



## President's Message:

As the holiday season is upon us, the stress of scheduling, planning and feeding the masses can take its toll on a chef. Be sure to take time to enjoy the season with family and friends whenever possible. I know it's easier said than done, but simplicity is the key here – we have so much to be thankful for.

The NCCA is also thankful for the wonderful services of **Elena Clement, CEPC, AAC**. After two years as our Executive Director, Elena decided to step down to pursue other interests and will resign from her post at the end of the year. Elena has been instrumental in maintaining our communications efforts through the website, social media and email blasts. She has led numerous culinary salons and special events for the chapter and has been the consummate professional during multiple board changes. I cannot thank Elena enough for all she has done and we hope to continue to see her at chapter events.

In Elena's absence, the board decided to hire an outside agency to rebuild and maintain our website, newsletters and Facebook page. Laura Pilcher from Pilcher Creative Agency will handle these duties for us. Laura has done great work with the Greater Kansas City Chef's Association and we look forward to seeing what she will do with our website. I will keep you posted as we near the January 2016 re-launch date.

The New Year promises to have exciting and educational meetings for our members. We secured the first half of the 2016 calendar and it is packed with culinary demos from renowned area chefs, a beer and cheese tasting at a local brew pub in April, and the return of the holiday gala in January. **Greg Sharpe, CEC** and his team at Belle Haven CC have generously offered their place for the January 17<sup>th</sup> holiday gala. This promises to be an exciting event with an open bar, music, and culinary stations from local members. Mark your calendars now for you and your significant other to unwind after the holidays and enjoy great food, drink, and camaraderie with your fellow members. More information will be posted on the website.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank our board members, vendors and chapter friends for their services and support over the past year. We listened to your comments and are making strides to better **your** chapter. Membership is up over the past year and we intend to continue this trend to make the NCCA better serve your needs. Keep the ideas coming and keep offering to help by joining a committee or providing your expertise. We can only succeed with a collaborative effort.

Happy Holidays to you and your family,

*Christopher Britton*

Chris Britton, CEC  
NCCA Chapter President