



May 2019



Greetings American Academy of Chefs Fellows!

April showers bring May flowers - and a very busy spring season, as well!

I'm pleased to report our regional dinners have resulted in an ongoing series of great successes thanks to both Chef Tom Biglan, CEC, AAC and Chef Chris Dwyer, CEC, CCA, AAC. Our Annual Induction Dinner also promises to follow suit. We've had a very busy year so far and it looks like this steady pace of events and gatherings will continue for quite some time.

We're looking forward to our annual induction which will be held during the 2019 ACF National Convention. The annual meeting, induction, and dinner are scheduled to take place on Sunday, August 4, 2019, at our "home away from home", the beautiful Orlando Marriott World Center in Orlando, Florida. Twenty new Fellows of the Academy will be inducted, along with Honorary Fellows, six inductees into the Hall of Fame (including one Posthumously and one Honorary), as well as our Celebrated Chef and Hall of Fame member, Chef Gale Gand. Please check the pages below for their names and designations. Congratulations goes out to each and every one of them!

In other news, it was a pleasure to visit the national office in mid-April, and yes, I know what you're thinking, what a great time of year to leave Buffalo and visit Florida, right? I have to agree. It was a nice getaway; however, we had a lot of work to do which included preparing invitations, programs, medals, awards and so much more. We're still in the planning stages of our annual dinner, and we will provide the finalized menu in the next newsletter. It's been a pleasure to work with Chef Eric Martinez of the Orlando World Center Marriott, and I look forward to sampling his cuisine very soon. Please be sure to make your reservations early and remember to have your spouse or significant other join us the next day (Monday, August 5, 2019) at the Isleworth Country Club for the spouses' "luncheon." We've been to the Club before, and they have graciously agreed to be our hosts once again.

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Hall of Fame members: Chefs Joe Aiello, CEC, AAC, Michael L. Minor, CEC, AAC and Luige G. Baretto, CEC, AAC. These three very deserving chefs will be inducted during our annual meeting and dinner. We will also be inducting Chef Frank J. Setera, CEC, AAC as an honorary member of the Hall of Fame, as well as Chef Chris Neary, CEC, CCA, AAC, posthumously. Our Celebrated Chef Gale Gand will be inducted Sunday evening after delivering the opening keynote address at Sunday's general session.

I enjoyed a recent visit to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where I helped celebrate that chapter's 75th anniversary. The event was held at the Allegheny Country Club. Cocktails and delicious appetizers were served on the patio as it was a sunny and warm day. Soon, however, a weather front moved in, and then, out went the power. You wouldn't have known it though, as the staff and Chef Daniel Henning, didn't miss a beat. The food was served hot and without interruption - a remarkable feat indeed. The evening was filled with ACF history, and I was sincerely moved by the tribute to all the chefs from the area who spent time as presidents of the ACF. These individuals belonged to the first chapter to offer an apprenticeship program thanks to the late L. Edwin Brown, HAAC, HHOFF. In addition, our certification program was established in Pittsburgh. In fact, Ferdinand E. Metz CMC, AAC, HOF, Baron H. Galand, CEC, AAC, HOF, Jack H. Braun,

CEC, AAC, HOF and L. Timothy Ryan, CMC, AAC were all presidents from the Pittsburgh area. Congratulations to Chapter President Rikk Panzera, CEC, CCE, AAC and the entire chapter for an extremely exciting and memorable evening!

At this time, I'd like to encourage you to reach out and congratulate new inductees from your respective chapters, as well as your colleagues, friends and employees via our dinner journal. It's a great way to honor their commitment to our profession. Details on pricing and other related items have been included in the pages below.

Please be advised we won't be holding our "Dinner of the Century" in Orlando as logistics, dates and venues couldn't be secured in time to move forward with this great event. For those of you who like to plan ahead, we've started to research the Dallas area for next year.

The ballots for selection of our Chair and Vice Chair will be arriving soon. If you do not receive a ballot in May, please contact the Academy office at academy@acfcchefs.net or (904) 484-0202, and they will make certain you receive one. Also, we've reviewed a rather large list of Academy Fellows who haven't paid their ACF dues to date. Please note, according to our Policies and Procedures, only a current, due-paying member of the ACF is eligible to vote.

As a reminder, please take time out of your busy schedules to thank our sponsors. We would be hard pressed to do what we do without their generosity. When you're in Orlando, please take a moment and stop by the trade show to thank them for their continued support.

A complete list of Academy functions can be found in this issue of the *C onnection* . For now, I look forward to seeing you all very soon and thank you for your ongoing support and valuable assistance.

Mark

*Mark Wright, CEC®, AAC®
Chair, American Academy of Chefs*



Save the date
2019 ACF National Conference!

Sunday, August 4–Thursday, August 8, 2019
Orlando World Center Marriott
Orlando, Florida

ACF Event Registration:

AAC Annual Fellow's Meeting

Sun day, August 4, 2019
9:15 – 11:45 a.m.
Orlando World Center Marriott
Orlando, Florida

American Academy of Chefs Dinner & Reception

Sunday, August 4, 2019
6:30 PM - 10:30 PM
Orlando World Center Marriott
Orlando, Florida

Gather to welcome new inductees and congratulate AAC Fellows receiving awards at this year's AAC Reception and Dinner.

More details to come!

Annual AAC Induction Dinner Seating Request Form

Please complete the form by July 15 to make your seating request. [Click here](#) .

AAC Dinner Journal Ad

Show your support with a special message in this year's AAC dinner journal. [Click here](#) .

Annual AAC Spouses' Luncheon

Monday, August 5, 2019
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Isleworth Golf & Country Club

Transportation provided

Add your AAC spouses' luncheon reservation with your ACF national convention registration. [Register Now](#) .

Or call the Academy office at (904) 824-4468, ext. 202

Presenting Nominees for AAC Office 2019-2021

Here are our candidates for the AAC elected offices of Chair and Vice-Chair, for the term 2019-2021. For in-depth details view the AAC policies and procedures or [click here](#) .

Nominee for Academy Chair

Americo "Rico" DiFronzo, CEC, CCA, AAC

Chef Americo "Rico" DiFronzo, CEC, CCA, AAC is running unopposed for the position of American Academy of Chefs Chair.

Nominees for Academy Vice Chair

Joe G. Aiello, CEC, AAC

[2019 Vice Chair Nominee Chef Aiello, CEC, AAC : Biography](#)

Wilfred Beriau, CEC, CCE, AAC

[2019 Vice Chair Nominee Wilfred Beriau, CEC, CCE, AAC : Biography](#)

Rajeev Patagaonkar, CEC, AAC

[2019 Vice Chair Nominee Chef Rajeev, CEC, AAC : Biography](#)

2019 Hall of Fame

"The Culinary Hall of Fame was unanimously accepted by the Academy members. Its concept is to honor those men and women who, because of their outstanding attributes, have won the respect and love of their professional guild. Therefore, they are so honored by their peers as a positive reflection to all those in this profession who seek achievement!"

—Hermann G. Rusch

Joe G. Aiello, CEC, AAC

Luigi G. Baretto, CEC, AAC

Michael L. Minor, CEC, AAC

Honorary

Frank J. Setera, CEC, AAC

Posthumous

Chris Neary, CEC, CCA, AAC

AAC Lifetime Achievement Award

The AAC Members of the Rhode Island Chapter will be Honoring Chef George A. O'Palenick CEC, CCE, AAC, HOF with the AAC Lifetime Achievement Award on October 27, 2019 the Crowne Plaz a Warwick, RI (host of the 2014 Northeast Regional Conference). Hotel accommodations at either Crowne Plaza or Holiday Inn Express. For more information contact Linda Musch CCE, AAC (401) 787-5116or linda_musch@verizon.net

2019 American Academy of Chefs Awards

AAC Chair's Medal Award

Linda S. Musch, CCE, AAC
ACF Rhode Island Chapter

Lawrence A. Conti Award, CEC, AAC, HOF, Chair's Achievement Award

William J. Tillinghast, CEC, AAC, MBA
ACF Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chefs Association

Joseph Amendola Award

Garry W. Waldie, CEC, CEPC, CCE, AAC
ACF Chef's Association of Arizona, Inc.

Chef Good Taste Award

Deborah A. Bando-Duit, CEC, AAC
Texas Chefs Association

Sharing Culinary Traditions Award

Costa N. Magoulas, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC
ACF Central Florida Chapter

Lt. General John D. McLaughlin Award

Jeffrey P. Lein

Tax-Deductible Donations

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Donations, as many as you choose to make in any given year, are welcome at any time. On behalf of the entire Academy family, we thank you again for your generous support. Donations may be made by check mailed directly to the Academy Office, online, or via credit card. Please contact the Academy Administrator at academy@acfchefs.net if you have any questions.

THANK YOU to all of our 2019 Donors!

Joe Aiello, CEC, AAC
Vincent Alberici, CEC, AAC
Carmen Allegrucci, CEC, AAC
Earl Arrowood Jr., CCC, CCE, AAC
Moses Ball, CEC, CCE, AAC
Steven Barron, CEC, AAC
Manfred Bast, CMPC, CEC, AAC, HOF
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Arthur Buccheri, CEC, AAC
Jacky Burette, AAC
Gaspard Caloz, AAC
Michael Campe, CEC, AAC
Jerald Chesser, CEC, CCE, AAC
William Crawford, CEC, AAC
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Dean Jaramillo, AAC
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Gerhard Kowalski, CMC, AAC
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Franz Kubak, CEC, AAC
Luigi LaValle, AAC
Walter Leible, CMC, AAC, HOF
Gernot Leitzinger, AAC
Thomas Long, CEC, AAC
John Lubinski, AAC
Wieland Ludwig, CEC, AAC
Thomas Macrina, CEC, CCA, AAC
Orlin Marcus, CEC, AAC
Mark Mayers, CEC, AAC
Donald McMillan, CEC, AAC
Jesse Mercado, CEC, AAC, HOF
Michael Minor, CEC, AAC
Jeffrey Mitchell, CEC, CCA, PCC, AAC
Linda Musch, CCE, AAC
Christine Neugebauer, CEC, AAC
Diane Newell, CC, CPC
Stephen O'Donnell, CEC, AAC
Gale O'Malley, CEPC, AAC
George O'Palenick, CEC, CCE, AAC, HOF
Rajeev Patgaonkar, CEC, AAC
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American Culinary Federation
The Standard of Excellence for Chefs

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