

**Region: East of England**

**Date: April 2023**

Dear Members,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023 from your LACA East of England Regional Committee. We hope you will find this an interesting and informative read. We would love to hear from you with any feedback, good news stories or photos from your recent Easter lunches and the forthcoming Coronation celebrations so we can include them in the next edition. Please send these to [clare.jordan@norsegroup.co.uk](mailto:clare.jordan@norsegroup.co.uk).

Our committee is as follows:

<b>Michael Dove</b>	Regional Chair
<b>Carol Harwood</b>	Vice Regional Chair
<b>Jill Taylor</b>	Regional Secretary
<b>Rodney Lankester</b>	Regional Treasurer and Events
<b>Stuart Clarke</b>	Committee Member and Director of LACA
<b>Clare Jordan</b>	Committee Member and Marketing
<b>Natasha Carver</b>	Committee Member
<b>Vicki Hislop</b>	Committee Member

## **Dates for the Diary**

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 9.30am-2pm**

We are delighted to announce our Regional Event and AGM is taking place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May at **The Food Museum in Stowmarket**. The cost is **£25 inc VAT** per person and can be booked by emailing [michael.dove@tdet.education](mailto:michael.dove@tdet.education). Our packed agenda includes an update from LACA National Chair, Brad Pearce, and an open discussion on the current issues in our sector. Then we have guest presentations from Rubbermaid about managing waste and recycling, CF Capital about lease options for your business, a market report and trend update from Bidfood plus a live demonstration from Pro-Veg International. We hope to see many of you there for our first face-to-face event in a while.

### Wednesday 5th – Friday 7th July - The Main Event

The highlight of the LACA year will be taking place at The Hilton Hotel, Birmingham and includes the annual Exhibition of Suppliers to the industry. It has never been more important to establish common ground and a collective voice on the importance of school food and the growing pressures operators are facing to provide this vital service. Surely it is time that Government and policymakers thought long and hard about the impact of no school meals service on our children's health now and into the future. As this year's Main Event's theme unequivocally states: *If not now, when?* **Check out the LACA website on how to book – remember the Early Bird Booking Rate is available until 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**



### SCOTy (School Chef of the Year) 2023

Wishing luck to the two Chefs going forward to the regional finals on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Premier Foods, St Albans:

- Wayne Charlton, Culinera
- Brenden Eades, Felsted School



### Finishing Touches

This fantastic competition provides entrants with the opportunity to show off their skills which would not normally be seen during their everyday profession. There are 12 categories this year and the judging will be taking place on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July. Entries must be made online by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 using the LACA website. It will be great to see lots of entries from the Eastern region!

### LACA Awards for Excellence

Nominations are now open for this year's Awards for Excellence. There are 12 award categories this year, including the new LACA Partner Innovation Award! Entries close on **28<sup>th</sup> April 2023** so get your nominations in to showcase and celebrate the fantastic work that goes on in our industry across the region!

## Charity Support

It is agreed that the East Anglia Children's Hospice (EACH) is a great worthy choice for our nominated charity. The charity has Hospices in three counties across our Region supporting many families with children who are facing terminal illness.

## Note from Michael Dove, Regional Chair

I have recently just taken over as Chair for the Eastern Region and I am looking forward to the task ahead. It has been a challenging time since the pandemic and now we are all experiencing the cost-of-living crisis. It amazes me that, despite all the challenges put in front of us, caterers, suppliers and partners are always there to support each other and ensure children get healthy and nutritious meals every day. The regional committee will work hard to ensure this support network is continued and help the National LACA committee 'bang the drum' for school meals. We are excited to be holding our first face to face seminar and annual AGM in May. We do hope that we are able to see many of our members to join us on the day. We are always looking to grow our region membership so please feel free to recommend others who may be interested in joining us. The region proudly won the annual LACA Region of the Year in 2022 and we are looking forward to defending this title in 2023! If any of you have great news stories which we can include in our submission, please forward to Clare at [clare.jordan@norsegroup.co.uk](mailto:clare.jordan@norsegroup.co.uk).



Kind regards,

LACA East of England Regional Committee