



Message from the Chair

December 12, 2014

John Budin, Ph.D.
Chicago Section IFT 2014-2015 Chair
FONA International Inc.

Dear CSIFT Members and Friends,

Our December 8 dinner meeting featured Anthony Anscombe, Partner at Sedgewick, LLP as he spoke on *What's Cooking in Food and Beverage Litigation*. What I found most interesting in his talk was his perspective and learnings of representing food companies in class action, product liability, commercial and other legal matters. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with this event!

On Wednesday, November 12 the Chicago Section IFT had their annual Suppliers' Night Event – and what a day it was! The Suppliers' Night Event started at noon where there were 545 booths, over 3,000 people that pre-registered and over 750 people that registered the day of the event which equates to 3,750 registered attendees. This represents the most people that have ever attended the CSIFT Suppliers' Night Event! Thank you to our dedicated volunteers and our sponsors.

The Section is well on its way for planning Suppliers' Night for 2015. We have already sold 390 booths, which represents 72% of our capacity (a total of 545 booths), which is ahead of the pace for 2014 or any previous year!

On Monday, January 12 the Chicago Section IFT will have our next dinner meeting where we doing something new and very different: this will be a premium dinner meeting event in downtown Chicago.

From a historical perspective, the Chicago Section has been trying to have a dinner meeting downtown, which this effort has been in response to the feedback we have received from our members. The January dinner meeting will be held at Everest, which is world renowned for their Personal French Cuisine. Everest has received many impressive accolades for their food, wine and dining experience and a premium dinner experience like this will also require an increase of cost.



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While we have had considerable internal discussions regarding the higher expense relative to a typical dinner meeting, we recognize the higher cost might be prohibitive for some individuals. Everest has given us a considerable discount on what they would typically charge, so what we will be receiving is thought to be of good value.

We will have live music. Our featured dinner meeting speaker will be Laura Kalaras, R&D Project Manager at Barry Callebaut with the presentation, "*Chocolate & Cocoa 101.*" where there will be sampling of chocolates. In summary: fine French food...a talk on chocolate with many samples to taste...live music – personally I am very excited to attend this dinner meeting! We hope to see you at our January 12 Dinner Meeting at Everest in downtown Chicago.

2014 has been a wonderful year for the Chicago Section – and all of our volunteers have plans to continue this success into 2015. Have a safe and relaxing Holiday Season!

Best regards,
John Budin
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