



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 3rd, 2025

Attendance:

<u>Executive Board</u>		<u>Board of Directors</u>	
Nancy Kombert (President)	✓	Chris LaVecchia (Program & Media)	✓
Paul Jensen (Chairman)	X	Rich Simon (Scholarship)	✓
Spiro Giannakouloupoulos (Vice)(Cert. & Comp.Chair)	✓	Roland Iadanza (Placement)	x
John Carr (Vice)(Sponsorship)	✓	Alain De Coster (Membership)	✓
Liz Franks (Treasurer)		Chris Palmer (Trustee)	X
Chelsea Osiecki (Secretary)	✓	Martin Daniels (Trustee)	X
Andrew Whitcomb (Srgt. in Arms)	✓	Ed Daniels (Trustee)	✓
Shannon Bourgeois (Website)	x	Eric Pellizari (Trustee)	✓
		Anthony Muzia (Trustee)	✓
		Anthony Digiantomasso (Trustee)	x

### **Nancy Kombert (President):**

- Registration for Vegas for nationals, who is going to attend
  - Bring up at presidents meeting for nationals about judging and evaluators for competition, can we use certified chefs or pastry chefs along with two certified judges
- Chef George Wong wants to go to dinner when we are at the National convention
- Changing scholarships application process for the next round of applicants
  - Winter portfolio application
  - Spring, cook off
    - Suggestion to make the Springtime scholarship to be a cook off
      - \$500 for Knife cuts/fabrications
      - \$500 for Cook off
- Reached out to the Asian alliance
  - Wanted a \$1,000 donation but we respectfully declined.
  - Told him maybe next year please reach out again so we can bring to board vote.

### **Spiro Giannakouloupoulos (Vice President):**

- Certification Practical Testing at Milliken Tech Center
  - April 28th Spring Test Date as of now 1- CEC
  - If you are or know anyone who is looking for certification reach out
- Chris Neary Culinary Challenge Updates/Judges
  - Paperwork submitted to Nationals–waiting on approval
    - 24 slots held for Monroe
    - MTC- 3
    - Going to be a packed house–looking at 36+ competitors
  - Restaurant Depot \$2,500
  - Judges confirmed with help of Chef Frank
    - Date: May 3rd, 2025
    - Advertisement of Christopher J Neary Culinary Challenge patches (\$5) and pins (\$10)
      - Sell at meetings & competition, Venmo or cash

### **Liz Franks (Treasurer):**

- Balance: \$32,946.78

### **Richard Simon (Student Members/Scholarships):**

- ACF Spring Scholarship up to \$1,500–revisit at the next board meeting
- Include other CTE programs & CSE special ed programs in the BBQ awards
- Moving forward we need to make sure scholarship recipients will be attending the BBQ
  - Suggests changing the application in remove some items and include maybe an in person interview portion
- Review of scholarship award packets and committee members
  - Committee: Rich, Liz, Shannon, Chelsea, Alain
  - Morgan Center Scholarship \$500 to each School for Volunteers
  - Sysco \$500
  - ACFLI \$1,000

## Alain DeCoster (Membership):

- The Sociétée Culinaire Philanthropique of New York, represented by James Molitor, President of the Long Island Chapter is hoping to purchase two tickets (\$300.00) to the ACFLI Gala, asking to consider the purchase of one ticket (\$250.00) to their Gala to be held at the Yale Club, NYC, April 27 th 2025
  - Board agrees and will pay for one ticket for Alain to go
- All three candidates for membership have been approved by ACF National
  - A correspondence stating so has been forwarded to each of them

## Chris LaVecchia (Social Media & Programing):

- **SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT:**
  - **FB: AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION OF LONG ISLAND / WE CURRENTLY HAVE 2.9K FOLLOWERS ON FB**
  - **IG: @LiChefs / WE CURRENTLY HAVE 1,399 FOLLOWERS ON IG**
  - **IG TAGS: USE THE # ACFLI & LICHEFS / TAG @LiChefs IN YOUR POSTS**
  - IF ANYONE HAS ANY POSTS THAT THEY WOULD LIKE ME TO SHARE PLEASE TEXT OR EMAIL ME PHOTOS, ALONG WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION, TITLES, HANDLES (@), ETC.
  - I CAN SHARE POSTS TO OUR STORY, ONLY IF THE PAGE IS SET TO "PUBLIC", not "PRIVATE"
- **PROGRAMMING & DEMOS:**
  - **March Meeting:**
    - Monday 03.03.25
    - **Location: Affinity Group**
    - **Demo: Bake Me Healthy/ Kimberle Lau**
    - **SideBar: Oleic Solutions**
    - **ACFLI ANNUAL CULINARY EXCELLENCE AWARDS GALA:**  
Monday, March 24, 2025
    - **Location: Stonebridge Country Club/ 200 Rayners Way, Smithtown**
  - **April Meeting:**
    - Monday 04.07.25
    - **Location: Affinity Group**
    - **Demo: TBD**
  - **May Meeting:**
    - Monday 05.05.25
    - **Location: Affinity Group**
    - **Demo: Darosario Truffles**
    - **SideBar: Black Garlic**
  - **June:**
    - Monday 06.02.25
    - No Meeting
    - **ACFLI BBQ**
      - Location: Homestead Farm / 5412 Sound Avenue / Riverhead, NY
      - **Demo: Homestead Farm / Farm Chef Larry Kaise**
- **October Meeting:**
  - Monday 10.06.25

- Location: Jericho Terrace at 5pm
- Demo:
- SideBar:

## **Old Business:**

- GALA
- **Award Nominations:**
- Vendor of the Year- No Recipient
- Member of the Year- Anthony Muzia
- Chef Professionalism- Chris LaVecchia
- Culinary Excellence– Northwell Health
- Hall Of Fame- No Recipient
- Chris J. Neary Memorial Award- Thomas Laviedire (Presented at the Gala)
- Ready.Set.Cook- Chef Frank announces at the Gala—Monroe College
- Sponsor of the year— No Recipient
  - Venue:
    - Lessing’s location; Stonebridge to host
      - Stonebridge \$86 a head with tax
      - Guarantee 150- \$13,000 with \$500 deposit
      - \$150 per plate charge
      - Open bar
      - 1 hr cocktail hour
        - Need to discuss offerings
      - 3- course menu
        - Salad
        - Pasta
        - Duet
        - Veggie option
        - Bread
        - Dessert
  - Have an MC booked
    - Need a script to ensure smooth flow for the night
  - Sell chapters pins for \$10
  - Silent Auction
    - Business that will come in and do the entire thing for us
  - Slideshow for gala from ed, needs more editing
  - Chef Spiro & Chef Nancy are going to go to stonebridge right after school gets out to make sure everything is going to be set up properly
  - Alain–The Sociétée Culinaire Philanthropique of New York, represented by James Molitor, President of the Long Island Chapter is hoping to purchase two tickets (\$300.00) to the ACFLI Gala, asking to consider the purchase of one ticket (\$250.00) to their Gala to be held at the Yale Club, NYC, April 27 th, 2025.
  - Only a few tickets have been sold for the Gala so far. We need to push attendance.
    - Ed will take a table
    - Anthony Muzia will take a table
    - Northwell Health will take 2 tables
  - Please make sure all students are attending for their awards. If they are NOT attending we need to know ahead of time.
- Student member of the year- Nicholas McGovern
- Distinguished Alumni- Andrew Green
- Industry leader- Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- Educator of the year- No Recipient
- Pastry Chef of the Year- Chelsea Osiecki
- Chef of the Year- Brian, Sam, or Eric
- ACFLI Lifetime Achievement:

- Selling merchandise with our logo
  - Have a link on our website to company that can embroider clothing items for members
- NYS Food & Restaurant Show
  - March 23rd-25th
  - Create a subcommittee for this event & start planning a year out
    - Create a statement piece that showcases why ACFLI is a benefit for restaurants and chefs alike
  - ACFLI is being gifted a 10x20 booth this year
    - Ed is suggesting 2-3 people per day from ACFLI to try and get sponsors
      - Ed will supply code for complementary badges.
      - Anabelle will test the free admission code to make sure it works.
      - RC Fine Foods will be participating in the show
    - Eric Pellizarri will be there Sunday and possibly Tuesday
    - Andrew Greene will volunteer with this too
    - Alain said he will be there on the Sunday and Tuesday
      - He requests: our Banner, appropriate literature and materials to display, as well as applications concerning the different levels the ACF offers.
- Final board meeting at Marriott maybe we purchase food through Marriott as a give back
- Mark your calendar and make plans to join us in **Las Vegas, July 27–31, 2025**, for this year's ACF National Convention Registration, which is being held at the Caesars Paris Casino and Resort and is now open.

### **New Business:**

- Next year Alain to bring up the Glen Cove fundraiser
  - Culinary Delights event held at the Glen Cove Mansion
- ACFLI to pay for Spiros registrations for the National Convention
- Venue for next years gala and award nominations for 2025
  - Monday, June 16th, 2025
  - June Board meeting will discuss Gala & Culinary Excellence for next year
  - Calendar will be presented at June board meeting
  - Next year gala where we want to go with it
    - venue and dates are very important
  - Changing the journal to a single menu for its better for us as an organization
- Discuss BBQ location for June
  - Homestead Farms in Riverhead will host the BBQ
- Creation of Chef Hat Pin for Chef of the Year, Pastry Chef of the Year, Member of the Year, Chef Educator of the Year, Student Member of the Year
  - \$15 each
  - Must provide documentation of chapter award via email to Spiro or Nancy.