

Like many of us in the Culinary and Hospitality profession, my career began as a dishwasher. Starting at the Peppermill Restaurant, I then moved on to the Orchard Park Country Club and Transit Valley Country Club. At Transit Valley, I was fortunate to work as Executive Chef for twenty-eight years. During my tenure at Transit Valley, I achieved my CEC status in 1987 and was inducted into the AAC in 1994.

In 2004, I began my second career as an Associate Professor and Department Chair in the Hospitality Department at SUNY Erie Community College. I have been honored as a Distinguished Alumnus at SUNY Erie and at SUNY Buffalo. Having recently retired, I will continue to work as an adjunct at the College and as the Dining Room Manager at Tempo, an up-scale eatery in downtown Buffalo.

I continue to be a very active member of the ACF of Greater Buffalo. I was the Chapter's first Junior member, currently serving as an advisor, and as certification chairman. I served as Chapter President (2 terms), Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and was selected as Chef of the Year twice, 1987 and 2001. I have had the pleasure to work with the Chapter in the planning and executing of four regional conferences that were hosted in Buffalo, and one in Toronto.

After serving my local Chapter for twenty plus years, I began my career as an ACF National Officer. Serving as Treasurer. I managed the finances during the building of the Federations' new multi-million-dollar headquarters in St. Augustine Florida. I also served two terms as Northeast Regional Vice President, at which time we held the first "International regional conference" in Toronto, Ontario. I know many of you remember that infamous bus ride to the Ice Breaker in Cincinnati.

I am very proud to be a fellow in the American Academy of Chefs and have had the pleasure to serve as Vice Chair and four years as Chair. I am very proud of the accomplishments and the relationships I have made over the years with our Academy fellows.

Currently serving ACF as your national Secretary, I have been very involved with updating our policies and procedures, reviewing by laws, and working closely with our national office to ensure that members receive minutes, reports, and other correspondence in a timely manner.

It has been a special honor to have received numerous awards from the ACF and AAC including the Chefs Good Taste, Sharing Culinary Traditions, Presidential Medallions, and the prestigious Chairs Award from the American Academy of Chefs. I was given the Gold Medal Award from the Foodservice Network of Buffalo for my years of service in the Buffalo Hospitality community.

I have maintained my membership in the esteemed Chaine des Rotisseurs for thirty years. Currently serving as Conseiller Culinaire Provincial, for the Northeast Region. I am an Honorary member of the Canadian Federation of Chefs and a member of their Honor Society.