



March 2023 President's Message



ACF Chicago Chefs
Chef Mary Gorski, President



The old saying for March is that it “comes in like a lion and out like a lamb.” March brings us Daylight Saving Time, hopefully for the last time this year, if the U.S. Senate’s Sunshine Protection Act ever passes.

In the Early Roman calendar, the “Ides of March”, the first new moon of the month, marked festive beginning of the Roman New Year. Shakespeare memorialized the phrase, “Beware the Ides of March,” in his play *Julius Caesar*. Julius Caesar was assassinated on March 15th, by his senate colleagues.

About 1200 miles northeast of Rome, March marks the height of the Irish spring lamb season. St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th, is celebrated by the Irish and Irish at heart worldwide, and celebrated here, when the Chicago River is dyed green.

According to the *Old Farmer’s Almanac*, Spring arrives on the spring equinox, this year on March 20th. March has always been a time of important changes and events, as the new year gets underway.

Follow the Leader



Great leaders exhibit integrity, self-awareness, courage, self-respect, selfless service, empathy, and gratitude. Our Past-President Chef Don Zajac exemplifies these qualities—plus. He led us through a period that no other president had confronted before: the Covid Pandemic Catastrophe.

The covid virus changed our hospitality industry dramatically. Our world changed. Lock downs and mandates resulted in supply chain delays; rising inflation; higher

food, operations, and labor costs; and labor shortages. Many restaurant owners suffered crushing financial challenges. Beloved restaurants were closed. Many of us lost family members and friends.

Through it all, our leader, Chef Don, stayed the course. He pivoted and scheduled zoom meetings. He reached out to those who were down to lend a hand and opened his heart to pick us up. He truly believed in his faith and that, together, we would pull through that dark time.

He was right. Despite the challenges, Chef Don rebuilt our chapter foundation to withstand the test of time. I'm happy to report that we are strong and resilient. I gladly follow our leader! I salute you Chef Don, for all you have taught us with your wisdom, patience, kindness, perseverance, and knowledge.

Irish Eyes are Smiling.

My Irish grandmother was the one who taught me to love the kitchen, where she created all the magic for her family. She had a deep love for her family. She knew that being part of a family means you are part of something very wonderful. It means you are loved and will be loved by the ones surrounded by you, no matter the circumstance.

As we celebrate this month and all it has to offer, I leave you with an Irish toast:

***May the winds of fortune sail you,
May you sail a gentle sea,
May it always be the other guy who says
This drinks on me!***

