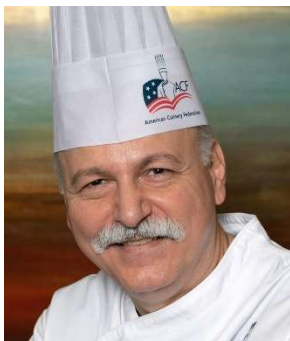




Fall 2020



Greetings American Academy of Chefs Fellows,
Welcome to Fall.

As you know our ChefConnect: Nashville has been a bit of a moving target due to the COVID-19 and has again been moved to April 12-14, 2021. This was done to protect the health of our members, guests, ACF, AAC and staff. Joe, Karen and I have been working with the Westin Nashville Hotel on rescheduling our regional dinner and I am happy to report we have been able to negotiate a new date, which is Sunday, April 11. This will be our last regional dinner, as the ACF is moving into a much shorter educational format and these events will only be 1 1/2 to 2 days long. So, Joe and I hope you will be able to attend this great dinner which will kick off our 2021 season.

As we get closer to the end of the year, I know many Chefs are working to complete their applications to become Fellows in 2021. I ask all Fellows to offer their

assistance and direct any questions to our Regional Directors who are here to help and review applications. Their contact information can be found on our [web site](#).

The beginning of August was an exciting time for the ACF and the Academy with so many virtual meetings and as well as the **ACF Virtual Convention**.

Joe and I hosted our AAC business meeting where we conducted the business of the AAC during a virtual meeting with the AAC Board. During the meeting the board voted to approve the following: our 2021 budget and changes needed to update the AAC Policies and Procedures. We reviewed the State of the Academy as well as our plans for our upcoming dinner in Nashville. That evening Joe and I attended the virtual meeting of the Honorary Board of Trustees which was conducted by Chairman Burt Cutino, CEC, AAC, HBOT, HOF.

On Tuesday morning, we held a second swearing in ceremony for our 2020 Fellows who were unable to attend our July ceremony. Later in the day, we hosted the virtual Fellows meeting and I am proud to say that we had over 110 Fellows in attendance! We would like to thank all that were present, as we all took time to remember our friends who have sadly passed on. We reviewed the State of the Academy, introduced our 2020 Fellows, HOF members and AAC award recipients. Many Fellows and ACF chapters made donations and pledges to our operating and scholarship funds and we thank you all for your generous support of the Academy. During the meeting the floor was opened for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair by John Minniti, CCE, AAC, HBOT, HOF. Joe and I accepted nominations for a second term. We thank you all for your confidence in us as we do our best to move the Academy forward under the current environment of COVID-19.

I must recognize that all of these meetings would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Karen Stamper. Thank you, Karen, for all that you do for the AAC. I would also like to acknowledge Michelle Whitfield and the ACF office for their help over the last few months as we planned our AAC virtual meetings.

The ACF held its Virtual Convention with the theme being "Around the World in 80 Plates". Congratulations to ACF for developing a fantastic event that was well attended by ACF members, as well as many non-members who were able to get a taste of what the ACF has to offer and hopefully will join us in the future. The Academy also had a booth at the trade show where

chefs could find information about the AAC and could ask questions via the chat box to Joe, Karen and I about becoming a Fellow, as well as review the AAC application and/or visit our website.

After the Convention, the ACF presented national awards to many deserving members. We would like to extend congratulations to all the award recipients, as well as recognize the Fellows who were among those recognized by then ACF National President Stafford DeCambra, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC. You will find them listed further in the newsletter.

By now you have heard that Chef DeCambra has stepped down as President of the ACF. We wish him well and thank him for his many years of service to the Academy as our Chair, Vice Chair and as ACF National President.

We look forward to seeing you all in Nashville in April.

Stay well,
Warm regards,
Rico

*Americo S. DiFronzo, CEC, CCA, AAC
Chair, American Academy of Chefs*

****RESCHEDULED****

ChefConnect Nashville
**American Academy of Chefs Dinner &
Reception**



It has been a long awaited event!

We hope that you will join us to experience **Executive Chef Jake Strang** and his culinary team as they provide an unforgettable evening of flavor that will inspire your senses with his amazing menu with local flair for the AAC guests.

Sunday, April 11, 2021

6:00 – 10:00pm

Tickets \$150.00 per person

The Westin Nashville

Executive Chef Jake Strang

Tickets are limited!!

Open to all ACF Members

To purchase tickets [Click here](#)

Nominations are now open!!
for

American Academy of Chefs Chair American Academy of Chefs Vice-Chair

The deadline for nominations is December 1, 2020. If you are interested in making a nomination please send a letter of nomination to Karen Stamper, AAC Administrator, kstamper@acfchefs.net

2020 National Award Recipients

Congratulations to everyone that was a recipient of the 2020 National Awards. The recipients received their awards via a virtual presentation on August 7, 2020. A special acknowledgement to the AAC Fellows that received awards this year!

National Hermann G. Rusch Chefs Achievement Award:

Louis Perrotte, CEC, AAC, HOF

ACF Humanitarian Award:

Ferdinand E. Metz, CMC, AAC, HOF
Dr. Lilly Metz

ACF Industry Partner Award:

Jones Dairy Farm
Phillip H. Jones, HAAC, HBOT, President of Jones Dairy Farm

Dr. L.J. Minor Chefs Professionalism Award:

Brian A. Hardy, CEC, CCA, AAC

Spirit of Aloha:

Wilfred R. Beriau, CEC, CCE, AAC
Raimund W. Hofmeister, CMC, AAC
Frank Leake, CCC, CCE, AAC
John Selick, CEC, CCA, AAC

Achievement of Excellence:

Kelly V. Cook, CEC, AAC
Todd R. Gold, CEC, CCA, AAC

Presidents Medallion:

Jacques E. Brevery, CEC, AAC, Ph.D.
Americo S. DiFronzo, CEC, CCA, AAC
Eric Ernest, CEC, CCA, AAC
Fred J. Griesbach, CEC, AAC
Susan S. Hendee, Ph.D., CCE, HAAC
John Kukucka, AAC

Jay R. Mahoney, CEC, AAC
Richard A. Panzera, CEC, CCE, AAC

AAC 65th Anniversary Commemorative Patch & Pin

**AAC will donate 20% of all purchases
to the Ferdinand Metz / American
Culinary Federation Relief Fund**



Celebrate the AAC 65th Anniversary with a special Commemorative Patch & Pin. Specially designed for this memorable event. These are now available at our online store. [Click here.](#)

Quantities are limited!

**Patch & Pin \$65.
Pin only \$20.**



2021 American Academy of Chefs Applications

Membership - Connection - Involvement

The "Prestigious Honor Society" of the American Culinary Federation 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 great culinary profession, and as an ACF member.

An Academy Fellow must request an application for a potential inductee. Candidates will need two sponsor letters of recommendation from voting Academy Fellows. An Academy Fellow is permitted to sponsor **one** new applicant per year, as is a Regional Director. Online applications must be **returned by December 1st, 2020**. Induction will be at the 2021 ACF National Convention in Orlando, FL.

Applications for American Academy of Chefs Induction for 2021 are now available. You can review the current requirements on how to become an American Academy of Chefs Fellow,
[Click Here](#)

The American Academy of Chefs would like to thank the following for their generous donations this past month (July 1 - September 30):

ACF Epicurean Club of Boston
Joe G. Aiello, CEC, AAC, HOF
Erie Community College
David A. Goodwin, CEC, CCA, AAC
Mary Louise Huebner, HAAC
Peter Huebner, HAAC
Thomas P. Hunt, CEC, AAC
Ewart G. Jones, CEC, AAC
Philip H. Jones, HAAC
Damian Joseph Martineau, AAC
Michael L. Minor, CEC, AAC, HOF
Bobby Moghaddam, CEC, CCE, AAC, HOF
George A. O'Palenick, CEC, CCE, AAC
Mark G. Wright, CEC, AAC

Barry R. Young, CEC, CCE, AAC

The American Academy of Chefs would like to acknowledge those individuals who made pledges during our July 28th Virtual Fellows Meeting

ACF Big Apple Chapter
ACF Central Florida Chapter
ACF Chicago Chefs
Deborah A. Bando-Duit, CEC, AAC
Bert P. Cutino, CEC, AAC, HOF, HBOT
Americo S. DiFronzo, CEC, CCA, AAC
Charles L. Duit, CEC, AAC
Paul C. Jensen, CEC, AAC
Joseph W. Kraft, CEC, CCA, AAC
Thomas J. Macrina, CEC, CCA, AAC
John A. Minniti, CCE, AAC, HOF, HBOT
Patrick D. Mitchell, CEC, AAC
Mary Petersen, HAAC
Dave M. Preston, JD, MBA, HAAC
Michael J. Rigberg, CEC, CCE, CCA, AAC
Art Ritt, HAAC
Kenneth B. Trout, CEC, CCA, AAC
Michael Ty, CEC, AAC
Robert Walljasper, CEC, CCE, AAC
Robert J. White, CEC, CCA, AAC

Thank you for your thoughtful pledge. If we missed someone, our sincere apologies. Please contact Karen Stamper, AAC Administrator, kstamper@acfchefs.net or (904) 484-0202

Tax-Deductible Donations

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 2020 Donors!

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](#).



STAY CONNECTED



American Culinary Federation | 180 Center Place Way, St. Augustine, FL 32095