



Dear ACF Western Region Member:

It is with much gratitude, having been the recipient of a multitude of benefits derived from my ACF membership, that I “toss my toque” into the candidate’s arena for Vice President of the Western Region. I have been an active ACF member for two and a half decades and consequently, I feel I have a well balanced perspective of our ACF history and a strong commitment to its future. My experience within the association is varied and includes; several local Chapter board positions, including Past President of the largest Chapter within ACF. 2008 marked my 20th year as a culinary judge. Nationally, I have served as a board member of the original ACFEI Education Commission and later as its President during a time when the concept of accreditation for post secondary institutions was in its infancy.

With that broad perspective I have solid opinions on the value of strong Chapter participation. I firmly believe that the National organization is only as solid as the aggregate strength of its Chapters across the country. With this premise, we should strengthen our focus on helping Chapters develop strong business plans and models that will energize their charters within their own communities.

If elected, I will offer and support the proven concepts and tutorage for development to all Chapters interested.

I believe most members would like to come to a local meeting and know that in addition to great networking opportunities there will be a solid educational component offered as well. Members ask this only as a minimal return on their hard earned dues dollars invested. We owe this to them and to the professional development of our organization. These two elements represent major keys to our future success. We speak often and develop initiatives on the need to promote membership, but I firmly believe that if you show Chapters “a better way” based on solid business principles, then membership growth will follow. As a member of the National board this is where a large portion of my efforts will be focused. Each new board that has stepped up to selflessly serve, I believe, has managed to move the association forward and improve the perceived status of our beloved craft.

We will be required to make hard decisions that peak the interest and well being of those we serve. By the very nature of what we do, we should be the masters of change. As we survive and thrive going forward it is “because we accept and embrace the mantel of change”. It is in our nature to innovate and renovate most working days of our careers.

Finally, if I have learned anything about managing a team or serving in any association it is this; if we, who serve, always ask and then qualify all we do with, “**What is in it for the member?**” then the ACF mission statement gains clarity and takes on the true weigh of it own words. With that I’m asking for your confidence and your vote.