Greetings Chef,

Greetings Fellows of the American Academy of Chefs®!

The first day of Spring is here! Also called "spring equinox", it broadly refers to ideas of rebirth, renewal and regrowth! And with saying that......initial plans & preparations for our 2015 ACF National Convention in Orlando, Florida have already begun and are underway for an awesome event with the gathering of Culinarians from all around the globe during our hosting of the 1st American Culinary Classic Competition! The "coconut wireless" says that they’re be International Global Chefs coming in from Taiwan and France taking center-stage that is not to be missed! This will be an awesome ACF National Convention just full of activities for everyone!

And this year we will celebrate our 44th Annual Academy Awards & Induction Dinner, we are getting close to announcing the host property-site for this year's reception and dinner that will be taking place on Saturday, August 1, 2015. AAC Fellows, I can assure you that this will be an outstanding & wonderful event to be enjoyed by all in attendance. So start making your plans now to attend and please be sure to reserve your tickets in time!

It is with great pleasure that I share with all of you this year’s 2015 AAC Hall of Fame Inductees. This year’s inductees are: Willie L Lewis, AAC, Jesse C. Mercado, CEC, AAC and Bill W. C. Sy, CEC, AAC, while Sal Campagna, CEC, HAAC, will be our Honorary Hall of Fame induction candidate, and Enzo "Frank" Gronda, CEC, AAC will be inducted posthumously. Congratulations to all these well-deserving candidates!

The American Academy of Chefs® is proud once again to support our ACF Regional student culinary teams with $1500.00 dollars each in assisting with their travel expenses to the regional conferences. This year’s Central ACF Regional student culinary team grant went to the ACF North Carolina Chapter - Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College and the Western ACF Regional Student culinary team receiving the grant was ACF Epicurean Club of Boston - Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Boston. The Central Regional Student team grant went to ACF Professional Chefs and Culinarians.
Adams-Burch
Capitol Seaboard Seafood & Produce
Classical Guitar Ceremonies
Fleur de Lys
Gala Cloths
Going Nuts
Keany Produce
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Palm Bay Imports
Nitzel Family

of the Heartland - Metropolitan Community College, Omaha, Nebraska, and the
Western student team winners were ACF Orange Empire Chefs & Professional
Cooks Association - Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, California.

Congratulations to both these fine ACF Regional Student culinary teams. The
American Academy of Chefs® wishes them all the best at this year's ACF
2015 National Student Championships in Orlando, Florida!

Have you picked up your copy of the "American Academy of Chefs® Inspire
Book?" If not, you'll need to contact Ms. Sylvia Gambrell, at: 940-484-0202
or by email at: sgambrell@acfchefs.net, for your copy of the American
Academy of Chefs® Inspire Book!! Order one today! Help support our ACF
culinary youth team USA!

Lastly, I would like to add my sincere appreciate to the following AAC Fellows
that served as ACF Approved Judges at this year's 40th Annual Military
Culinary Arts Competition held at Fort Lee, Va. They were: Gunther F Heiland,
CMPC, AAC, Albert Imming, CMPC, CCE, AAC, Hiroshi Noguchi, CEC, AAC,
Roland E Schaeffer, CEC, AAC, HOF, Dieter H Doppelfeld, CMC, David J.
Longstaff, CEC, AAC, Steven E. Barron, CEC, AAC, Charles A Vosburgh, CEC,
AAC, Joachim Buchner, CMC, Mark Warren, CEC, AAC and Kevin P. Gawronski,
CMC. Their contributions in sharing first-hand their knowledge and expertise
with these young military culinarians over the 7-day period has made an impact
on their educational development, their personal lives and to the continuation
of the integrity of the joint military culinary program at Ft. Lee. Thank-you
Chefs!

Times being what they are, I would also want to personally thank all of you for
your generous donations to the American Academy of Chefs for the start-up
2015. I realize and understand our economy is moving along slowly, but if you
have not yet donated this year, I hope you find it in your heart to give
something to the Academy. We are a non-profit and it would be great to
continue our offering of grants and scholarships and help our ACF Culinarians.

In closing, I look forward to our next 2015 ACF ChefConnect: Indianapolis
Regional Conference and at our American Academy of Chefs® Regional Dinner
and our AAC Fellow’s Meeting to be shared and celebrated with each of you!

Have a great Passover and Easter season!

Be Safe & Be Healthy~

Stafford DeCambra, CEC®, CCE®, CCA®, AAC®
Chair, American Academy of Chefs
A Note from the Vice Chair.....

Well, winter is over (we hope) and here in the Northeast we experienced a historical amount of snow and freezing temperatures. You would think someone from Buffalo would be used to it by now, but even I was discouraged as there were times it seemed absolutely relentless! Good things happened nonetheless, and we did make it to Baltimore for our first combined Regional Conference. Stafford and I enjoyed meeting many of you as we unveiled "Inspire" and began taking orders. Numerous members examined the book and were genuinely excited with its contents. Needless to say, we are "off and running." Sales are brisk, and Stafford and Liz Bergin are overwhelmed with the reviews.

The Regional Dinner was hosted by Chef Curtis Eargle, CEC, AAC and was a huge success as well. It was great to see Fellows from the Northeast and Southeast enjoying some camaraderie as well as the wonderful cuisine provided at The Maryland Club. Congratulations to John Kacala, Wolfgang Geckler, Charlie Gipe, and Jeff Bacon all of whom received a Service Award for their work on behalf of the AAC and for their strong adherence to the Academy's mission.

In January I had the privilege and honor to host the Northeast Region Culinary Competition at Erie Community College. We welcomed six Student teams, Chef of the Year, Pastry Chef of the Year, and Student Chef of the Year competitors over the course of three days. The event included intense competition and a great deal of camaraderie. Chef George O'Palenick, our regional Vice President and Tom Macrina, our national President, were both in attendance. Our chapter and our students at the college were gracious hosts, and we enjoyed showcasing our new labs. Needless to say it was a lot of work, but more importantly it was a great deal of fun for everyone involved.

Stafford and I then traveled to St. Augustine to review this year's candidates for induction into the Academy of Chefs. We will welcome 24 new Fellows in July when we meet at our National Convention. This year's dinner will be held on Saturday, August 1, 2015 at the beautiful Waldorf Astoria in Orlando, Florida. It promises to be a very special event indeed.

In other news, the AAC Regional Dinner will be held in Indianapolis this year and I encourage you to consider attending. I was there for a review of the dinner and I can't wait for Chef Glenn Brown's final menu. It will be a night to remember for one and all.

On March 8, 2015, Chef Joe Eidim and the members of the High Sierra Chefs hosted a terrific dinner in Reno, Nevada which I was privileged to attend. I was all set to travel to St. Louis for their annual dinner but was, unfortunately, unable to attend due to flight delays. As a result, I want to extend my apologies to all of the Fellows in St Louis. Hopefully, I will be able to attend next year!

In closing, I hope to see many of you in Indianapolis. Until then, enjoy the spring weather we've been so anxious to see arrive!

Mark
Nominations for Elected AAC Office

Our AAC National Officer Nominations were closed on December 31, 2014 for the 2015-2017 two-year terms according to our AAC Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Frank Leake, CCC®, CCE®, AAC®.

The AAC Nominations and Elections Committee have vetted the final AAC candidates and nominations were received for:

**AAC National Chairman:**
- Mark Wright CEC®, CCE®, AAC®

**AAC National Vice-chairman:**
- Americo "Rico" DiFronzo, CEC®, CCA®, AAC®
- Reimund D. Pitz CEC®, CCE®, AAC®

As part of our American Academy of Chefs® Policies and Procedures, all candidates for AAC Chair and AAC Vice-Chair must speak at both our AAC Breakfast Fellow's meetings during our upcoming ACF Regional Conferences.

I encourage you to come and hear what these great individuals have to say about their plans for the American Academy of Chefs® and its' future!

Ballots will be distributed by May 1, 2015 to all voting AAC Fellows of AAC and must be returned postmarked by June 1, 2015.

Read about the official 2015 candidates [here](#).

2015 AAC Hall of Fame Inductees

Wilie L Lewis, AAC
Jesse C. Mercado, CEC, AAC
Bill W. C. Sy, CEC, AAC

*Posthumously*

Enzo "Frank" Gronda, CEC, AAC
2015 AAC Inductees

Northeast

John C. Burden, CEC
ACF of Greater Buffalo New York
Sponsored by: Dorothy Johnston, CEC, CCE, AAC; Cornelia Walmsley, CCE, AAC

Elena M. Clement, CEPC
ACF Nations' Capital Chef's Association
Sponsored by: William C. Franklin, CMC, AAC; David J. Longstaff, CEC, AAC; Thomas E. Peer, CMC, AAC; Curtis H. Eargle, CEC, AAC

James V. DiMarzio, CEC
Epicurean Club of Boston
Sponsored by: Americo "Rico" DiFronzo, CEC, CCA, AAC; Anthony M. Graffeo, CEC, AAC, HOF

Otto F. Kurcsics, CEC, CCE
ACF of Greater Buffalo New York
Sponsored by: Wilfred R. Beriau CEC, CCE, AAC; Louis Venezia, CEC, AAC

George M. Sideras, CEC
ACF Greater Dayton Chapter
Sponsored by: Keith E. Davis, CEC, AAC; Allan Gazaway, CEC, AAC

Southeast

Joseph Alfano, CEC
ACF Central FL Chapter
Sponsored by: Steven Jayson, CEC, AAC; Roland E. Schaeffer, CEC, AAC, HOF

Leslie L. Eckert, CEPC, CCE, MBA
ACF Tampa Bay Culinary Association
Sponsored by: Frederik J. Lucardie, CEC, AAC; Stephen M. Afflxiio, CEC, AAC

Noralyn A. Galdiano, CEC
ACF Central FL Chapter
Sponsored by: Frank Leake, CCC, CCE, AAC; Jeffrey A. Rotz, CEC, CCE, AAC

Gerard C. Marquetty, CEC, CCA
ACF Tampa Bay Culinary Association
Sponsored by: Michael Deihl, CEC, CCA, AAC; Allan Gazaway, CEC, AAC

Dennie Streeter, CEC, CCE
ACF North Carolina Chapter  
Sponsored by: Kimberly Brock Brown, CEPC, CCA, AAC; Louis Perrotte, CEC, AAC, HOF

**Central**

**Peter Gebauer, WCMC, GMC**  
ACF Chefs of Milwaukee Inc  
Sponsored by: John W. Kaufmann, CEC, AAC, HOF; Jesse W. Cobb, CEC, AAC; Gregory A. Wozniak, CEC, AAC

**Harold E. Grose, CEC, CEPC, CCE**  
ACF Greater Indianapolis Chapter  
Sponsored by: Jeffery A. Bricker, CEC, CCE, AAC; Glenn S. Brown, CEC, AAC; Donal Weaving, CEC, AAC

**Mark Handy, CEC**  
ACF Flint/Saginaw Valley Chapter  
Sponsored by: John W. Zehnder, CEC, AAC; Rajeev V. Patgaonkar, CEC, AAC

**James Kremer, CEC**  
ACF Heart of Illinois Professional Chefs Assn  
Sponsored by: Christopher Dwyer, CEC, CCA, AAC; Jeffrey Lemke, CEC, AAC

**James F. Kokenyesdi, CEC, CCA**  
ACF Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association  
Sponsored by: Rene J. Marquis, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC; Timothy L. England, CEC, AAC

**Jackson York, CEC**  
Texas Chefs Association  
Sponsored by: Kelly V. Cook, CEC, AAC; John D. Bretzke, CEC, AAC

**Western**

**Michael S. Baldwin, CCE**  
ACF Washington State Chefs Association  
Sponsored by: Mark A. Linden, CEC, AAC; Gary L. Fuller, CEC, CCE, AAC

**Carlton W. Brooks, CEPC, CCE**  
ACF Chefs Association of Arizona, Inc.  
Sponsored by: Garry W. Waldie, CEC, CEPC, CCE, AAC; Dieter C. Preiser, CEC, AAC

**Dan A. Lewark, CCA, CEC**  
ACF Washington State Chefs Association  
Sponsored by: John R. Fisher, CEC, CCE, AAC; Gary L. Fuller, CEC, CCE, AAC

**Melody L. Money, CEC**  
ACF Pikes Peak Chapter, Inc.  
Sponsored by: Michael D. Paradiso, CEPC, AAC; Jacqueline L. Hamilton, CEC, AAC

**Tony D. Parker, CEC**
ACF Washington State Chefs Association  
*Sponsored by: Karl Hutter, AAC; Mark A. Linden, CEC, AAC*

**Brandon W. Parry, CEC**  
ACF Chefs Las Vegas  
*Sponsored by: William C. Franklin, CMC, AAC; David J. Turcotte, CEC, AAC*

**Robert W. Phillips, CCE, CCA**  
Chef De Cuisine Association of California  
*Sponsored by: Daniel A. Drumlake, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC; J. Luis Martinez, AAC*

**Robert T. Reid, III, CEC, CCA**  
Chefs de Cuisine Association of San Diego  
*Sponsored by: Joseph E. Eidem, CEC, AAC; Urs B. Emmenegger, CEC, AAC; Bruce G. Staebler, CEC, AAC*

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**ACF Signature Series**

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**ChefConnect: Indy**  
Sunday, April 12-Tuesday, April 14, 2015  
Indianapolis Marriott Downtown  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**AAC® Fellow’s Breakfast Meeting**  
Monday, April 13, 2015  
7:00 am - 8:00 am

**Academy of Chefs Dinner**  
Country Club of Indianapolis  
Executive chef: Glenn Brown, CEC®, AAC®  
Monday, April 13, 2015  
7 pm $125, seating limited to 150
Each AAC Dinner Attendee that has purchased a full registration to a Signature Series Event will receive a discount of $25.00 on their AAC dinner ticket purchase.

American Academy of Chefs® Inspire Book

The sale of the "American Academy of Chefs® Inspire book" has started.

To order contact:

Sylvia Gambrell
phone: (904) 484-0202
e-mail: sgambrell@acfchefs.net


Looking ahead for our 44th Annual Academy Induction Reception and Dinner, the American Academy of Chefs® is currently reviewing proposals from the Ritz Carlton and the Waldorf Astoria-Orlando and very soon we will announce where this great dinner and awesome event will take place! AAC Fellows I can assure you; as my last and final responsibility serving as your AAC National Chair; this will be a great,
an outstanding and wonderful event to be enjoyed by all in attendance! Date is set for Saturday, August 1, 2015 and more information to follow soon.

I am also very happy and so pleased to report that we have also received confirmation once again that the Isle worth Country Club will be hosting this year’s American Academy of Chefs® 2015 Spouses Luncheon. They did a fantastic job in 2012 for our spouses and we are looking forward to their gracious hospitality and fantastic cuisine! In spite of what you may have heard, we are still keeping the cost at $25.00 and therefore, please keep in mind, as in the in years’ past.......that this event is closed to AAC Spouse’s only. Date is set for Monday, August 3rd, from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., so mark your calendar and make your plans now for your spouse attend!

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.