



Uwe Nienaber, 2011-2012 Chair

Message from the Chair

Dear CSIFT Members,

Last month I talked to you about our newly formed Marketing committee. I am happy to announce that Bill Becht has stepped up to the challenge and is now chairing this committee. Bill is currently serving as an elected member of our Executive Committee. He has contributed greatly to our section in the past in his role as chair of the committee that created and issued our annual Membership Directory. Bill will need a lot of support and enthusiasm from other members of the Marketing Committee to turn all the great ideas and strategic plans into action and success stories. One of them is Carolyn Tayabji from our "New Professionals" group. She has volunteered to strengthen our use of social media beyond LinkedIn. Another member is Nate Matusheski who will be looking at ways to make the numerous features of our website even more effective for our members and sponsors.

What did you think of our October Harvest Fest Meeting? Was there anything we could have done differently or better? Do you have great ideas for future events? Send a quick email to me, our business office or any other volunteer, or talk to us in person at our next event.

I know how you feel. The days are getting shorter. The leaves start falling. The thermometer drops into the thirties at night and the heater kicks in once in a while. The apple orchards are closing for the season. And everyone starts talking about the dreaded, endless winter in Chicago. How depressing is that? But honestly, these are not the Middle Ages and life won't slow down a beat. There are many things to look forward to; Halloween, Suppliers' Night, Thanksgiving, our December Holiday Meeting and maybe even a ski trip. What could be better and more uplifting than a sunny day in the snow? Have you ever been to the Christkindlmarket Chicago (www.christkindlmarket.com) which has been held in downtown Chicago since 1996? It gets my unofficial seal of approval and you can even practice your German there.

Well, if you really don't like winter, then you should devote some more time to our Section. Most of the work can be done from home, via internet or phone conference and keeping in contact with your fellow CSIFT members will surely cheer you up. And before we know it, we'll all be mowing our lawns again.

Last but not least I am asking for your help to nominate the next slate of officers and executive committee members for the 2012-2013 season. Our past-chair Pam Vaillancourt serves as chair of our awards and nominating committee and we do need your nominations NOW. Election time will be here faster than we think! You can nominate someone else you would want to see as an officer or executive committee member, or you can nominate yourself. Don't be shy. It will look really good on your resume.

With that said I am looking forward to seeing you at our sold-out Suppliers' Night in November.

Greetings!

Uwe Nienaber - CSIFT Chair - uwe.nienaber@kraftfoods.com