

We Made a Difference

By far this was the most active year for our chapter, as we had many students from our chapter compete both at the Western Regional Conference and at the 2011 ACF National Convention. Our chapter won a Chapter Recognition Award, ACF Western Regional Chapter of the Year, and also the ACF National Chapter of the Year. Chef Bruce Riddell was inducted into the American Academy of Chefs Hall of Fame, I was inducted into the American Academy of Chefs, and the Olympic Training Center received an Achievement of Excellence Award. What a phenomenal year we have had. Before they announced the winner of the Chapter of the Year at the General Session, I was asked to give a 5-minute speech in front of the attendees regarding our accomplishments. The first draft was nearly five typed pages (single-spaced).

I attended my first ACF National Convention about 10 years ago. I still remember all of the recognition awards, and the thought of our chapter ever receiving any recognition was a far dream. Many of us thought that there would be no feasible way that the ACF Pikes Peak Chapter could ever be recognized, but look at how far we have progressed.

I cannot express my gratitude to all of those have played a role in our chapter. This past couple years I have called on many of our members to assist in one way or another. We really do have a very dynamic membership in our chapter. We would not be where we are without those individuals who give. Many people think it is only the chefs that drive the chapter, and they are surprised when I tell them that over 70% of our membership are comprised of students, and a large amount of these students participate in many facets. This includes Jr. Board of Directors, committees, competitions, fundraising events, etc. My first involvement with the chapter was when I was a new apprentice. I assisted numerous committees, gave demonstrations, and competed during my very first year. The ACF is designed for both individual and professional growth. I tell my students and others that the ACF will not do you any good if you just sit on the sidelines.

As many of you know, this is my second round as chapter President. The first time when I ran for this position it was because I really felt that it is was my obligation as a member to give back to the chapter that supported me throughout the years. A couple years ago I tossed my name back into the hat because I knew that we have something special, and I also wanted to increase the momentum and growth for the chapter's future. My philosophy is to look at long-term needs, and not just to focus on short-term or quick fixes. We have made some major steps toward sustaining the chapter's future this past couple of years. We also know that having a successful chapter will mean that we continue to move it in a positive direction. Our chapter tends to go through roller coaster periods. As a member you each should not ever let it become stagnant or move backward. This is your chapter, and each of you has an ownership. As an example: Recently we had a Board of Director's meeting and we had more members attend than Board of Directors.

As we get close to 2012, many of you know that I will be passing the gavel to a new Board of Directors. I will remain on the Board of Directors as the immediate past President and Chairman of the ACF Pikes Peak for the next two years. I have always felt

that it is important to bring in new and fresh talent to an organization. Although I will relinquish the President's position, my involvement with the chapter will still remain high. I will however tell you that the current Board of Directors are already setting up the groundwork for next year, so our new Board will not be overwhelmed, and we will have a solid base to stand and move on. We are well underway with the election process. Nominations are currently underway, and soon we will be voting for our new team. Remember that your nomination and vote counts.

Keep in mind that we will have our annual year-end celebration party this coming January. We will pass along the date and time once it is confirmed. We look forward to the next few months, and please do not hesitate to contact one of the BOD members if you have questions, ideas, or concerns.

Rob Hudson CEC, CCE, AAC
President
ACF Pikes Peak Chapter.