

January 2023 President's Message



Thank you for the honor of serving as your new president. Under the great leadership of President Chef Don Zajac, CC® Treasurer Chef Tom Ryan CEC®, CCA®, HAAC®; Trustee Chef Joe Aiello CEC®, AAC®, HGT®, HOF®; Trustee Chef John Kaufmann CFE®, CEC®, AAC®, HOF®, HGT®; Trustee Chef Alex Ottman CEC®, AAC®, HGT®; Allied Board Member Joanne Madura, HAAC® and I worked to grow membership and offer educational and social opportunities for recent and established members. Our new board will continue the momentum.

ACF Chicago Chefs has continued for decades, persevering through many challenges. For many of us, ACF members are a significant part of our professional culinary experience. As Trustee Alex Ottman put it, “they are a part of my life.” While the past few years have been particularly difficult, we look forward to new opportunities to share time together and strengthen our connections.

Our community, professional education, and friendships have kept us strong for many years. We have goals to expand interorganizational networks, promote member products and services, establish new showcase events, introduce the latest industry trends, and celebrate individual and group accomplishments.

Our chapter has reached thousands throughout the world to spread our mission: *“ACF Chicago Chefs represent all who learn, practice and craft the art of gastronomy in greater Chicago. As one. Of the fastest-growing chapters of the American Culinary Federation, we uphold the standards of cooking while supporting a vibrant community through education, professional development and promoting the renowned foodways that make Chicago the envy of the world.”*

I look forward to working with you to advance our mission together.

Chef Mary Gorski, President
ACF Chicago Chefs