

Western Conference Committee Report Saskatoon 2009

The western Conference here in Saskatoon kicked off with 16 delegates registering at the Delta Bessborough on Friday March 6th. Wilma Barlow and Marilyn Turner looked after the registration booth for delegates.

The Western Chefs Challenge started the same day at 11:00am with some of the delegates attending dinner. Thirty nine tickets were sold for \$20.00 each showing an income of \$780.00. Wine was also sold at the event by the bottle as cost recovery. There were three competitors in total from British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Competitor from Alberta won the competition and will advance to Nationals in Kelowna. Our representative Anthony McCarthy came in a very close second.

After dinner, the delegates met at the Radisson Hotel for the ice breaker reception. A total of 16 delegates and a few guests were in attendance. There were appetizers, hot flambé stations, melon carvings and an ice carving on display in the room. Rusty Peno, Gerard Dakenewich, Lee Helman and Vince Lapointe provided food platters for the event. Peter Fogarty provided the ice carving. Everett Nelson made the melon carvings and Trevor Robertson hosted the rest of the event with some canapés and the flambé stations. Danielle Lehnert, Sheldon Polowick and TJ Gross volunteered their time to work at the Ice Breaker reception. Thanks to all involved.

After breakfast on Saturday the delegates gathered for meetings. John Bond was asked to be the parliamentarian following Robertsons rules of order. Hans Schwitzer was appointed the Sergeant at Arms and John White was appointed Elections Chair.

The meetings included Reports from the Western Vice president Blake Chapman and National President Judson Simpson. A National Treasurers and Financial report was circulated as well. All of the branches gave reports of similar content. It looks like the rest of Western Canada is feeling the effects of lower membership and decrease in involvement. It was a pleasure to report that our branch has seen a more positive outlook over the past year and I feel that the success of our Western Conference is proof of that. Voting resulted as follows Blake Chapman Western VP, Jane Ruddick Sandy Sanderson Award, Norm Mishock Chef of the year and David Cologne Scholarship Award. Our branch put Peter Fogartys name forward for Life Membership. Various bylaws were changed incorporating new wording. The only bylaw that will affect our branch at this point is that each branch will have to include the National logo in association with anything that they do for print and advertizing material. We have already been doing this so all is good. During the morning meetings, Peter Fogarty had two junior members Sheldon Polowick and Danielle Lehnert attend a hands on ice carving seminar. Sheldon and Danielle were in attendance at breakfast, lunch and the Gala dinner. Wilma Barlow took the spouses of the delegates to the Museum, lunch at Truffles Bistro and then shopping for the afternoon. Thanks Wilma. A copy of the National reports, our branch report and the bylaws and this report is available for anyone interested in looking at them.

Following meetings The Gala reception started at 6:00pm with supper following at 7:00pm. Chef Ryan Marquis Prepared excellent food all day and topped it off with a fantastic 6 course dinner with wine flights. Gene Dupuis was the Master of Ceremonies and facilitated the agenda for the evening. Presentations and recognitions were made between each course including associate and Chef of the Year. Associate of the year was presented to Gene Dupuis/Prairie Meats and Chef of the Year was presented to Ryan Marquis.

The Farewell breakfast was served the following morning at 8:00pm. Everett Nelson and Ryan Marquis were in attendance to say goodbye.

From a financial stand point it looks like we came out of this conference ahead. According to the original budget we stood to make a couple of hundred dollars. The Western chef's challenge showed a total income of \$780.00 with expenses of \$473.00 to pay for the service staff for set up and clean up. The Western Conference showed a total income of \$17667.76 which includes all cash donations, conference fees and al a carte fees. Total expenses for the conference so far are \$14365.83 with only a few minor invoices left to come in. Total expenses include costs from the Radisson, Delta, RSVP, Fire and Ice, entertainment, awards, Cava Secreta and other small miscellaneous expenses. As we sit right now, we show a net profit of \$3301.93 and will more than likely finish at just under \$3000.00 once all of the receipts are accounted for. A detailed list will be available for anyone interested in looking at the income and expenses.

Overall I along with others received nothing but great comments about the conference we put on. I would like to personally thank the committee members for their commitment to the conference and their delivery of excellence over the complete week end. This task could not have been accomplished with out the dedication and hard work of these members. Thank you to Ryan Marquis, Vince Lapointe, Sean Levesque, Wilma Barlow and Marilyn Turner.

A separate financial report will be provided outlining in detail income and expenses. A copy of the minutes from the Western Conference will also be available to anyone interested in looking at it.

This concludes the Western Conference Report Saskatoon 2009.