
Presidents Message -April 2003

With our March and April meetings falling so close together, I have decided to report on both meetings in next month's newsletter.

As you read on, you will see that this past week has been an incredibly sad one for ECB members, families and friends. I can truly say that I cannot recall a time when so much sorrowful news has come my way during such a short period. So, with a very heavy heart, I report the following to you, and it is honestly difficult to know where to start.

I would like to send our deepest condolences to Jim DiMarzio and his family on the sudden death of his wife, Carol. Sincerest condolences are also sent to Ennio Vespa and his family on the death of Ennio's mother, as well to Steve LaCount and his family on the sudden death of his brother's mother-in-law. Our thoughts are with all of you and your families.

At the ACF Northeast Regional Conference in Philadelphia, this unfortunate stretch of sadness continued. On Monday morning, I was informed that ECB Junior Team member Todd Morneault was rushed to Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia after a terrible incident. It is crushing for me to have to report that Todd passed away a few days later. The family, the Junior Team, the ECB and The County Club are shocked and devastated. The Morneault family has set up a scholarship fund in Todd's name for those who would like to send a donation, and you can address those to: Brewer High School, 861 Eastern Avenue, Holden, Maine 04429, Attention: Barbara Cox. A memorial mass will be held soon in the Boston area, and when I receive the date, I will announce it at our upcoming meeting. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Morneault family during this incredibly difficult time.

We also received news that Mike Kowalczyk, CEC of the ACF Jersey Shore Chefs, passed away after a massive heart attack. Our heartfelt sympathies go out Mike's family and friends. And yet another passing this past week was the father of Tom Sheehan, Mirror Image's bandleader and MC. Those of you who have attend the ECB President's Balls over the years will know of the band and Tom. So, now I think you have an idea of what I meant by too much sadness in too short a time. We need to keep all of these members, along with their families and friends in thoughts and prayers. It is times like these that our members can draw strength from each other to help with all this sorrow, so don't hesitate to do so.

I announced last month that in April, ECB member Kevin Hanrahan, CEC would be hosting the American Academy of Chefs Chair Scholarship Fundraiser New England Region Dinner on Sunday, April President's Message Cont)

at The Brae Burn Country Club. Please note that unfortunately, the dinner has been canceled.

Another note for all members who have marked their calendars for the ECB Children Charity Golf Classic. The date has changed and it will now be held on October 13th, Columbus Day.

The ECB April meeting will be our annual Scholarship Awards Dinner, held at The Country Club in Brookline. Important Note: If you would like to attend this meeting, you MUST CALL THE COUNTRY CLUB at 617-566-

0240 to make a reservation. Those are the only reservations that will be accepted. Therefore, please do not call the ECB reservations line or send your reservation via email for this meeting. As in years past, this meeting will fill up fast, so please make your reservations early so that you do not miss out on a great evening. Please also note that for this meeting, each member is limited to one guest only. The cost for ECB members will be \$20 and the cost for a guest will be \$25. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and I hope you will attend.

On a happier note, I would like to congratulate two members of the ECB on becoming Certified Executive Chefs this month. They are Chef Sean Doucet, CEC and Christopher Blanchard, CEC. Again, congratulations on this outstanding achievement! Also, we'd like to send our wholehearted congratulations to Chef Kevin Hanrahan, who will be opening a new restaurant named "Bouchon - A New England Bistro", in Walpole. The opening is expected in early May. We wish you the best with that, Kevin and hopefully you'll spot some of our members there in the near future. Our sincere congratulations also go out to Larry and Bonnie True, who were married on March 12th. Best wishes to both of them for a very happy and long life together.

I would also, of course, like to recognize and congratulate the ECB Junior Team, Coaches and Advisers, all of whom practiced for many months and sacrificed long hours to prepare our team to compete in the ACF Northeast Regional Conference in Philadelphia. We are proud to report that as payment for their efforts, our team received a silver medal. Great job, everyone!

In addition, I am very happy to tell you that the ECB received a gold plate from the ACF for all the club's work during the past year. You will find my report on the ACF Northeast Regional Conference further on in this newsletter.

I'd like to offer our deepest appreciation to Manuel Costa and Costa Fruit and Produce Co. for their generous donation of \$1,000, which will support of our scholarship and member grant programs. You are helping our culinary future with your generosity.

In closing, as I sit here reviewing this message to you, I can hear in the background the news reports on the war, and I know that we can only hope for it to be a short war, with as few casualties as possible. As sad as this week has been for the ECB and the country, I must say that more than ever, I find great solitude in your friendships, and I thank you all for that gift, and also for being there for each other. Stay well, God Bless You and God Bless America.

Warmest regards,

Rico DiFronzo, CEC