

Awesome American Academy of Chefs Dinner - Western Region

CCAC-LA Rejuvenation is here and impacting Los Angeles. Exciting news!

February 2, 2015, the Chef de Cuisine Association of California- Los Angeles hosted an Awesome 7 course wine paired American Academy of Chefs Dinner lead by National American Academy of Chefs (AAC) Chairman Stafford T. De Cambra graciously addressed the over 85 esteemed guests in attendance.



Western Region Vice-President David Goodman presented greetings from, National American Culinary Federation (ACF) President, Tom Macarena. CCAC/LA chapter AAC chair, the esteemed Chef Luis Martinez, AAC gave the welcome. Our oldest AAC member, 92 years young, Chef Richard Morgan (who originated the Cobb Salad when working at the Brown Derby), lead the invocation and blessed the evening. Chef Daniel Drumlake, AAC asked all to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag followed by President of CCAC-LA, Chef Robert Phillips who acknowledged the AAC National Officers and special guests.

The AAC dinner held at the new LA Hotel Downtown/Ziran restaurant honored LIFE TIME GREAT Harry Brockwell, CEC, AAC, HOF, an inductee into the American Academy of Chefs HALL OF FAME, July 2014. WE all came to celebrate our long time friend and colleague for his contributions to our culinary profession which spanned his lifetime.

The evening was magical, filling the event with a genuine spirit of professionalism and AAC fraternity. AAC Chairman, De Cambra bestowed on our hero and esteemed friend, Chef Harry a New Chef jacket compliments of Owner Lucien Salama for his induction into the AAC Hall of Fame, 2014.



Stafford De Cambra eloquently stated, “After not having an American Academy of Chefs Dinner for over 16 years, it was nice to see old friends, break bread and make new acquaintances, and share in fellowship and camaraderies.”

Excitement was in the air as Chef Michael Ty, ACF 3x past president, and AAC member with distinguished recognition presented with CCAC-LA Chef Robert Higgins, CCAC Scholarship founder and chair of the Chef de Cuisine Association of California-LA Education Foundation High School Scholarships to well deserving CCAC student members, Isidro Mendoza and Luis Aguilar seniors from John H. Francis Polytechnic High School who both plan on attending Johnson and Wales University in fall 2015.

AAC Recognition Certificates were presented by AAC Chairman De Cambra to those who planned and executed the AAC dinner. Those recognized were:

Chef Martin Gilligan – AAC dinner chair of operations; Chef Daniel Drumlake – AAC dinner advisor; Ann Marie Luna- communication chair; Chef Robert Higgins – scholarship chairman; Chef Caesar Medriano – Chef de Cuisine of Ziran restaurant,- AAC dinner chef; Chef Kevin Harry, La Hotel Downtown –Ziran Restaurant – AAC dinner host and executive chef.



American Academy of Chefs Certificates of Appreciation and Service Pin Awards were presented to AAC members, Chef Harry Brockwell, Chef Luis Martinez, Chef Richard Morgan, and Chef Dr. Eloise Fernandez-Cantrell for their outstanding dedication and service to the Academy. Special American Academy of Chefs Gifts and AAC Certificate of Appreciation were given to our innovative leader and CCAC-LA chapter President, Chef Robert Phillips.

As the grand evening wrapped up, each guest was reminded that their plate commemorating the February 2, 1014 Western Regional AAC dinner honoring the Honorable, loveable Harry Brockwell was theirs to take home. Fond memories went home with all. Our menu can be found on the CCAC-LA webpage for your enjoyment.



Submitted by Chef Eloise Cantrell, CEC, CCE, AAC, and Mistress of ceremony for the evening.