
Presidents Message -February 2003

Well our first meeting of the new year turned out to be both educational and fun, getting us off to a good start for 2003. As you know this meeting was our annual Junior Fundraiser, with this year's theme being a winter carnival. Two Christmas trees covered with prize balls, which were tied to over 250 donated gifts, highlighted the meeting. There was also a silent auction, a 50-50 raffle and 40 tables of specialty foods available for sampling. I was thrilled to see the spectacular turnout for this year's event, as ECB members and their guests all worked together to raise the funds needed to support our Junior Team.

Because of the success of the fundraiser, we will be able to send our Junior Team to Philadelphia to compete against the best of the ACF Northeast Regional Junior Teams. Our 2003 team members are: John Magliocco, Michael Clancy, Pongrepee Sukapat, Jennifer Higgins, Todd Morneault, along with team coaches and advisors Joe Rocco, Kevin Hanrahan, CEC, Steve LaCount, CEC, AAC and Jeremy DiStefano, CSC.

I would like to recognize and thank our Junior Fundraiser Committee, who labored some long hours to make this event such a great success. I'd like to express sincere thanks to: Co-Chair Anthony Giuffre, CEC, CCE; Co-Chair Kevin Hanrahan, CEC; Co-Chair Jeremy DiStefano, CSC; Joe Rocco; John Magliocco; Michael Clancy; Pongrepee Sukapat; Jennifer Higgins and Todd Morneault. On behalf of the ECB, special thanks should also go out to all of the companies who participated, all who donated prizes, and of course to all of you for attending this important meeting. Oh, and GO TEAM!

As you read on further in this newsletter, you will see that there will be a change with our usual February meeting. Unfortunately, we will not be able to host our annual joint ECB/Canadian meeting this year, due to a reduction in Canadian Consulate's 2003 budget. Because of this cut, they were unable cover the airfare costs and hotel fees for the Chef and the Canadian vendors. The Board was very disappointed about this, and we are hoping to reschedule a similar joint meeting with another consulate for the Fall. In any event, our February meeting will instead be held at the Cabot Creamery on February 24th at 6 p.m., and. I look forward to seeing you there.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge Steve LaCount, CEC, AAC and to send him our best wishes as he takes the ACF Master Chef exam at the CIA. The test will begin at the end of January and will continue into the first week of February. Steve, no matter what the outcome, you are undoubtedly one of the best chefs around, and a "master" in our eyes. Congratulations are in order for Anthony Graffeo, CEC, AAC on his nomination for the "Herman Rush Lifetime Achievement Award", as well for as his lovely wife Denise Graffeo, CEC, AAC on her nomination as one of the finalists for the ACF Northeast Regional Chef Professional Award. I think we'll have to refer to Tony & Denise as the "Dynamic Duo" because of all of their accomplishments!

Many thanks to Corporate Chef Terry Burns of Market Dynamics for his assistance in acquiring a \$300 scholarship donation from the MJ Minor Corp. Great work, Terry - we appreciate your help!

In closing, I'd like to remind each of you to feel free to bring a colleague along to one of our upcoming meetings, and I thank you in advance for introducing others to our wonderful community.

Warmest regards,

Rico DiFronzo, CEC