



Dear CSIFT Members,

What a flurry of activities! With the warmer weather, and the opportunity to get outside and enjoy spring, are you already thinking about how to spend your time? How about giving some of your time to others? On March 30, The Young Professionals would like to invite all CSIFT members to their March event in Chicago.

Join our Young Professionals for a volunteer opportunity with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) where their task is mainly to organize their foodstuffs, dispose of expired products and help with the overall task of feeding those less fortunate than us.

In April, you'll have another chance to "Pay it Forward" with our annual CSIFT Student night where you can be part of a speed networking team and/or a student meal sponsor. We always say that students are our future...at the April meeting is where we as Members will show students that we truly mean what we say.

Spring brings change. I only have one Newsletter's Chair message left to write this year (next month's May message) – the time has gone by so quickly! This has been a truly amazing experience working with our Officers, Executive Committee, our Committee Chairs, our Business Office, Members and **everyone** who has been a part of this year's CSIFT. I've met great people and made many - hopefully lifelong - friends. Thank you to all of you!

This issue, you'll be able to read the result of this month's election in this Newsletter. We had an excellent slate of candidates and we appreciate everyone's involvement in the election. While the official changeover date for the rotation of your CSIFT Executive Committee is not until September 1, 2011, it is very important to have our 2011-2012 elected Officers now. This overlap for newly elected members, allows them to learn their upcoming roles, provides continuity in our CSIFT programming and assures that key speakers and selected venues can be contacted well in advance (confirming the date and time in their schedule).



Congratulations also go out to two of our CSIFT members: John Ruff is officially IFT's 2011 President-elect and Linda Perucca will be on the IFT 2011-2014 IFT Board of Directors. They too will take office on September 1, 2011,

One thing for process improvement, as we move forward....our CSIFT Newsletter has always been one of our main methods of communicating with our members and times are now changing. With the Newsletter being a digital Newsletter we can now track if the Newsletter is read and if the articles are actually "clicked on" and opened. Last month, out of our 1,600+ members, 430 opened the Newsletter.

How can we improve this number? Is it time for another change? We know that you get information through email, LinkedIn, our monthly meetings, through other CSIFT members, etc. etc.... What are your thoughts? How can we make our communication more effective for you? Do let us know.

On our warm days - go out and enjoy the spring weather and I hope to see you at GCFD and the April meeting!

Yours in CSIFT,  
Pam

Pamela Vaillancourt – 2010-2011 Chair, CSIFT  
[pamvtic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pamvtic@sbcglobal.net) or [p.vaillancourt@rga-inc.com](mailto:p.vaillancourt@rga-inc.com)