



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 21st, 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)	Zoom
Liz Franks (Treasurer)	Zoom	Chris Palmer (Trustee)	X
Chelsea Osiecki (Secretary)	✓	Ed Daniels (Trustee)	✓
Andrew Whitcomb (Srgt. in Arms)	✓	Eric Pellizari (Trustee)	✓
Shannon Bourgeois (Website)	x	Anthony Muzia (Trustee)	x
Andrew Greene (Treasurer in Training)	Zoom	Anthony Digiantomasso (Trustee)	x
		Richard Doscher (Trustee)	✓

Nancy Kombert (President):

- Awards gala recap
 - what should we do different
 - Email asking how we can change for next year
 - What members would like to see different things at the gala ?
- Vote for president of national ACF
 - two candidates are rene marques, kevin storm are sending out an endorsement for acf national
 - ACFLI endorsed Rene Marques, John has sent out a email with the voting information
- Order new tablecloth and smaller step and repeat for monthly meetings
 - Order spandex table cloth in a color other than white
 - Motioned, second & passed
- If there are any questions or discrepancy, please bring to the executive board then we can refer to national if needed
- Registration for Vegas for nationals, who is going to attend
 - 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
 - Would like to propose that next year the president and vice president go to nationals and the chapter will pay for both accommodations (if we get sponsorship to cover the awards, competition and judge's fees first)
 - Motioned, seconded, passed

Spiro Giannakouloupoulos (Vice President):

- New Chef
 - Waiting for price
 - Sew on patches, not iron ons
 - Side Towels
- Certification Practical Testing at Milliken Tech Center
 - April 28th Spring Test Date as of now 4 CEC candidates
 - If you are or know anyone who is looking for certification reach out
 - Catholic Health is looking to seek certifications for their different levels of chefs along with seeking ServeSafe for their staff
- Chris Neary Culinary Challenge Updates/Judges
 - Paperwork submitted to Nationals–waiting on approval
 - We have 19 students and 3 professionals signed up as of now
 - Waiting to confirm an additional 3 students
 - 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: \$38,684.71

Richard Simon (Student Members/Scholarships):

- Spring Scholarship has been updated and will be posted on the website this week
- ACF Spring Scholarship up to \$1,500
 - Membership due May 12th, 2025
- Discussion professional scholarship updating format and content including sponsorship update (Company)
- Discussion New spring scholarship format
 - PASTRY AND CULINARY cook off - Runoff For 2025- 2026
 - 1 hr for baking (Hot dessert)
 - 1 hr for culinary (K Comp guidelines)
 - SCE Knife Cuts (minus tournee)
- Professional Scholarship
 - Gotham City sponsorship
 - Add to the Fall 2025 Scholarship

Alain DeCoster (Membership):

- Revisiting all facilities that showed interest in our organization daily
 - Next report will reflect my findings.
- All names have been added and our roster is now up to date

Ed Daniels (Trustee):

- Vegeta is now a sponsor and it is now on the website
- Chris Singelman is willing to help with ACFLI but he is currently not a member
- The [AHF](#) (Association for Healthcare Foodservice) is having their annual Seminar
 - Trade fair in Flushing New York, might it be of interest to have a table and representation there, I think this could be gotten at no cost, it could be a win for the AHF and the ACF
 - Friday, June 6th, 2025
 - Nancy & Spiro are going to look into this

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 1,356 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"
- **OCTOBER MEETING:**
 - VOTE ON HOSTING MONDAY OCTOBER 13 INSTEAD OF MONDAY OCTOBER 6, AND VOTE ON 5PM INSTEAD OF 6PM.
- **JUNE BBQ:**
 - HOMESTEAD FARM WAS WILLING TO HOST IF WE HAD A MEETING, BUT WANTED \$30-\$40 A PERSON
 - TOLD LARRY FROM THE FARM THAT WE DECIDED TO GO IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION IN REGARDS TO OUR ANNUAL BBQ.
- **PROGRAMMING & DEMOS:**
 - **May Meeting:**
 - Monday 05.05.25
 - **Location: Affinity Group**
 - **DEMO:** DAROSARIO TRUFFLES
 - **SIDEBAR:** GOURMET MAGIC: BLACK GARLIC
 - Spiro is going to show the membership how to navigate the website
 - **June:**
 - Monday 06.02.25
 - No Meeting
 - ACFLI BBQ
 - Location:
 - **Demo:**
- **October Meeting:**
 - Monday 10.06.25
 - **Location:** Jericho Terrace at 5pm
 - **Demo:**
 - SideBar:
- After each general meeting, Chelsea will formulated an email for John to send out any documents that we we received from the Demo person

Old Business:

- GALA 2026
 - **Award Nominations:**
 - Vendor of the Year-
 - Member of the Year-
 - Chef Professionalism-
 - Culinary Excellence-
 - Hall Of Fame-
 - Chris J. Neary Memorial Award-
 - Ready.Set.Cook- Chef Frank announces at the Gala—Monroe College
 - Sponsor of the year—
 - Student member of the year-
 - Distinguished Alumni-
 - Industry leader-
 - Educator of the year-
 - Pastry Chef of the Year-
 - Chef of the Year-
 - ACFLI Lifetime Achievement:
- Create a Gala committee to start planning for next Year
 - (1-board member and 2-3 general members)
 - Selling journal ads at ready, set, cook for parents as well as sell at each membership meeting
 - Journal ads from the presenters maybe they will buy a 100 or 200 journal ad
- Venue for next years gala and award nominations for 2025
 - Executive Chef at Lessing's mentioned a new Port Jeff location for us to have the Gala at next year in 2026
 - 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
- Final board meeting at Marriott maybe we purchase food through Marriott as a give back

New Business:

- Look into moving money into an interest bearing account and gain access to a credit card that will earn mileage
- Jotform questionnaire for board members to take home and complete
 - Deadline is June board meeting
- Calendar for new year
 - Suggested Date: Gala March 23rd 2026
- Gerard Malloy Chili Cook off
 - Chef Eric P is going to reach out about the date
- Morgan center dates
 - October 8 th 2025
- Food show dates
 - March 8-10 2026
- Website

- Please look at the website to add content to the site
- Create online store to sell ACFLI Logo Merch
 - 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.
- Sponsorship
 - Need to continue to work on finding new sponsors
- Ronald McDonald house charity (chef Greene) and sub committee
- Veterans event at Northport vets home bring that back again
- Wounded Warrior Bike ride fundraiser
 - July 18th, 2025
 - Chef Nancy is going to do it, looking to gather a team to do it
 - Pay for registration, then ask others to donate to your bike riding cause
- Wine dinner with Libbey
 - Similar to WineUdesign
 - Maybe a demo in the coming year
- La Chaine dinner with wine pairing at affinity group over the summer
 - Sparked the idea of having Chef's Table Dinner
 - Get the Long Island La Chaine chapter to attend
 - Students to serve
 - Cooked by ACFLI Chef's
 - Have persons of interest buy tickets
 - 7-10 course menu
 - Hosted at Affinity
- Scholarship re-vamp and posting for current students including college members
- Richard Doscher nominate for trustee and committee member
 - Catholic Health
 - Motion to have him join the board, Seconded and Approved
- Discuss BBQ location for June
 - Affinity Group is our fall back
 - Chef Eric Warner said he will talk to Lessings and see if we can have it at Timber Point again this year