \$15 to \$20 so this is a savings. If you want a PRINTED copy of this Guide, please check the box on the membership form and add the extra \$10 to your fee. I have been assured by the Editor that there will be a 2018 new version of the guide. The Proceedings will still be given to all members at no charge.

Membership in the VGANJ runs from July 1 through June 30. By paying the membership dues in advance of the Convention, your name tag will be waiting for you at the registration table, making your registration as efficient as possible and costing you \$25 less. Daily passes continue to be available for those guests that prefer to attend both the Trade Show and the Educational Sessions just for one day. The price of one day pass is \$50. One day passes do not include the Proceedings and Recommendation books; these can be purchased for an extra fee. **Please fill in the attached form completely and return to John Rigolizzo, Jr. at the address on the top of the form. You can also go to our website www.njveggies.org and register online using a credit card or Paypal. If you do not feel comfortable sending your form through the mail with your credit card info, please send Marita Rigolizzo an email and request an invoice. She will email you an invoice that will have a link to pay online. Her email address is marita.rigolizzo@gmail.com**

The 2018 NJ Agriculture Convention and Trade Show is slated for **February 6 – 8, 2018** at the Harrahs Resort Waterfront Conference Center. You can check our website www.njveggies.org, our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/Njveggies) and now on Twitter @njveggies to find any updates that will be posted for the convention. The educational sessions schedule will be posted on the website in October. When you receive the Convention information in November/December, you will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for the Awards Banquet held on Wednesday evening, any luncheons that will be held, as well as the necessary information regarding hotel accommodations.

Again, VGANJ encourages distributors/vendors/buyers to exhibit in the Trade Show. This is a great opportunity to network and establish new contacts for your farm products. Also, we are seeking exhibitors of large equipment. The room for the exhibits provides easy access through large overhead doors directly onto the Trade Show floor. If you have any suggestions for possible new exhibitors, please contact **Rocky DiGerolamo at 856-797-1686, Wayne Knerr at knerrw@helenachemical.com, or Donna Dugan at donnava52010@comcast.net**. In addition, VGANJ has offered all agricultural organizations the opportunity to participate in the 2018 convention. It is our hope that by getting as many agricultural groups as possible involved that The New Jersey Agricultural Convention and Trade show can enhance the services it provides to reach an even broader section of the agricultural community.

The Officers, Board of Directors, and the NJDA are all looking forward to seeing you in Atlantic City, at the Harrahs Resort Waterfront Conference Center for an exciting 2018 NJ Agriculture Convention.

Sincerely,

John Banscher, President, VGANJ

Enclosure