



Dear Fellow CEC Members,

As with many of us in the hospitality industry, my weekends tend to happen more often than not on Mondays and Tuesdays. Saturdays and Sundays at work are just a reality for us. So I had the luxury of relaxing this past Tuesday, and basking in the warm

glow of the truly remarkable October CEC meeting at the Alhambra Palace on Monday night.

Matilda Weber, our host, remarked that working there is sort of like working in a museum. The art, the wall reliefs, the draperies, and of course the function spaces were all just delightful from a purely visual perspective. Boy, is that a big place! Even so, we were made to feel welcome, and the staff's attention was apparent from the start.

All of which was a perfect setting for our Membership Meeting. For those of you who brought your peers as our guests, thank you. We truly feel that our members represent our industry extraordinarily well, and of course we always have room for more friends. It was evident by the tone of the evening that the camaraderie that I mentioned last month is felt by many of you as well. The style of service for our dinner was "Family Style", and this too worked well for this particular event. I heard much laughter and table talk; all indicators that members and guest were sharing about each other, our respective properties, the state of the industry, and hopefully the many benefits of membership in CEC. Our Membership Committee has already begun following up with invited guests, and we hope you will too with peers that you personally invited. Many thanks to Joe Ober, Millie Cadd, and Bill Ryan for all their efforts in vetting prospective members.

While fellowship is a great reason to join CEC, another aspect of our Club is the educational component. I am very pleased to invite you to our November meeting at the Hotel Arista in Naperville. Our Education Committee has over the years presented some wonderful programs, but this one is definitely unique! You will see the details presented in another part of this mailing, but trust me when I tell you that it will truly be...educational! Kudos to Education Committee Chair Kim Polk and her fellow committee member Jennifer Jones. We should all take a moment and thank them for their hard work in putting together some great educational programs for this season.

Along those lines, a couple of musings. The Catering Executives Club is OUR club. If you have any thoughts about things you'd like to learn or venues you'd like to visit, please let a Board or Committee member know. We will see what we can do. Our Planning Committee already has a number of great host properties lined up for this season (how about the Holiday Ball Jan. 5th at the



Trump?!), but we are continually on the look out for properties that would be honored to host our group. Our Education Committee promises a different and exciting season (you'll get a taste of that in November!), with more programs for our learning, but are always open for suggestions. Let us know what we can do to make your membership more meaningful to you. We can't know unless you tell us, and I'm pretty sure most of you aren't shy!

Let me also note that it is important to remember that Board and Committee members serve because they WANT to. These positions are voluntary, and we all have full time and then some employment that requires our diligence. Nonetheless, we welcome suggestions and constructive comments always. Maybe this month the program isn't your cup of tea; that's fine! Perhaps the next one will appeal to you. But we encourage each of you to participate as much as you can. Without YOU, our meetings would not be nearly as successful. Collectively we can keep this Club as special as I believe you and I think it ought to be.

Again, we look forward to seeing you November 24th at the Hotel Arista in Naperville. I have heard some conversation about city members getting some car pooling going. If you know a member who may need help in the transportation aspect, please offer to assist. I personally will be coming from Bensenville. If that helps out anyone in the general area, fell free to contact me on my cell: (630)240-1341 and we'll see what we can work out. In any event, see you there!

Warm Regards,

John H. Kaht

CATERING EXECUTIVES CLUB OF AMERICA ~ NOVEMBER MEETING

Hotel Arista Naperville

2139 City Gate Lane, Naperville, IL 60563 ~ 630.579.4100

6:00 cocktails 6:45 dinner

Members \$60.00 ~ Guests \$85.00

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Board Meeting at 4:45
p.m. If you cannot
attend the event, you
must inform the
Sergeant-at-Arms

Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, November 19th at 5:00p.m. to
Sergeant-At-Arms Philip Pessin at 312-850-3839,
or online at www.cateringexecutives.org

Reservations made after 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 19th
will be charged the guest fee of \$85.00, and no-shows will be charged.

Please join us for our November dinner featured program at Hotel Arista:

An Evening Featuring Extra Virgin Olive Oils and Vinegars

Sample some of the most unique, flavorful, freshest and award-winning Extra Virgin Oils and Balsamic Vinegars available from around the world. Learn to detect the subtle and not so subtle differences in the various oil and vinegar products that are made by artisan and small batch producers worldwide. Owner Mario Olivi, of The Olive Tap; Olive Tasting Emporium in Downers Grove joins Chef Jimmy Sneed of Hotel Arista in presenting a creative menu featuring these wonderful oils and vinegars.

CATERING EXECUTIVES CLUB CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

November 24th 2008

Hotel Arista – Naperville

January 26th, 2009

The Union League Club of Chicago

Annual Holiday Ball - January 5th, 2009

Trump International Hotel & Tower

February 23rd, 2009

The Signature Room at the 95th

**CATERING EXECUTIVES CLUB OF AMERICA
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