



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, August 4th, 2025

Attendance:

<u>Executive Board</u>		<u>Board of Directors</u>	
Nancy Kombert (President)	✓	Chris LaVecchia (Program & Media)	✓
Paul Jensen (Chairman)	X	Rich Simon (Scholarship)	✓
Spiro Giannakouloupoulos (Vice)(Cert. & Comp.Chair)	✓	Roland Iadanza (Placement)	✓
John Carr (Vice)(Sponsorship)	✓	Alain De Coster (Membership)	Proxy: Roland
Liz Franks (Treasurer)	Zoom	Chris Palmer (Trustee)	✓
Chelsea Osiecki (Secretary)	✓	Ed Daniels (Trustee)	✓
Andrew Whitcomb (Srgt. in Arms)	✓	Eric Pellizari (Trustee)	✓
Shannon Bourgeois (Website)	x	Anthony Muzia (Trustee)	Zoom
Andrew Greene (Treasurer in Training)(Sponsorship)	x	Anthony Digiantomasso (Trustee)	✓
		Richard Doscher (Trustee)	✓

Nancy Kombert (President):

- **Website Update & Feedback Request**
 - If you have events that anyone is involved in let us know so that we can put the ACFLI behind it
 - August 21st Long Island
- **New Committees – Call for Nominations**
- **Bike Ride for Wounded Warriors – July 18th**

Join us for this meaningful event in support of our wounded warriors:

 - **Start Location:** Babylon Town Hall, Lindenhurst
 - **Finish Location:** Overlook Beach
 - **Distance:** 25 miles
 - **It was a big success. We raised \$610.00 for the wounded warrior project, we all had matching tshirts**
 - **We would like to propose that next year we participate in the bbq at the finish line and set up an ACFLI bbq table and serve hamburgers and hotdogs to those who come to the finish line.**
- **Chef & Child Program –**
 - Chef Hal Udell has volunteered to head this committee, so if anyone would like to be part of this committee please reach out to Hal.
 - Motion to bring Hal on as a trustee, seconded, passed
- **Summer Sponsorship Outreach**
 - New levels for sponsorship to be approved by the board
 - If you have any suggestions or want to add to these sponsorship levels please email with the changes so we can get this out and start vetting sponsors.
- **News Letter:**
 - We would like to have a newsletter started again, have a copy online and then email out to the membership as well.
 - If anyone would like to spearhead this responsibility please reach out to Nancy
- **Summer Fancy Food Show:**
 - Would like to purchase tickets for the summer fancy food show for those on the executive board that would like to go
 - Maybe someone has access to free tickets or a code we can use for this event
- **Food Show In March:**
 - Nancy is looking for access to tickets so students can be brought
 - Ed said he should be able to help with getting student passes
- **Membership Drive:**
 - Need to have one to grow membership and for chapter of the year
 - Maybe to have it either in September or October?

Spiro Giannakouloupoulos (Vice President):

- **ACF National Convention Recap**
 - ACF nationally is in the black
 - Board of Governors
 - We proposed to the ACFEF accreditation to add to the mandatory report that all instructors must be ACF members
 - Membership drive is a must and the only chapter that presented one was the Pittsburgh chapter

- The NY food show counts as a member drive
- Regional Competition will be in Pittsburg- Qualifier
- 2026 National Convention
 - Grand Rapids Michigan
 - June 28th -July 2nd
 - We need to have more presents at the national convention (networking, sponsorship and chapter involvement)
 - Maybe we can work to get more funding to get more members of ACFLI to the convention
- **Certification Dates @ MTC (25/26 Year)**
 - Scheduled Dates: October 27th | January 26th | April 27th
 - May 2nd possible date for Chris J Neary Challenge
- **ACFLI Logo Embroidery**
 - Newchef: Logo # E16204
 - Chefworks: Logo # 10057042 and working on a Chefworks ACFLI Store
- **Vendor Showcase**
 - **October 6th**
 - **Details & Planning**
- **Proxy Significance**
 - Importance of proxy for meeting quorum (minimum of 12 participants)
- **Calendar Updates:**
 - Review for additions or omissions of events we are participating in or planning to join
 - Updated new events and shows to attend/participate in

Liz Franks (Treasurer):

- Balance: \$35,003.25

Chris LaVecchia (Social Media & Programing):

SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT:

- **FB:** AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION OF LONG ISLAND. WE CURRENTLY HAVE 2.9K FOLLOWERS.
 - **NOTES:** SAME AMOUNT OF FOLLOWERS, AS LAST YEAR. NO INCREASE & NOT TOO MUCH INTERACTION
- **IG:** @LiChefs / CURRENTLY WE HAVE 1,399 FOLLOWERS (47 NEW FOLLOWERS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING)
 - **NOTES:** USE THE HASHTAGS: #ACFLI & #LICHEFS / TAG @LiChefs IN YOUR POSTS SO WE CAN REPOST. WE CAN ALSO SHARE YOUR POSTS, BUT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SHARE YOUR POSTS IF YOUR PAGE IS SET TO "PRIVATE"
 - ***YOU CAN INVITE US AS A COLLABORATOR ON INSTAGRAM POSTS, AS LONG AS IT IS ACFLI, COOKING, FOOD OR INDUSTRY RELATED**
 - WE HAVE THE MOST FOLLOWERS & ENGAGEMENTS ON INSTAGRAM, COMPARED TO FACEBOOK

PROGRAMMING:

- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8:
 - **LOCATION:** AFFINITY GROUP | 5 WELWOOD AVENUE, FARMINGDALE
 - **DEMO: CHEF GEORGE WONG** (MONKEY KING, BKNY) | DUMPLING & WATERMELON CARVING DEMO
 - **SIDEBAR:** T B D
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 6:
 - **LOCATION:** AFFINITY GROUP | 5 WELWOOD AVENUE, FARMINGDALE
 - **DEMO: VENDOR FAIR? T B D**
 - **SIDEBAR:** T B D
- MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3:
 - **LOCATION:** AFFINITY GROUP | 5 WELWOOD AVENUE, FARMINGDALE
 - **DEMO: BAKE'N JOY (M. LUCHETTI):** A VARIETY OF BAKERY MIXES, FROZEN BATTERS & DOUGHS, FILLINGS, ICINGS, AND FROZEN READY-TO-BAKE ITEMS
www.BakeNJoy.com
 - **SIDEBAR:** T B D
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 1:
 - **LOCATION:** AFFINITY GROUP | 5 WELWOOD AVENUE, FARMINGDALE
 - **DEMO: COUNTRY PURE FOODS | DEBBIE DeFRANCESCO (REGIONAL SALES MANAGER)**
 - CHILLED JUICES, FROZEN CONCENTRATES, SHELF-STABLE ASEPTIC, AND FROZEN SINGLE-SERVE PORTIONS
 - www.CountryPure.com
 - **SIDEBAR:** T B D
- JANUARY: NO MEMBER MEETING
 - MONDAY 5: BOARD
 - MONDAY 12: READY-SET-COOK
 - MONDAY 19: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
 - MONDAY 26: CERTIFICATION
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2: 5pm start
 - **LOCATION:** JERICHO TERRACE | 249 JERICHO TURNPIKE, MINEOLA
 - **DEMO: RATIONAL DEMO: PARTNERS IN EDUCATION (P.I.E. PROGRAM)**
 - **SIDEBAR:** T B D

- MONDAY, MARCH 2:
 - **LOCATION:** T B D
 - **DEMO:** T B D
 - **SIDEBAR:** T B D
- MONDAY, APRIL 6:
 - **LOCATION:** T B D
 - **DEMO:** T B D
 - **SIDEBAR:** T B D
- **(Possible) MAY: SATURDAY MAY 2:** CHRIS NEARY CULINARY CHALLENGE
- **MEMBER MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 4:** MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU
 - **LOCATION:** T B D
 - **DEMO:** T B D
 - **SIDEBAR:** T B D
- MONDAY, JUNE 1 OR JUNE 8:
 - NO MEETING | ACFLI ANNUAL AWARDS BBQ
 - DATE: TBD EITHER 1st OR 8th
 - LOCATION: TBD

Old Business:

- GALA 2026
 - **Award Nominations:**
 - Vendor of the Year-
 - Member of the Year-
 - Chef Professionalism-
 - Culinary Excellence-
 - Hall Of Fame-
 - Chris J. Neary Memorial Award-
 - Ready.Set.Cook- Chef Frank announces at the Gala—Monroe College
 - Sponsor of the year—
 - Student member of the year-
 - Distinguished Alumni- JP
 - Industry leader-
 - Educator of the year-
 - Pastry Chef of the Year-
 - Chef of the Year-
 - ACFLI Lifetime Achievement
 - Location: Stonebridge, Smithtown, NY
 - Committee for Gala
 - Gabriela of Gabriele Events want to be apart of this committee
 - Chris LaVecchia would like to help with this
 - Roland will Chair this committee
 - Changing the journal to a single menu for its better for us as an organization unless we can get journal ad sold early on
 - Going to a bifold that way we don't have to worry anymore about bios

New Business:

- ACFLI should have a table at the Vendor fair we host at Affinity
- Motion to purchase a table cloth with our logo on it, seconded, passed