

Summer 2016

# Letters from the Trenches!

Last summer I was extolling the need to reflect on what had come before, in a very existential way. I wanted people to think about their past year and consider how they could make it better. I wanted everyone to get into that special "zone" of cutting the grass and getting very meditative. Who's got time for that?

The moments of being reflective are fleeting this summer, though I spent some quiet time in the car as I drove to Massachusetts. I feel like a conference junkie and I love it. I love the planning and the participation.

In March, UB hosted the National Association of College & University Food Services' Northeast Regional Conference. I was involved with planning the Culinary Challenge, the Opening Reception, Tapping into Your Culinary Resources discussion panel, UB The Trend tasting and the final dinner Gala. And it was great. The real joy comes from participating though. I take so much away from every one of these conferences. The Chef Culinary Conference at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst is a wealth of knowledge. There were discussions of trends with demos and recipes, along with an opportunity for everyone to taste the items from the demos. There were discussions of initiatives to realign the way we think about vegetarian diets and make them more approachable with big flavors. And there was an opportunity to compete in an ACF sanctioned Market Basket competition. That might have been the best part of all.

As I prepare for the ACF National Convention, I am aware of many of the discussions that will take place. Many of the trends are known and a lot of the new products have been out since earlier in the summer. The thing that continues to be new is the interaction that takes place between attendees, presenters and vendors. There always seems to be a new way of doing things or a better way of addressing a situation. Even as I look over the agenda for the Board of Governors meeting, I'm thinking that many of the concerns we have at the chapter level are being considered at the national level. Finally the conference is rounded out with the ACF Student Team National Championship. The intricacies of competition continue to be fascinating. All of this makes for a knowledge packed conference.

Gandhi was quoted as saying, "Live as if you will die tomorrow, but learn like you will live forever." I have often wondered if he was talking about chefs. We work so hard like there is no tomorrow, yet we are always eager to learn better and new ways. Make the most of every conference and opportunity to learn.

Professionally, Neal Plazio, CEC

### HICKORY STICK GOLF 4560 CREEK ROAD LEWISTON, NEW YORK 14092 MONDAY, AUGUST 1ST SIGN-IN • 11:00 AM SHOTGUN START • 12:30 PM CONTACT: JOHN MATWIJKOW. CCE 716-574-0209 Please see forms in the back of Epicureans Reservations are needed to assist our meeting facilities to better serve the amount of people attending-please be professional and make reservations in advance! **Inside:**

Upcoming

**Events**:

**Meetings &** 

**ACF of Greater Buffalo** 

**13th Annual** 

**Golf Outing** 

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Articles and information for the newsletter are subject to editing and condensation. Because of the limited space in the newslette we are not always able to publish all articles and information. In addition, use of articles and information without express permission of the ACF of Greater Buffalo is strictly prohibited.

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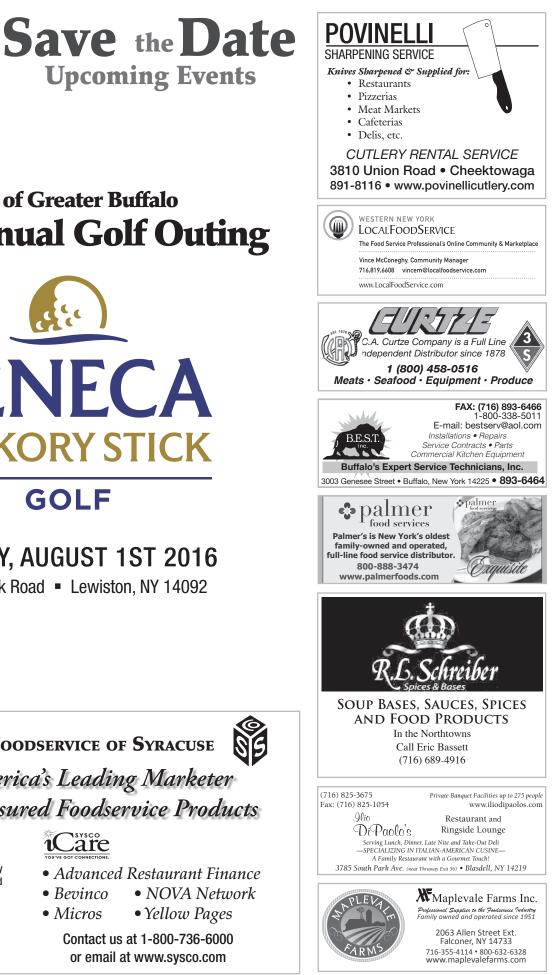
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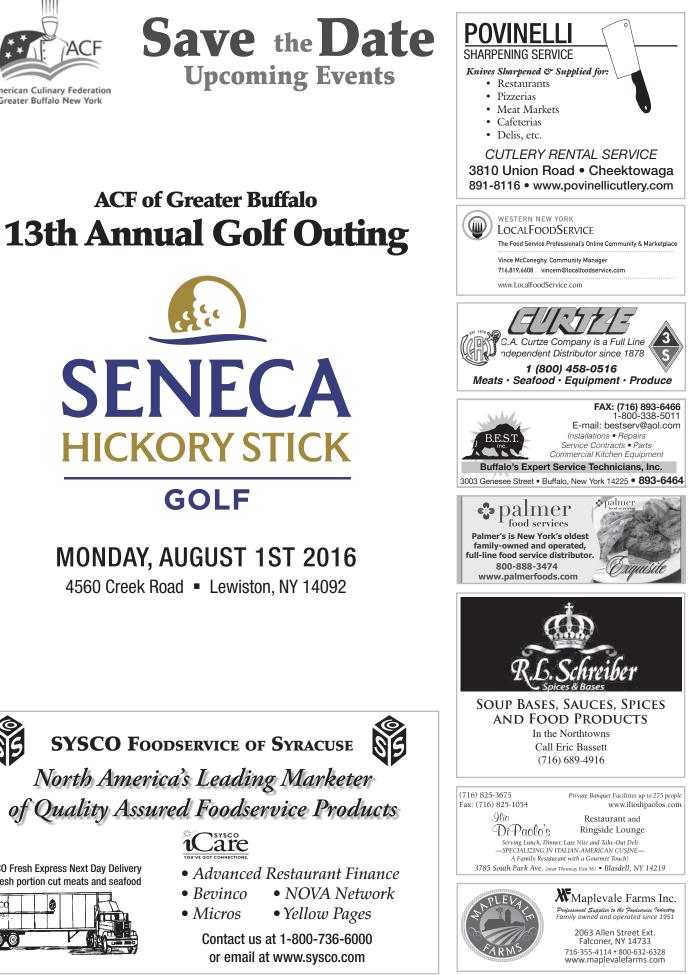
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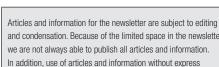




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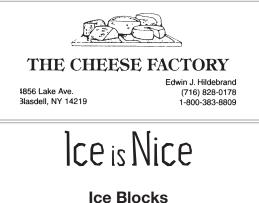
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# C: 716-574-0209 F: 716-614-6833 E: Tweeko34@aol.com

### **ACF of Greater Buffalo** Membership at a Glance - July 2016

| Membership Type                 | Count | Percentage |
|---------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Associate:                      | 8     | 4.80 %     |
| Culinarian:                     | 10    | 6.00 %     |
| Culinary Enthusiast:            | 2     | 1.20 %     |
| Professional Culinarian:        | 100   | 59.50 %    |
| Senior Professional Culinarian: | 15    | 8.90 %     |
| Student Culinarian:             | 33    | 19.60 %    |
| Total Membership Count:         | 168   |            |



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**CF OF GREATER BUFFALO** 

**DUES RENEWAL NOTICE** 

Please be aware that if you are a chapter member with

your dues up for renewal, and not updated by the due

date, your newsletter will be delayed or not renewed

until your membership is up-to-date.

Also be aware that several of our members

certification are up for renewal in 2016. Be sure to

check your status to stay current.



Greater Buffalo New York

To whom it may concern,

My name is John Matwijkow, I am the Chairmen of the Board of the American Culinary Federation of Greater Buffalo. Our organization is composed of culinary professionals from the Western New York Area. We have many chefs, managers, students, restaurants, country clubs, purveyors etc... in our networking community.

I am writing to request a donation of gift certificates, gift baskets and/or items of your choice for our annual Golf Outing on August 01, 2016 at Hickory Sticks in Lewiston, New York. This fundraising event showcases the culinary & hospitality professionalism in our area. This event is one of our chapter's fund raisers for the year, which utilizes proceeds for the junior/student members in competitions and scholarship opportunities. Many restaurants, schools, and distributors participate in this event by donating product, advertise with a tee/hole sign, partake with corporate sponsorship or donate raffle items.

This is a perfect opportunity for you to showcase your product and/or service. We would very much appreciate if you could assist in any way possible. There will be approximately 120 golfers.

If this is something that you might be interested in, please feel free to contact me at any time. Cell phone 716-574-0209 or by email: tweeko34@aol.com

I look forward to hearing from you and developing an ongoing relationship with our organization.

Sincerely,

John Matwijkow, CCE ACF of Greater Buffalo Chapter Chairmen of the Board Golf Outing Chairperson Tweeko34@aol.com 716-574-0209

## people in the news

Thanks! to Michael Ferraro and everyone at the Saturn Club for hosting the Chef of the Year Dinner. Thanks to all of those who attended for a fabulous night of celebration.

Congratulations! to Maria lacovitti, CEPC, Chef of the Year for 2016. It is wonderful to pay honor to Maria as a chef and educator, along with her community involvement.

Welcome! to new members Brigid M. Forrest and Caitlin E. Siresi.

Congratulations! to Jamie F. Graves, CPC and Kevin J. Kuhn, CC on their certifications.

Congratulations! to Dean Messina. SUNY Fredonia. Amelia Ruiz. SUNY Buffalo, Neal Plazio, CEC, SUNY Buffalo, all of the ACF of Greater Buffalo. and Amy Conger. SUNY Potsdam for taking a bronze medal at the University of Massachusetts Chef Culinary Conference Category W Market Basket Competition.

IMPORTANT NOTE! As previously announced, the Epicurean will no longer be printed and mailed out. We have gone to a digital format. For anyone concerned about access to a computer, we can still print a limited number of copies.

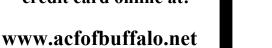
> Charlie Martin 716-359-5950

## HELP WANTED

Please contact Neal Plazio at nplazio@verizon.net if your facility is in need of employees. We can post the ads in our newsletter and get the news to all of our local culinary schools.

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Sign-up and pay with a credit card online at:





**American Culinary Federation** 

**Greater Buffalo New York** 

Seneca Hickory Stick Golf Course 4560 Creek Rd Lewiston, NY 14092

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13<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing Seneca Hickory Stick Golf Course August 1, 2016 Sign-in @ 11:00AM – Shot-Gun Start @ 12:30

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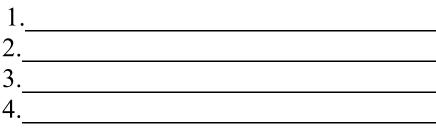
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