

Honorary president report December 2007

Dear colleagues,

Preamble

This past year has been both traumatic and difficult within my physical and personal circumstances, certain events have made it impossible for me to join you at board meetings however I would like to reiterate as always my total commitment to the aims and ideals of the world Association of chefs societies and those of this presidium.

However I have taken the opportunity to communicate with our president on a regular basis over the telephone and have tried to contribute as much as possible in this regard.

The role and responsibilities of the honorary life president is that of being supportive and to give guidance when called upon by the President and members of the board, I also believe it is to be a custodian of the common values of the world Association of chefs societies.

In this regard I have an especially dedicated time and effort into the area of relationships which as you are aware can be difficult at times as we do not always agree with each other's point of view. Yet nevertheless at least facilitating that we listen to those points of view.

The bylaws

After discussions with our president (whom I have given my proxy to) I believe that they or certain quality recommendations that can be made that will help WACS move forward in a more progressive manner.

The new presidium

We currently have two candidates for the election next May and it is my believe that each candidate should be giving equal opportunity to promote their point of view and to have our members decide who they wish to lead them from 2008 to 2012. This should be done without bias to either party and may the best candidate win.

The marketing committee

Unfortunately due to possible lack of commitment on my side I am somewhat disappointed with the outcomes, however progress has been made and I will review the booth concept update it, present to you all and then Revise and take to Dubai for us to use in a promotional way.

Congress in Dubai

After discussions with our president, our colleagues in Dubai, and Arnold it has been decided that we will convene a meeting in Dubai between the 12th and 15th of January 2008, during which time we will take every opportunity to review all aspects of the Congress (my focus will be assisting the junior forum and any other help that we may offer) my company has kindly offered free accommodation during that time. I know that there has been some discussion on sponsorship and after this board meeting may I request an update on areas that still need sponsorship.

I am also aware that the United Arab Emirates as a government that will not permit the Israeli citizens entry visas, this is not a chef's issue but unfortunately a political issue, and I would ask that the situation be understood along these lines. In 1988 I had similar issues in Johannesburg where certain chefs Association's would like to have attended but due to political pressure were not able to do so.

Global chefs challenge

I have read with interest the various reports from around the world and I would like to congratulate the various continental directors and the culinary committee for their commitment to this exciting event, it will set a new benchmark and in the future give the world Association of chefs societies more kudos as it grows and becomes bigger and bigger.

Countries bidding for the next Congress in 2012

It is important that each country is fully aware of the commitments that are required as these have changed quite dramatically in the past four years, and in doing so has certainly raised the costs of hosting this very prestigious event. I would urge all continental directors to make the bidding countries very aware of their responsibilities on a one-to-one basis.

World Association of chefs societies office

This has been a widely debated topic over the last couple of years and it is my opinion that it is for the next president to decide on how we take this issue further, I would therefore ask for the board to consider this very carefully.

World Association of chefs societies finance

As the Association grows bigger and the amount of countries become more diverse it is understandable that the costs will also grow, one of the biggest costs is that of travel to our board meetings, it is a concern and I am asking if it is not possible to utilise the conference call in a more frequent and structured manner.

This would improve communication and obviously reduced costs, I find it a very constructive way to both make decisions and speak to each other as a group.

Application for extra ordinary membership

I am aware of the application from the British culinary Federation for extra ordinary membership and believe this could be an issue for both Wales and Scotland however I think we have bylaws to deal with this and we should act accordingly. It is my belief that the word *British* is still both generic and specific to many associations within England and the United Kingdom which includes Scotland and Wales and Northern Ireland.

Please accept my appologies for not attending and at the same time my very best wishes for a successful meeting

Bill Gallagher