

Well, our first meeting of 2004 was a great success, as The ECB hosted its annual Chef's New Food Trade Show and Fundraiser at Moseley on the Charles in Dedham on January 26th. This excellent show featured over 35 tables displaying some of the hottest new food products available to the foodservice industry, with many items being presented for the first time to Boston area chefs. In addition to these products available for viewing and tasting, the ECB also hosted a silent auction, a 50-50 raffle, a free purveyor table raffle and a membership raffle. The show was well attended by ECB members (who received an added bonus of 3 hours of continuing education), as well as many guest chefs and industry leaders. We also invited the Greater Boston Food Bank to join us for the evening, and at the end of the show, a "food rescue" of reusable food was put together for distribution to the needy. As always, we were very pleased to have the Food Bank involved, and we admire and applaud their work.

Also at this important meeting, Board of Directors Chair Des Makredes, CCE swore in our new Board of Directors and Officers. In addition, I had the pleasure of swearing in 4 new members, as well as welcoming 3 new associate members. I must say that all around, this was a great evening, and I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in the auction and raffles, as well as the purveyors for their fabulous displays. Recognition and thanks should be sent out to our Committee: Denise Graffeo, CEC, AAC, Tony Graffeo, CEC, AAC, Jeremy DiStefano, CSC, (and myself), as well as our Set-Up Team consisting of Steve LaCount, CEC, AAC, Pong Sukapat,

Jeffrey Barr, Nick Schiarizzi, Tom Brawn, Denise White, Joe Rocco, Jennifer Higgins and Jim DiMarzio. Because of the dedication and efforts of these ECB members, along with the careful planning and execution of the show, we raised over \$5,500 to fund future culinary scholarships and to help support our 2005 Junior Team. Again, I express much appreciation to all who generously donated their time and talents to make this a great success. It is yet another important contribution to our cause of educating the next generation of chefs.

Our next meeting is fast approaching, and will be held on Monday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Union Club of Boston. Our Host/Chef for the evening will be ECB member Luc Robert. Those that attended our last meeting at the Union Club will recall the wonderful meal that Chef Robert and his staff prepared. I know you will enjoy this meeting. so please make your reservations early as this one will fill up quickly.

By the time you read this message, you will have received our new bylaws. As I mentioned in my last message, it is important that you review them during the 30-day review period.

Please also note that enclosed in this newsletter is an updated member application for distribution to any of your colleagues who may be interested in joining us.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Chef Tim Foley, who was recently promoted to the position of NE Regional Chef for Unilever Bestfoods. With this new position and the travel commitments involved, Tim will not be able to serve as a member of the Board of Directors.

Tim, on behalf of all ECB members, I would like to express much gratitude for

**your service on the Board and wish you
the very best with your new venture.
(Note: I will announce Tim's
replacement in next month's newsletter).
I look forward to seeing you at the Union
Club on February 9th.**

Warmest regards,

Rico DiFronzo, CEC