

President's Message:

I cannot believe we are already coming up on the Memorial Day weekend - 2015 is going so quickly. As promised, below is a quarterly recap of where the new board is headed. We had some great successes already this year that need to be mentioned. However, we still have some work to do in order to become the best chapter possible. Here is a brief recap:

- Membership continues to grow. To date we have 178 members; 64% who are professional members. This is significant growth over last year and I look forward to introducing myself to the new members at an upcoming meeting.
- Chef Connect Baltimore was a huge success. Special thanks to **Elena Clement, CEPC**, ACF Baltimore Chapter President **Rich Hoffman, CEC**, and all the wonderful vendors and volunteers who so selflessly contributed to the week's success. In addition to the recognition, we received a check for \$6,200 from the ACF national office for co-hosting the event. After reimbursement for expenses, the chapter made some money – which is necessary to continue our growth.
- The Apprenticeship committee is happy to report that we now have 4 active apprentices who are gainfully employed in area establishments. We look forward to taking on another 4 in September and are eagerly seeking chefs willing to host an apprentice for 2-3 years. If anyone is interested, then please let us know.

Those are just a few of the highlights from January 2015. The NCCA is dedicated to becoming regional chapter of the year in 2016 and greatly appreciate any ideas you may have towards achieving this goal. We need input and volunteers to take on new committees. If you have the time and the dedication to see your chapter reach new heights, then please get in touch with us.

Meanwhile, please join us at our next meeting at Army-Navy Country Club on Monday, May 18th. We have a terrific Olive Oil presentation on tap from one of our Bronze Sponsors: Under the Olive Tree. We are offering 1.0 CEH credits for this educational seminar discussing the history, processing and tasting of various oils and vinegars. UTOT are wonderful sponsor of our chapter so if you are available, please come out to Monday's meeting to support those who support us.

As always, we welcome your suggestions and accolades. If you want to see something different from the chapter, then please reach out to us. We are here to serve.

Happy Cooking,

Chris Britton, CEC
NCCA Chapter President