

## President's Report

April/May 2011

### Preparing for the Future

As you may have noticed, the chapter and the Board of Directors have been very busy with many projects. We have made much advancement, and we are continuing to move forward in a positive direction. The success of our chapter involves much more than the Board of Directors. Many people have volunteered a great amount of time and resources to help the organization. There are a few people that I would like to acknowledge. The first is Tom Schaefer. Tom has spent numerous hours representing the chapter doing local events, cooking demonstrations, and helping with the U.S. Army culinary team. Tom has been instrumental with bringing in funds for the chapter, and this has been vital to the success of our finances. Without these funds, we would not be able to operate as positively as we are able to. John Casto CEC, has been working very hard with updating our chapter bylaws. One of our goals for this term is to redo the bylaws to reflect the current chapter operations. Deb Schmidt has been instrumental with the building of the chapter's Chef and Child community activities. She has grown this program, and has done many seminars for local schools and educators. The new Junior Board of Directors has been also working hard. They are in the process of initiating a new membership drive for student membership, as well as setting up the remainder of the year's activities. Michael Paradiso CEPC has done a wonderful job with finding both locations and guest speakers for our monthly meetings. These are only a few out of many that have aided in the success of the chapter.

Within the next few months we will witness some very exciting news for some of our members. In December of 2009 I have made it my goal to nominate individuals within our chapter for both national awards and competitions. This upcoming ACF Western Regional, we will see fellow member Nathan Dirnberger compete in the ACF Student Chef competition, and Sigi Krauss CEC AAC will be competing for the Western Regional Hermann G. Rusch award. The chapter will also have student teams competing for the ACF Western Regional Knowledge Bowl. At the ACF National Convention, I will be inducted into the American Academy of Chefs. I would like to thank both Chef Bruce Riddell CEC AAC and Sigi Krauss CEC AAC for their time advising and working with the chapter chefs with the requirements for this honor. Chef Riddell will also be inducted into the American Academy of Chefs Hall of Fame at the convention. This has been a three year process, and we are excited to see him finally achieve this goal. There are other potential national awards for some of our members. These applicants will be notified within the next couple months. We will keep our fingers crossed. With all of the exciting news coming up, we want this to continue every year, and we are working on next year's award applicants.

The remaining months of 2011 promise to be exciting. Not only will we continue to provide educational seminars at our monthly meetings, but we will also have some fun events for our members. Chef Pete Aiello is working on putting together a rafting trip this summer, and we are also planning on a summer evening at a Sky Sox baseball game. The Junior Board also has some fun activities that they are lining up for future dates.

On the business side, as mentioned, our finances are very strong. We have not been so financially stable since the early 1990s. We have also consulted with a tax service company to make sure that we are properly reporting our funds to the IRS, and we will continue this process each year.

As the chapter President, my main intention for the success of the chapter is to leave it in better and stronger from when I was sworn in. We have laid some great ground work for the future. Over 40% of our members have been actively involved with their time volunteering towards the success of our chapter. The phrase "It takes a village" definitely applies to what we do. We have had some stumbling blocks along the way, but we always find a way to move forward and keep advancing.

In the next few months we will soon start the nominations for the 2012 -2013 Board of Directors and Junior Board of Directors. I have been a member of the American Culinary Federation for well over twenty years, and I believe strongly in what we do. In 2009 I made the commitment to only run for a two-year term as the chapter President. Although I will be stepping down from the lead role as President, I will serve as the Chairman of the Board of Directors during the 2012-2013 term, and still will be very active with serving on the ACF Pikes Peak Chapter Board of Directors. The success of the chapter is only beginning, and it is because of all the great members whom have made it so strong.

Rob Hudson CEC CCE

President

ACF Pikes Peak Chapter