



Dear Members of the CEC,

Our season kicked off this past Monday in fine style. Our hosts, The Brasserie Ruhlmann, treated us to an absolutely lovely evening. We cocktailed on the patio and once again, kudos to the Planning Committee for ordering up a truly delightful fall

evening. To tell you the truth, the reception just flew by as many of us caught up with old friends and perhaps met a new one. I'll touch on this more in a moment, but that camaraderie is one of the appeals to me of the CEC.

As we moved into dinner, the room was beautiful! The room itself, linens, floral; all were tastefully done and the room felt, well, inviting. The amuse whetted our appetites, and the Heirloom Tomato salad started us off into the evening's fare. My choice for the main course was the Au Poivre Tenderloin (one of my favorite preparations for beef), and was just mouthwatering. By all accounts the other main course choice, Butter Poached Monkfish, was just as delectable. We finished the meal with a trio of "mini" desserts, precisely the sort of dessert one needs to top off a good meal.

I have to tell you, I was a bit nervous as I stepped to the podium for the first time as the president of the CEC. But as I looked out into the room, I was reminded of the real reason the CEC is special to me, and why I value my membership so much. Over the time since I first joined CEC I have been treated to some remarkable meals at some of the premier venues in the greater Chicago area. In and of itself, THAT would be a good enough reason to belong to the CEC.

But as I looked out over the dinner tables, it occurred to me that I genuinely appreciate the relationships that have developed over time as a result of being an active member of the Club. Its just nice to be in a room of people who truly understand the highs and lows of our industry, who appreciate the effort it takes to do what we do, and who value, as I do, those moments when we can step out of the usual hustle and bustle and relax amongst friends.

The CEC is made up of...US! Each of can take away from our membership as little or as much as we choose. So, too, we can give in like manner. As is often the case, it would seem that the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. Attending on a regular basis allows relationships to develop. Taking a minute to introduce yourself to a new individual, and then next month introducing that person to someone else, well, that's how we grow our circle of friends. And honestly, that is the most valuable part of membership in the CEC to me.

As we look to our October 27th meeting at the Alhambra Palace, I would encourage those of you who haven't been to meeting in a while to come out and join us. We miss you! Renew an old friendship, or make a



new one! As October is traditionally our Membership drive meeting, and I would also encourage you to consider inviting those of your peers who qualify for membership, but we have not yet had the pleasure to meet. We would ask that you reach out to those in YOUR circle of professional relationships who would not only benefit from membership in the CEC, but would add a new piece to the mosaic of our great organization.

In order that we can properly prepare for new prospective members, please forward contact information for anyone who you would like to see join us to anyone on the Membership Committee, or to myself, or to ANY member of the Board. We will send a personal invitation to qualified individuals to join us as our guest at the Alhambra Palace, and will have membership materials prepared for their consideration. If you see, as I do, the true value of membership in the Catering Executives Club, don't keep it a secret. Let your peers know why you belong, and why you attend, and what it is about the CEC that makes it a valued part of your professional life.

I look forward to seeing each of you that is able to attend at The Alhambra Palace. Thank you for being a part of the Catering Executives Club!

Regards,

John Kaht, President

CATERING EXECUTIVES CLUB OF AMERICA ~ OCTOBER MEETING

Alhambra Palace

1240 W. Randolph, Chicago IL 60607 ~ 312.666.9555

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, October 22nd 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, October 22nd
will be charged the guest fee of \$85.00, and no-shows will be charged.

Dear Fellow CEC members,

As we approach the new season for our illustrious organization, we look to you once again as a vital asset in our search for valid candidates for membership. We are all aware of the importance of networking; not only for social reasons, but for a great resource of learning, and exchanging ideas within an industry that is continuously changing with new trends.

Please contact your Membership team (Joe Ober, Millie Cadd, Bill Ryan) with any potential members that have the eligibility and would be an ideal prospect for our wonderful organization. We look forward to hearing from you soon so that we can invite your prospective members to our October Membership Dinner on October 27th.

Your Membership Team,
Joe, Millie and Bill

CATERING EXECUTIVES CLUB CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October 27th 2008 – Membership Drive
Alhambra Palace

November 24th 2008
Hotel Arista - Naperville

Annual Holiday Ball - January 5th, 2009
Trump International Hotel & Tower

January 26th, 2009
The Union League Club of Chicago

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