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News & Views is published in March, June, September & December. Comments, facts and opinions expressed herein are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not express agreement of the members. If you would like to contribute information for up coming newsletters, please mail to the ORA - 4270 N. 139th Street, 68164, or CALL (402) 493-4739.



ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

(VOTING BALLOT & INSTRUCTIONS ON INSIDE BACK PAGE)

Hats Off to the Chefs is the theme planned for the 2022 Annual Dinner Meeting. A cocktail hour from 5:00-6:00 will be followed by a five course meal prepared by five different member chefs.

Please take a minute to cast your vote for Restaurateur of the Year, Purveyor of the Year and Employee of the Year (Harold Norman Excellence Award).

Notice, the past recipients of the Restaurateur of the Year are listed and cannot be nominated and voted for again.

Fill in the name of a person you feel goes the extra mile to make our industry better.

The Purveyor of the Year can be chosen from five companies that the board of the ORA feels give a tremendous amount of support not only our mission, but to their customers. Please choose from these very deserving companies only.

The Employee of the Year (Harold Norman Excellence Award) was created to honor the hard working employee that often goes unthanked. Nominate someone you feel goes above and beyond their call of duty. Let us know via e-mail the reason you would like this person to receive the award and be honored at the Annual Dinner Meeting. Please send your email to; JWarren@DineOut-Often.com

We hope to see you at the Magnolia Hotel on January 23rd, 2022!

NEWS & VIEWS

Volume 34 • Issue 4 • December 2021

From Your President
Hello Everyone,

We are about to say goodbye to a more normal 2021! Grateful to have seen restaurants opening doors and more guests coming in to dine. Unfortunately, it is hard to catch up, but this industry has some scrappy players who are fighting to get even better. We too, had to think "outside the box" all year to keep our association on point with our goals. We also, like many of you, looked for ways to move forward together even stronger.

We continue to hope you see the value in our membership as well at the NE Restaurant Association. Cheers to a New Year! We are trusting in 2022 great things can happen! Looking forward to seeing you in person on January 23rd for the 78th Annual Dinner Meeting.

Dine Out Often
Your President, Matt Brown

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY JANUARY 17TH

Email: jwarren@dineoutoften.com Online: https://dineoutomaha.com/annual-dinner-ballot/



A pril 2020, a call was made that the Omaha Restaurant Association board really did not want to make. Only days before Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen, the event was canceled. Covid 19 had struck the world. Certainly, many found themselves in a new reality. Being in the bar or restaurant industry would be sung to the tune of "Only The Strong Survive".

Fast forward, Sunday, October 3rd, 2021, and eighteen long months later. Embassy Suites Hotel, hosts Chef Mark Trimble, Patrick Murphy and MJ Potter opened wide the doors for 15 chefs and 150 guests to come together again. The event, that is perhaps one of the most anticipated each year for the ORA, Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen was happening. The tables were set, Association Director Jennie Warren added the simple magic of matching table décor for each participating restaurant. Wine glasses sparkled and bottles of fine wine dotted the room on side tables. The bars were set for the cocktail hour. A grateful thank you goes out to each of these donars; Republic National Distributing Co., Quench Fine Wines, Quail Distributing, Italian Vines, Johnson Brothers, Premier Midwest, Quality Brands, Brickway, and Chesterman Coca-Cola. The fine men and women from those companies worked with each of the chefs to provide just the right wines and cocktails to accompany the fabulous dishes they would be serving that evening.

The kitchen, now that was where the excitement of the evening was really taking place. Chefs, sous chefs, restaurant manag-

ers, waiters, waitresses and students from the Institute for the Culinary Arts at MCC were as busy as one could possibly get. Preparing meals for tables of 10 without an actual kitchen! A large ballroom staged with tables and hotboxes and stacks of dishware was *the kitchen*.

Many hugs and happy exchanges of "How have you been, it has been so long" were spoken. A ballroom kitchen, filled with the mighty presence of a community of chefs coming together for a cause bigger than themselves. Giving back.

How could one really thank these folks enough for making this event happen? A giant shout of thanks you's to these amazing participating chefs; LE VOLTAIRE; Wilson Calixte, MONARCH; Tim Maides, PASTA AMORE; Nathan Crawford (2) tables), PITCH PIZZERIA; Manny Carino, RAILCAR; Aron Mackevicius, SAGE STU-DENT BISTRO @ ICA; Chefs James Davis and Cathy Curtis, SPENCER'S; Glenn Wheeler, STAR TOP CATERING; Shawn Phifer, STOKE'S OLD MARKET; Rey Chavez, SYSCO LINCOLN INC.; Chefs Dan Watts, Michael Rhoades and Michael Boisseree (2 tables), TIMBER WOOD FIRE BISTRO; Jared Clarke, US FOODS; Tim Galligher, and V MERTZ; Amada Sheeler.

To say the food that evening was simply delicious, would be an understatement Every chef brought their "A" game, the diners were delighted by every single course they were served.

We would be negligent if we did not give another grateful thank you to the

donating vendors who contributed to the chefs for their outstanding meals: Sysco Lincoln Inc., Performance Food Group, US Foods, Omaha Steaks, H. Olafsson International Specialty Foods, and Loffredo Fresh Foods.

Perhaps one of the most touching and amazing part of the activity in the kitchen that evening was the sight of some of the city's best chefs standing beside and teaching young, fresh faced students. Eager to learn and maybe, just maybe, they too might become one of the greats someday. (Right? Amanda Sheeler) Thank you to Peter Walsh and Brian O'Malley for organizing the many students who came to volunteer that evening simply to learn.

Speaking of Brian O'Malley, what a fine job he did as MC and setting the stage for the successful auction to date!! \$30K from 10 auction items. Another loud and special shout out to Jared Clarke and Matt Burbach for their generosity of taking 4 tables and donating 4 large auction items on top of that!!!

Never in the history of the TMCK event was hosting hospitality more evident than at the Embassy Suites. Thank you for feeding the chefs, supporting teams, and students, for preparing the hors d'oeuvres during the cocktail hour and providing a space perfect for both chefs and patrons!

So, the long awaited 2021 TMCK ended with much revelry, in the dining room and the kitchen, who can say more. Oh, what a night.

Board Member Bio

MAURA COROLAN PERFORMANCE FOOD SERVICE



My professional career in hospitality started before graduating from the University of Nebraska at Omaha as a server at Old Chicago in the Old Market. After multiple positions which

included opening 3 locations (an incredible experience), I shifted to hotel sales (thanks fellow board member Tim Darby). A few years later, Chesterman Coca-Cola became my new home ~ I can still give you advise on installing a fountain machine!

After promising my husband,
Terry, we would never both be in
the food service industry...today,
I am thrilled with my decision to
become Business Development
Manager at Performance Food
Service. Life is never routine &
my job is constantly evolving; enabling me to interact and provide
guidance while finding solutions
for all avenues of the hospitality

business. Performance Food Service is more than a food distributor; I am most passionate about the level of service we provide.

Terry and I live in Gretna with our cat Thurman. It's hard to believe we have been married almost 20 years and the kids are all grown up! Both Elyn & Nash decided to move out of Omaha but fortunate for us, Phoenix and Seattle are always fun to visit! In addition to traveling, I enjoy running, working out, time with friends and watching the Red Sox or a good movie with a glass of wine.

CHEERS to a happy and prosperous 2022!



FOOD HANDLERS CLASSES are offered monthly. Please visit https://
Servingitsafe.org to check the schedule.
If you would like to sign up for a specific class please e-mail Cindy Brison at cbrison1@unl.edu and cc Jennie Warren at jwarren@dineoutoften.com or call Cindy at 402-444-7804. The Omaha Restaurant Association will take care of payment until our \$2000 limit has been met.

SERVSAFE MANAGERS CLASSES are being offered on May 2nd & 3rd and again on September 12th & 13th. You will need to purchase your own book but the scantron sheets will be provided for you so do not buy the test sheet with your book! To register please e-mail Cindy Brison at cbrison1@ unl.edu and cc Jennie Warren at jwarren@ dineoutoften.com or call Cindy at 402-444-7804. The Omaha Restaurant Association will take care of payment until our \$2000 limit has been met.



JOIN US FOR THE 2nd ANNUAL TOPGOLF

6 PERSON TEAM SCRAMBLE
Watch your email for details!

EVENTPHOTOS December 2021









Embassy Suites Downtown 555 South 10th Street
All Under One Roof

5:00-6:00 pm Social Hour with Selection of Restaurant 6:00-9:00 pm Gourmet Dinner

Le Voltaire | Monarch Prime | Pasta Amore | Pitch Pitteria Raikar Modern American Kitcken Sage Student Bistro @ ICA | Spencer's for Steaks & Chaps Stokes Old Market | Star Top | Systes Lincoln Inc. Timber Wood Fire Bistro | US Foods | V Mertz

was see the ORA Website of:













































































EVENTPHOTOS December 2021



































DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WITH PASSION AND AN

Scholarship Money is available for them!



2022 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

DEADLINE TO APPLY: MARCH 1, 2022

The Nebraska Restaurant Association Hospitality Educational Foundation provides scholarship opportunities for qualified students and professionals who plan to pursue higher education within the state of Nebraska in the fields of culinary and hospitality. Scholarship(s) will be awarded at the discretion of the scholarship committee.

PART A: Cell Phone: Current Address: State: Zip Code Current High School or Career Academy _____ GPA I have participated in a Nebraska ProStart Program: Yes_ No Current Post Secondary Institution or Employer _____ I have participated in a Nebraska ProStart Program: Yes____ No In 2022, I will be enrolled at: Post-Secondary Institution or Professional Development Program Institution Address: Zip Code:_____ State: City: Major: Degree Objective: Associates Bachelors Diploma Certificate Area of Emphasis: Culinary Arts ______Baking and Pastry _____Food & Beverage _____ Restaurant Management _____ Entrepreneurship _____ Lodging ____ Other (Name of Emphasis) Are you a previous NRAHEF/NRAEF Scholarship winner? Yes No

Employment Information: Please attach your resume to complete the application process.

INTEREST IN PURSUING A CULINARY EDUCATION?

Apply by March 1st, 2022!

n t	the space provided, please tell us:
۹.	Why did you select the culinary or hospitality field as a career?
3.	What are your future goals in the hospitality industry?
Э.	Describe the most challenging hospitality related experience that you have ever faced. Whe did you learn from the experience?

Scholarships are available - Apply by March 1st, 2022!

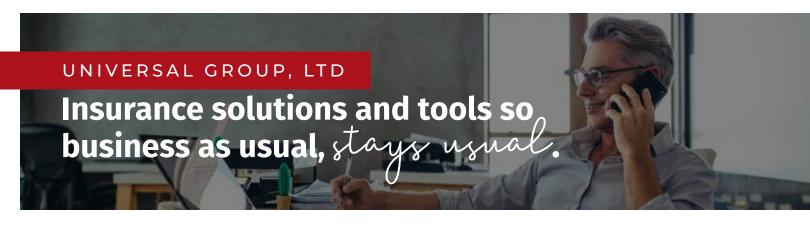
PART C:

Additional Contact Information (Please list three) Please provide the names and phone numbers of at contact you in the next six months or more (e.g., paren	• •
Name/Relationship C	tell Phone Number
Please e-mail no later than March 1, 2022 to: fhamo	puz1@unl.edu
or mail this form postmarked by March 1, 2022 to:	Nebraska Restaurant Association HEF Attn: Fayrene Hamouz 5100 N 27th St, Ste A2 #238 Lincoln, NE 68521

If you are a scholarship finalist, you will be required to attend an interview via Zoom with a panel of industry professionals. Interview times and Zoom information will be included in the interview notification letter.

If you are selected for a scholarship you will be required to give us your social security number. After enrollment verification is determined, scholarships will be mailed to the financial aid office of the recipient's institution or program.

Thank you for applying for a scholarship from the Nebraska Restaurant Association Hospitality Educational Foundation.



In business, risk is all around us. But, with the right insurance coverage from Universal Group, LTD. and the custom-fit solutions and tools from Universal Connects, it's easier than ever to keep your business running full speed ahead with ease, savings and growth.

With Universal Group, LTD., your business benefits from unique cost-effective insurance solutions, like:

- **Business Owners**
- Workers' Comp
- Cyber Liability
- 🧬 Risk Management
- **General Liability**
- Business Auto
- Commercial Property
- Commercial Umbrella
- Employment Practice Liability (EPLI)
- Errors and Omissions Liability (E&O)
- Directors and Officers

Flood Insurance

- Crime Insurance
- 1 Builders Risk
- Liquor Liability
- Special Event
- Surety Bonds
- Inland Marine
- Systems Breakdown
- Key Person Life
- Fiduciary Liability

PLUS: Multiple custom build industry-specific solutions.

About Universal Group, LTD.

Universal Group, LTD. is an independent insurance agency offering a comprehensive suite of insurance solutions to protect you, your family, and your business from the unexpected with custom coverage solutions from our over 25 leading insurance company partners.

2. CONNECTS.

With Universal Connects, your business can benefit from the peace of mind that you are in compliance with local, state, and federal laws for HR, safety, and the other requirements of an A+ rated business.

Universal Connects offers programs, calculators, builders, and customized tools to help you mitigate exposures, control costs, remain legally compliant, increase employee satisfaction, and improve productivity including:

- Custom Employee Calculators and Assessors
- Employee-Seeking Tools
- Performance Review Tools
- Training and HR Hotline Access
- Federal & State Requirement Tools
- OSHA Compliance Tools
- Handbook and Document Builders
- Wellness Programs
- And more!





OFFICIAL BALLOT



Restaurateur of the Year 2021 | Purveyor of the Year 2021 Harold Norman Excellence Award 2021

Please vote on the ballot below by January 11th, 2021 and return it to:

Omaha Restaurant Association | 4270 N. 139th Street | Omaha, NE 68164 E-Mail: Dineoutoften@Cox.net | Fax: (402) 493-3197

> Winners will be presented at this year's "Virtual" Annual Dinner Meeting on January 23rd, 2022 and will **not** be informed prior to the meeting

RESTURATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD 2021

YOU CANNOT SELECT A PAST RECIPIENT

Please choose someone you believe stands out in the industry through providing an outstanding business as well as contributing to the industry through the ORA and other civic causes.

PRIOR WINNERS

1990 Rick Fox

1991 Linda Anania

1992 Ron Samuelson

1993 David Hayes

1994 John Chisholm

1995 Bill McKenna

1996 R. Tim Peffer

1997 Mark Hoch

1998 Denis Hall

1999 Matt Warren

2000 Brian Magee

2001 Sally Kawa

2002 Vince Fletcher

2003 Ann Mellen

2004 Nicole Jesse

2005 Chuck Caniglia

2006 Cedric Fichepain 2007 Katie O'Connor

2008 Tony Fucinaro, Jr.

2009 Cory Guyer

2010 John Wade 2011 Yves Menard

2012 Greg Lindberg/Don & Marie Losole

2013 Brad Marr

2014 Glenn Wheeler

2015 Jared Clarke

2016 Jennifer Coco

2017 Darwin Hanssen

2018 Dave Mainelli

2019 Greg Cutchall

2020 MitchTempus

PURVEYOR OF THE YEAR 2021

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FIVE PURVEYORS

All outstanding companies, who promote the mission of the ORA by sponsoring and attending the events and have a strong desire to improve the hospitality industry.

VOTE FOR ONE

Chesterman Coca-Cola

Glenn Valley Foods

Johnson Brothers of NE

Premier Midwest Beverage

Quail Distribution

PRIOR WINNERS

2009 Greenberg Fruit 2010 Sysco Lincoln, Inc.

2011 RNDC Falcon Division

2012 Rotella's Italian Bakery 2013 Omaha Steaks

2014 Quality Brands

of Omaha

2015 Reinhart Food Service

2016 Loffredo's Fresh Produce

2017 Southern Glazers

Wine & Spirits

2018 H. Olafsson

International

Specialty Foods

2019 Spin Linen

2020 TriMark Hackenberg's

HAROLD NORMAN EXCELLENCE AWARD 2021

Choose any employee who shows strong leadership, works hard, is dedicated, loyal and wants to see improvement in the industry.

*Include a short story of why you choose this person. Please email to: DineOutOmaha@cox.net.

PRIOR WINNERS

2012 Matt Warren 2013 Danielle Emsick 2014 Katie Vap

2015 Kevin Canialia

2016 Brian Young 2017 Bobby Mekiney

2018 Pedro "Pete" Garcia 2019 Linda Faye Austin

2020 Zac Triemert

2021

Please fill in your choice for RESTAURATEUR OF THE YEAR

2021

Please fill in your choice for HAROLD NORMAN EXCELLENCE AWARD (EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR)



*Any ORA member is welcome to share in any meeting at any time. If you would like to speak at a meeting, please call Jennie Warren at 402-493-4739 and schedule a time.

JANUARY Annual Dinner Meeting
23rd Magnolia Hotel- 5 p.m.
1615 Howard Street

8th Pasta Amore - 2 p.m. 11027 Prairie Brook Rd

MARCH Monthy Board Meeting

8th Corkscrew Blackstone- 2 p.m. 3908 Farnam Street

APRIL TOP GOLF TOURNAMENT 908 N. 102nd Street

APRIL Monthy Board Meeting

12th Stokes - Old Market -2 p.m.

12th & Howard Street

Photos in this issue were graciously provided by Sheri Potter at TENDENZA FOOD PHOTOGRAPHY AND DESIGN. EMAIL; SheriPotter@me.com

Omaha Restaurant Association Board of Directors

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MATT BROWN

V Mertz

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> DAN O'BRIEN Acadian Grille

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GRANT GASTON

The Italian Vine Wine Distributors

DOUG JOLKOWSKI

Republic National Distributing Co.

HANS MAASDAM

Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits

JOEL PRIEST

Hospitality Management Systems

JERRY SMITH

Loffredo Fresh Produce

ZACH WIGGINTON Chesterman Coca-Cola

LIAISONS

BRAIN BARKS Food Bank for the Heartland ZOE OLSON Nebraska Restaurant Association BRIAN O'MALLEY Institute for the Culinary Arts @ MCC SHERI POTTER DiTendenza Food Photography and Design

TRIAD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Omaha Restaurant Association / Nebraska Hospitality Association / National Restaurant Association









2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES INVESTMENT

Are you looking for something more for your membership? If you are a restaurateur we have a deal for you. For an additional \$200 you can receive the benefits of the Nebraska Hospitality Association and the National Restaurant Association. For additional information please visit www.NebraskaDining.org to see what they can do for you!

☐ SINGLE RESTAURANT MEMBER	\$200
■ MULTI-UNIT RESTAURANT MEMBER.	\$350
TRIAD MEMBERSHIP N/A TO MULTI-UNITS PURVEYOR MEMBER	\$250
☐ BAR/LOUNGE MEMBER	\$150
☐ TRIAD MEMBER*	\$400

TOTAL \$

To pay by check: Make out to Omaha Restaurant Association and mail to: Omaha Restaurant Association, 4270 North 139th Street, Omaha NE 68164. To make your payment by PAYPAL: Visit our website www.DineOutOmaha.com

PLEASE	FILL	OUT	ALL	INFORM	MATION	BELOW	I

Name of Company	
Name of Representative	
Title of Representative	
Work Phone	
Cell Phone	
Mailing Address	
Email	
Company Website	
Type of Business	
REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE	DATE

^{*} This membership is *only available* for current ORA members of single concept restaurants. Triad members receive the benefits offered by the Omaha Restaurant Association, the Nebraska Hospitality Association, and the National Restaurant Association.