

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Good, The Bad and The Challenge....

What a great turnout at the Hotel Icon last month! It was great to see Sandra Krismer from Casino Las Vegas Style (we don't see enough of you Sandra), who has been a member since, like FOREVER, and one of our newest members, Robert Kiselica from AIDA, a new venue on Richmond, who joined in April. Special thanks to Jesus Diaz our magnificent host (how many tours did you do??), and all terrific affiliate support we have for great meeting.

At our meeting I mentioned that some of us went to Brennan in early June to the Muscular Dystrophy Association Camp to host a cookie decorating class. Again, let me say thanks to Amber Fraser, from Culinary Cakes and Creations, Kanwal Kabiruddin (and friends and family) from Par Excellence, and Joe Zuniga from Impressive Entertainment for giving their time and talent.

I left the Camp that evening with several thoughts that I'd like to share with all of you. My first thought was that, despite the physical obstacles that this disease gives, these campers, along with the counselors and MDA staff, have a very deep belief in their potential. In fact, that's really the whole spirit of the camp – believing in life's possibilities and seizing the moment. I was inspired by the "hugeness" of their courage and positive attitudes. I had dinner that evening with a teenager named Kaleigh, who writes and edits her own stories and plans to be published someday. After I told her that I was a real bookworm, she promptly notified me that I "will be buying one of her books someday". I'm sure she's right!

That inspiration lead me to another thought: how much time to I spend out of my normal routine to gain a new paradigm on what the possibilities can be for myself and others? How willing have I been to step out of my everyday role as a catering professional and see how others tackle the challenges that they wake up to everyday? The cliché of "sometimes you can't see the forest from the trees" sums up the pitfalls of doing the same thing the same way all the time. There's something out there that's infinitely better if we are willing to open our eyes, and learn from others.

The last thought I would like to tell you about came back to our Fundraiser, "NACE on Broadway". All of us have the opportunity to make a difference for these inspiring campers on October 8th at the Houston Marriott Westchase. The preparations are starting to move into high gear, and I'm going to attempt to match the enthusiasm and tremendous attitude I witnessed last month from the MDA Campers and Counselors by serving on a Committee. Diane Knoche and Amber will "put you to work" if you're up for the challenge.

If you think your life is challenging enough, I encourage you to talk to Amber, Joe, Kanwal or me about their MDA Camp experiences. You might just change your mind about that!

See you at the next meeting,
Lisa Hopkins, CPCE
Houston Chapter President

MONTHLY MEETING RECAP

HOTEL ICON



Engage your senses at Houston's Hotel ICON, a next generation concept in Personalized Luxury Hotels. Tantalize the taste buds with a signature culinary experience by world-renowned chef, Jean-Georges Vongerichten, and savor the stimulation of the city's most exclusive gathering place, as envisioned by Rande Gerber and Midnight Oil. Indulge in a jacuzzi tub big enough for two and surrender to the heady aroma of premium Moulton Brown savage products. Let the music take you on a stairway to heaven, or hear the presentation of a lifetime, in a venue tailored for unforgettable small meetings and events. Let stress dissolve on contact as spa technicians pamper your every whim, or steal away to a bedroom that envelops with plush fabrics and rich textures. An inspired composition of timeless sophistication, anticipatory service and best of breed amenities, the 135-room Hotel Icon offers business and leisure travelers an intriguing option worthy of destination status.

If you attended the June meeting you know first hand that the above paragraph is really true. From the first step into the door until my departure warm fuzzies were felt. Jesus Diaz was the host of all hosts....not only did he make sure that every details was in place for a successful meeting. He was also the tour guide for many of the attendees that wanted to see every inch of the lovely ICON. The only thing the paragraph above did not list was the popular Whiskey Bar....yes, some of the NACE members got lost during the turn and never returned. The bar was just too good!

Another highlight of the meeting was the raffle. Evin Thayer Studios went above and beyond with great prizes that had everyone's mouths watering. Dennis Doughty sold more raffle tickets at this meeting than two of our regular NACE meetings combined.

MONTHLY MEETING INVITE

CLUTTER BUSTING
“Removing the Clutter & Moving Forward in Live”
Featured Speaker: Marla Regan

Date: July 14, 2004

Location: The Greenspoint Club
16925 Northchase Drive
Houston, TX 77060



Time: 11:30am –12:00pm Registration/Networking
12:00pm – 1:00pm Announcements/Lunch/Program

Parking: Event Self Parking Complimentary

Phone #: In case you get lost 218-875-0191

Members \$25.00/Student Members \$20.00

Non-Members \$35.00/Non-Student Members \$35.00

Any RSVP After 7/12/04 Will Be Charged The Non-Member Price

No Shows Will Be Billed

RSVP's by e-mail Melanie Campbell at mcampbell@cpmedcenter.com

Or by phone @713-577-0021

Or register via Pay Pal!

COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWS

LABOR DAY TELEPHONE SEPTEMBER 6, 2004

Mark your calendar for the Labor Day Telethon. NACE Houston is going to support MDA once again call friends for donations as well as answering phones for the nice individuals that call to donate.

RAFFEL ITEMS NEEDED FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS

With over 160 NACE Member it seems odd that each month raffle items are hard to find. I know that it seems like we are always looking for donations, but that is how we make money for our Chapter. Raffle items are necessities at our monthly meetings. Without the money made from raffle we would not be able to produce enough flow through for the year. If you would like to donate an item to be used as a raffle item at a monthly meeting please contact Dennis "Mr. D" at 713-524-0199 or dennisd@evinthayer.com

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN A COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT?

If your answer to the above question was YES, please contact our Community Service Chair, Dennis Doughty at 713-524-0199.

2004 FUNDRAISER UPDATE

Save the Date!
NACE ON BROADWAY

Co Starring
MDA & The Foundation of NACE

2004 Fundraiser
Friday, October 8, 2004
Marriott Houston Westchase
7:00pm to Midnight

If you would like to help with the fundraiser please contact Diane Knoche directly at 713-646-6938 e-mail: dknoche@hourhpo.hyatt.com or Amber Fraser at 713/446-8060 email amfraser@aol.com or one of the following members listed below.

Silent Auction

Connie Ramirez
713/682-1828

connieatwork@ev1.net

Food Stations

Lisa Hopkins
713/685-6843

lhopkins@houstonian.com

Decorations

Jeremie Field
713/229-2211

jfield@houstonclub.org

Sponsorships

Jo Ann Schwartz Woodward
713/935-0353

scwartzwoodward@msn.com

NEXT FUNDRAISER MEETING

July 27, 2004

6:00pm

Marriott Houston Westchase

Topics: Walk through of space, proposed timeline, committee assignments and updates and distributions of letterhead, silent auction forms and sponsorship letters.

NACE NATIONAL UPDATE

Is Your Career on the Fast-Track?

It could be....Especially, when you register for the Certified Professional Catering Executive Fast-Track Certification Review Course being held in San Diego, California in conjunction with the 2004 NACE Annual Education Conference. Get a “jump-start” now and you could earn the prestigious CPCE designation, the mark of professionalism and distinction in the highly competitive catering field.

If you would like to learn more about the CPCE our local President Lisa Hopkins would be happy to answer your questions. Lisa took the exam over a year ago and is CPCE certified. Lisa can always reach at 713-685-6843 or via e-mail lhopkins@houstonian.com.

MEMBERSHIP

Houston Chapter of NACE
Current Membership is 164
We have 141 Regular Members and 23 Student Members

If you are interested in becoming a NACE Member contact
Connie Ramirez at 713-682-1828 or e-mail: connieatwork@ev1.net or go to
the national website www.nace.net

If you know you want to be a NACE Member just click below.

www.nacehouston.net/NACEMemberApplication.pdf

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Darlene Dickerson – Holiday Inn Greenway
Harold Lucas – Holiday Inn Select Greenway Plaza
Robert Shipman – Darryl Murchison Designs
Claudine Smith – Cake Affairs

TREASURY

ARE YOU USING PAYPAL?

If you have not used PayPal yet you may want to consider it. As a benefit you will no longer have to stand in a line to register for a NACE Meeting. An express PayPal registration station will be set up so you can pick-up your name tag. Just think you will have a drink in your hand before your friend that decided to pay at the door is even finished registering. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Mark Caffey –

Treasurer at 713-683-3866. As a CPA Mark will inform you that this is a safe way of paying on-line

A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA

CONGRATULATIONS U OF H GRADUATES!

**Lisa Cardenas, Ann Dillon, Amber Hedayati and Diana Mata
The Houston Chapter of NACE is very proud of our Student NACE Members.**

Notice to Readers:

We are only volunteers in charge of the newsletter, not professional journalist. Should you find any errors, please forgive us.