

Stan Harris Bio
President & CEO
Louisiana Restaurant Association

Stan Harris was selected as the Louisiana Restaurant Association President and CEO in August 2010. Harris spent 27 years in progressive roles in the restaurant industry with TJM Restaurant Management, the largest franchisee of Ruth's Chris Steak House operating 14 locations in 10 states with over 2500 associates. He sold the company to the franchise parent in 2007.

In late 2007, he purchased the Forefront Group, the largest supplier of golf bags, accessories and sports towels in the United States. Harris aligned new strategic partnerships with the PGA TOUR, National Football League, Collegiate Licensing Company, PGA of America and United States Golf Association. After completing a restructuring, he sold to Dynamic Brands, Inc. of Richmond, Virginia in 2009.

In 2009, Harris formed The H Group based in Nashville, Tennessee which provided management advisory and turnaround services focusing on entrepreneurial and family owned businesses.

In addition to leading advocacy efforts for the LRA, he serves as the chief executive officer of the LRA Self Insurer's Fund for worker's compensation which provides coverage for approximately \$950 million dollars in hospitality payroll and he manages over \$40 million dollars in reserve funds. He also serves as CEO of the LRA's Education Foundation which provides its ProStart program to over 1500 Louisiana high school juniors and seniors and provides scholarships and school support to develop our future industry leaders.

As CEO of the Louisiana Restaurant Association, he has responsibility for all association activities including legislative affairs, local, state and federal regulatory policy, media relations and member program development.

Harris has served on the board of the New Orleans Culinary and Hospitality Institute (NOCHI) and the advisory board of the University of New Orleans Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism program.

In 2020, Harris served as Chair of the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and is a director of the National Restaurant Association. The NRAEF raised over \$21.6 million dollars to provide grants to industry workers impacted by the COVID

crisis. In 2021, he was chosen as Chair-elect of New Orleans & Company and will serve as its chair in 2021.

Mr. Harris is a guest lecturer in both the MBA and Executive MBA programs at Louisiana State University focusing on entrepreneurship and business operations. He also is a guest lecturer for the HRT program at the University of New Orleans. Harris is a graduate of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and earned a scholarship to work as a trainer for the university's athletic teams.