



**American Culinary Federation
Long Island Chapter**

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 10th, 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)	Proxy: Andrew Whitcomb
John Carr (Vice)(Sponsorship)	✓	Alain De Coster (Membership)	✓
Liz Franks (Treasurer)	Proxy: Sprio	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)	Zoom
		Anthony Muzia (Trustee)	Zoom
		Anthony Digiantomasso (Trustee)	X

Nancy Kombert (President):

- Ready Set Cook & Chef of the Year competition went really well
- Getting the web site updated
 - working on “worth your fork” idea from Anthony
 - If you have a suggestions for a good restaurant submit for a highlight
- On the national acf.org website they have a free online course 9 ceh hours free, lentils.org
- I have been contacted via email with chef Tang visiting chef from chef from the Asian Alliance task force visiting the area. But have not heard back if they wanted to visit any facilities in the area.

Spiro Giannakouloupoulos (Vice President):

- Certification Practical Testing at Milliken Tech Center
 - Feb 24th Certification Test Date 1-CEC
 - 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
 - Restaurant Depot \$2,500
 - Reached out to 5 other judges
 - One declined & 4 did not respond
 - Conference call with Frank to discuss details & possible judges
 - Date: Possible May 3rd, 2025?
 - Advertisement of Christopher J Neary Culinary Challenge patches (\$5) and pins (\$10)
 - Sell at meetings & competition, Venmo or cash
- ACFLI Chapter Awards Bios

John Carr (Vice President):

- Board meetings
 - Virtual and in person- 8 person quorum still needs to be made for in person meetings
- Service Dog

Chelsea Osiecki (Secretary):

- March Board Meeting
 - Move board meeting to March 3rd before the general meeting 5pm

Liz Franks (Treasurer):

- Balance: \$34,022.85

Richard Simon (Student Members/Scholarships):

- Suggestion to make the Springtime scholarship to be a cook off
 - \$500 for Knife cuts/fabrications
 - \$500 for Cook off
- 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—Choose a recipient

Ed Daniels (Trustee):

- Honoring of the Northwell Group and how that can and will work for the benefit of the ACFLI
 - the induction of the Northwell Chefs into the ACFLI, and why that will prove beneficial
 - Ed has created a video and will send it out for the board to view
 - Ed will talk to Northwell Health about highlighting their chefs in the video instead of using staged people
 - Have a clip of Bruno speaking about the Northwell Chef system & how food is the medicine
 - Spiro will send Ed verbiage for what it takes to receive the Culinary Excellence Award
- Vegeta
 - Sponsorship of \$1,000
 - Spiro will send Ed the information to secure payment

Alain DeCoster (Membership):

- 3 new members have signed up to join or re-join our organization, with a potential 4th in the works.
 - 1 Professional Culinarian (Chef Kevin Kenny)
 - 1 Culinarian (Chef Robert Bergfrede)
 - 1 Associate (OLEIC Solutions / EFFE Professional Cooking Oil)
 - 1 potential associate (Jim Serpico / Serpico's Bakery)
- All recent Board and General Meeting attendance sheets have been submitted to ACF National. Please be patient as it takes some time to be credited and appear on your ACF account.

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 1,3012 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: Sunflower Oil: Frying some various items to show the quality of her oils
- **ACFLI ANNUAL CULINARY EXCELLENCE AWARDS GALA:**
Monday, March 24, 2025
- **April Meeting:**
 - Monday 04.07.25
 - Location: TBD
 - Demo: TBD
- **May Meeting:**
 - Monday 05.05.25
 - Location: Affinity Group
 - Demo: Truffles & Black Garlic
 - SideBar: TBD
- **June:**
 - Monday 06.02.25
 - No Meeting
 - ACFLI BBQ
 - Location: Homestead Farm / 5412 Sound Avenue / Riverhead, NY
 - Demo: Homestead Farm / Farm Chef Larry Kaise

Old Business:

- GALA
- **Award Nominations:**
- Vendor of the Year- Sysco
- 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
 - Venue:
 - Lessing's location; Stonebridge to host
 - Stonebridge \$86 a head with tax
 - Guarantee 150- \$13,000 with \$500 deposit
 - \$150 per plate charge
 - Going to speak to them about including dessert
 - Open bar
 - 1 hr cocktail hour
 - Need to discuss offerings
 - 3- course menu
 - Salad
 - Pasta
 - Duet
 - Veggie option
 - Bread
 - Anthony Muzia said he can help speak with stonebridge if Roland is looking for help
 - Have an MC booked
- Sponsor of the year— BSE
- Student member of the year-
- 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:

- Need a script to ensure smooth flow for the night
- Journal ads
 - \$350 front cover outside
 - \$250 back cover inside
 - \$100 journal ad (full page)
- Spiro is getting the information for the payment
 - **Deadline for Journal Ads is March 1st–COMPLETE to the printer**
 - Ed wants to pay for the front cover to honor Northwell Health on behalf of his company
 - Reformatting the look of the booklet
 - Ed has volunteered the use of Anabelle to help us get it together
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- Invite Walljasper with a plus one to the Gala to reciprocate the invitation he extended to Nancy to theirs
- **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.**
- Selling merchandise with our logo
 - Have a link on our website to company that can embroider clothing items for members
- March Board Meeting
 - Move board meeting to March 3rd before the general meeting 5pm
- NYS Food & Restaurant Show
 - March 23rd-25th
 - Request to make sure there are no conflicting events when we plan our Gala
 - 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:

- Chef Andrew Green
 - He loves the idea of the Worth your Fork & would like to contribute
 - Suggests there is a beverage component to every general meeting
 - He thanks the Chapter for inviting him and his family back and looks forward to working with the ACFLI again
 - Vote to have Andrew Green reinstated to sit on the board
 - Motioned, seconded and passed
- Need to try and get Northwell Health more involved in the chapter overall