



American Culinary Federation  
Long Island Chapter

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, January 6th, 2025

Attendance:

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

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

- Website
  - Worth your fork
  - Layout and adding it to the website
- All emails are funneling through to personal emails
- Change membership dues and merge and price went up different categories for membership
- Spandex for new logo photo backdrop
- December meeting at Monkey king
  - Thanking everyone who came for the evening

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

- Ready Set Cook
  - January 13th 6pm
  - 7 student teams competing for scholarship
  - ACFLI COY cook offs
    - All competitors have to be there at 5pm
    - Competition starts at 6pm
- Certification Practical Testing at Milliken Tech Center
  - Jan 27th Certification Test Dates
  - We are full with 4 for candidates (2-CEC 1-CSC 1-CEPC)
  - April 28th Spring Test Date
- Chris Neary Culinary Challenge Updates/Judges
  - Restaurant Depot \$2,500
  - 2 judges confirmed
  - Working on getting other judges for the competition
    - Date: Possible May 3rd, 2025?
    - Advertisement of Christopher J Neary Culinary Challenge patches (\$5) and pins (\$10)
      - Sell at meetings & competition, Venmo or cash

## **John Carr (Vice President):**

- Chapter of the year application on the national level
  - Working on the paperwork and submitting it to national

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

- Balance: **\$35,891.82**

## 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:**
  - **January:**
    - **No Meeting**
    - Ready-Set-Cook
      - Location: Wilson Tech
      -
  - **February Meeting:**
    - **Monday 02.03.25**
    - **Location:** wineUdesign / 156 Engineers Dr. / Hicksville, NY 11801
    - **Demo:** Winemaking & Sampling/ Vincenzo Saulle
  - **March Meeting:**
    - **Monday 03.03.25**
    - **Location: Affinity Group**
    - **Demo:** Bake Me Healthy/ Kimberle Lau
    - **ACFLI ANNUAL CULINARY EXCELLENCE AWARDS GALA:**  
Monday, March 24, 2025
  - **April Meeting:**
    - **Monday 04.07.25**
    - **Location:** Homestead Farm / 5412 Sound Avenue / Riverhead, NY
    - **Demo:** Homestead Farm / Farm Chef Larry Kaiser
  - **May Meeting:**
    - **Monday 05.05.25**
    - **Location: Affinity Group**
    - **Demo:** TBD
    - **SideBar:** TBD
  - **June:**
    - **Monday 06.02.25**
    - **No Meeting**
    - **ACFLI BBQ**
      - Location: T B D

## Old Business:

- GALA
  - Can we award people multiple times?
- **Award Nominations:**
- Vendor of the Year- **Combine with Sponsor of the year**
- Member of the Year- Anthony Muzia
- Chef Professionalism- Chris LaVecchia
- Culinary Excellence – **Sysco?**
- Hall Of Fame- John Erickson?
- Chris J. Neary Memorial Award- Thomas Laviedire (Presented at the Gala)
- Ready.Set.Cook- Chef Frank announces at the Gala—Monroe College
  - Venues:
    - Lessing's location; Stonebridge to host GALA.
      - 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
      - 3- course menu
        - Salad
        - Pasta
        - Duet
        - Veggie option
        - Bread
  - Still need MC—Liz has a suggestion
  - Bios need to be submitted by the end of February
  - Journal ads
    - Hard deadline is March 1st
    - \$350 front cover outside
    - \$250 back cover inside
    - \$100 journal ad (full page)
  - Sponsors get an ad in the journal depending on tier of sponsorship
    - Flyers for Journals at every meeting
  - Invite Walljasper with a plus one to the Gala to reciprocate the invitation he extended to Nancy to theirs
- Sponsor of the year— Affinity Group
- 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- Braun, Russ, Sam, Eric
- ACFLI Lifetime Achievement

## New Business:

- 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

- ACFLI is being gifted a 10x20 booth this year
  - Ed is suggesting 2-3 people per day from ACFLI to try and get sponsors
  - Alain said he will be there on the Sunday and Tuesday
- 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.