



November 2019



Greetings American Academy of Chefs Fellows!

I always think of November as the month of change, as the weather across our country begins its more definitive shift from summer warmth to winter cold and of course, snow. Hard to believe, but by the end of the month we will be celebrating Thanksgiving, and on that note, Joe and I would like to wish all of you and your families a very happy, fulfilling holiday. Special recognition is sent to those who will be working and/or volunteering to feed those in need, and we thank you for sharing your talents so others may enjoy the fruits of your labor.

For our first official event representing the American Academy of Chefs, Joe and I had the honor of attending the 2019 American Academy of Chefs Lifetime Achievement Award Dinner, which celebrated and honored George O'Palenick, CEC, CCE, AAC, HOF. This special award was proposed in 2004, by Chefs Dale Miller, CMC, AAC and James Rhoads, CEC, AAC as a way to raise funds for the American Academy of Chefs scholarship funds, and to recognize an Academy Fellow who has shown outstanding dedication to our profession. Since its inception, this award has recognized 9 legendary Academy Fellows. We would like to send sincere appreciation to Lifetime Achievement Committee Member and Northeast Regional Director Linda Musch, CCE, AAC, Chapter President Chef Ray McCue, CEC, AAC, the committee, the chefs, and the ACF Rhode Island Chapter for hosting this year's wonderful dinner.

On November 2, Vice Chair Joe Aiello, CEC, AAC, HOF represented the Academy at the 38th annual American Academy of Chefs dinner in Chicago. This year the ACF Chicago chefs honored **Steven Jilleba**, CMC, CCE, AAC for his years of sharing his knowledge and always giving back to our profession.

We would like to thank Dinner Chairman John Reed, CEC, CCA, AAC, Chapter President Don Zajac, the committee and the ACF Chicago Chefs for hosting this special dinner.

Again, congratulations to Chefs O'Palenick and Jilleba!

On November 3rd I had the honor of representing the Academy at the ACF Epicurean Club of Boston's Presidents Ball, which was in celebration of its 125th anniversary. I would like to thank Chapter President James Connolly, CEC, CCA, AAC, the Board of Directors and the ACF Epicurean Club of Boston chapter for their hospitality.

Special thanks to all who have purchased the Inspire books over the last few months, which I am happy to report have sold out! Again, this effort will help support our ACF Youth Team as they go for the gold at the Culinary Olympics this February in Stuttgart, Germany.

I have heard some outstanding news, in that many of you have been busy helping various chefs in preparing their AAC applications. This is fantastic to know, and it again shows that Academy Fellows are helping younger chefs move forward with their careers. Just one more reminder that our deadline is December 1, to get the applications in. Karen has also informed Joe and I that she has received several completed application packages and is expecting several more during the next few weeks.

In anticipation of next year being our 65th anniversary, you will be seeing a short story about the AAC in an upcoming issue of the National Culinary Review (NCR). In connection with this, I noted recently as I was updating the history page on our website that there is limited information regarding the AAC's early years. Therefore, I would like to request of any Fellows who might have in their possession copies of NCR's dating from 1953 to 1970, to kindly review them to see if we may discover more about our past history. If you stumble upon any new and interesting information, please send it along to Karen at our national AAC office. Thank you in advance.

In closing, I wish you and yours much enjoyment during the upcoming holidays!

Warm regards,
Rico

Rico DiFronzo, CEC®, CCA®, AAC®
Chair, American Academy of Chefs

Time is running out !!!

Less than 1 month remains

AAC® Applications

Applications are now available. Deadline for submittal is **December 1, 2019**. Requirements for induction can be found on the AAC® website:

[Click here](#)

Invite an ACF Member to Join

Do you know of a hard-working, dedicated and qualified chef? Encourage them to apply to become a member of the American Academy of Chefs (AAC).

The "Prestigious Honor Society" of the American Culinary Federation, The American Academy of Chefs®, offers a unique way to honor those who have worked hard and risen through the ranks of the culinary field.

A successful application for acceptance as an AAC® Fellow will serve as the culmination of years of involvement in the grand profession, and as an ACF member.

An Academy Fellow must request an application for a potential inductee by sending an email to academy@acfchefs.net.



On behalf of Chef Rico DiFronzo, Chef Joe Aiello, the AAC Board, Committees and Staff, we wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving filled with family, friends and time to be grateful together.

AAC Webpage

We are excited to announce that after much time and energy we have completed the rebuilding of the AAC Webpages!!! We hope that you will find the new look more inviting and easier to use. Check out the new and improved AAC Webpage.
[Click here](#)

Upcoming Events



ChefConnect: Seattle 2020

Sunday, March 01, 2020 to Tuesday,
March 03, 2020
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
Seattle, Washington

**Deadline for early registration is
quickly approaching**

**Early Bird Rate Deadline: November
20, 2019**



ChefConnect: Nashville 2020

Sunday, March 22, 2020 to Tuesday,
March 24, 2020
Nashville, Tennessee
Sheraton Music City Hotel

**Early Bird Rate Deadline: December
13, 2019**



Start planning your trip to next years AAC Dinner in Dallas, TX. Don't miss out on the fun. It promises to be a memorable experience!!!!

AAC 65th Anniversary

National Convention Dallas 2020

Sunday, July 19, 2020 to Thursday, July 23, 2020
Hilton Anatole

Early Bird Rate Deadline: March 16 2020



INSPIRE

Thank you to everyone who purchased *Inspire* books.
We have successfully **sold out** of all of the *Inspire* books!

The American Academy of Chefs® would like to thank the following for their generous donations this past month (October 9 - November 7):

John E. Bogacki, CEC, CCE, AAC
David A. Goodwin, CEC, CCA, AAC
Jeffrey S. Mitchell, CEC, CCA, PCC, AAC
Patrick D. Mitchell, CEC, AAC
Bobby Moghaddam, CEC, CCE, AAC
Rajeev V. Patgaonkar, CEC, AAC
Bryant E. Withers, CEC, AAC

Membership Dues and Academy Donations

Many of our Members have annual dues coming up during this last quarter of the year, but to avoid the year end rush, please do not hesitate to process these early.

When you are paying your Membership Dues, please think about making a donation to the American Academy of Chefs.

Tax-Deductible Donations

All donations for the 2019 tax year must be received by midnight on Monday, December 30, 2019

[Donate Now](#)

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!

Lifetime Achievement Award Honoring

George A. O'Palenick, CEC, CCE, AAC, HOF

Congratulations Chef O'Palenick from all of us at the AAC

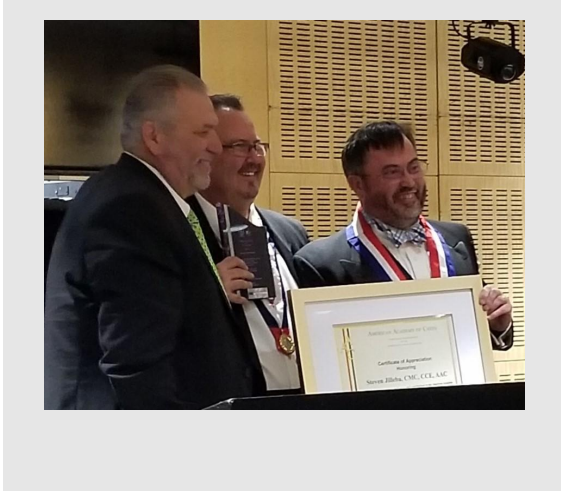
A great time was had by all!!



Chicago Chefs And The American Academy of Chefs®

The Thirty-Eighth Annual Chicago Chefs, AAC® Gala Dinner

Honoring Steven Jilleba, CMC®, CCE®, AAC®



Through the Academy Connection e-newsletter, the American Academy of Chefs provides members with news and information on products and services offered by the AAC®, its partners and American Culinary Federation.

If you do not wish to receive the e-newsletter, please SafeUnsubscribe



Honor Society of the
American Culinary Federation



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The Standard of Excellence for Chefs

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