

Dear Members,

Firstly, on behalf of the South East Committee, can we wish you a belated Happy New Year and we hope you enjoyed a well-deserved and no doubt, well-needed festive break?

For those of you who were unable to join us at the Christmas Seminar and Celebrations, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce your new Committee, following Neel's succession as NACC National Chair, combined with Catherine Kidd and Gwen Mattock's decisions to stand down as Regional Vice-Chair and Regional Secretary.

My name is **Mark Taylor** and I am absolutely delighted and proud to have been elected as the new **South East Regional Chair**. Currently, I am the Foodservice Channel Controller for Premier Foods and have been in the Foodservice / Hospitality Industry for over 30 years and have a passion for food; people and the industry overall. More recently and one of the reasons why I stood for this role, is I believe that we need to ensure our older people, whether they be in social care; receive community meals or are in private care get the highest possible catering available to them. In a time when austerity measures and local authority funding cuts are sadly 'the norm', we have to ensure these vulnerable people are well fed and not suffering from malnutrition; dehydration or in the worst cases – forgotten about. It's their right to be looked after and I know the South East Region, with the most passionate and committed members can all play their part in ensuring these dreadful situations are not 'the norm'.

Cathy Amos, your new **Vice Chair**, is currently National Account Manager Healthcare for Brakes. Cathy has been in this role for just over two years now and loves working with the people who work in it; applauds the work they do and the dedication there is in the sector to make a difference and make things better for both service units and all residents in care homes. In her words "I am passionate about food, very interested in nutrition and feel we all have a responsibility to constantly move things forward by working together as both providers and suppliers. I also rather enjoy organising events and therefore would like to hope that my skills and enthusiasm (and the support of the business I work in) mean I can bring value to the NACC London and South East region, and I can assure you I will give it my all".

Vivien Rose, your new **Secretary**, is Service Manager for London Borough of Redbridge, Adult Social Services, managing Community Meals, Day Opportunities and a Luncheon Club for Older People and Day Opportunities centres for adults with physical/sensory and learning disability needs. Viv says 'Having worked for Community Meals for nearly twenty five years, I am so pleased that the importance of good nutrition and hydration is being recognised, which I have been passionately promoting and supporting. I have been a member of the NACC for twelve years and the knowledge and expertise I have gained as a member with other committed and dedicated members with the shared aims and goals has enabled me to develop and enhance the service. I am now delighted to have been elected to the SE Secretary role, to support the NACC and carry on the work that we do with dedicated commitment'.

Well 2014 is well and truly underway with loads of things happening straight away. At the end of this letter, there are web links to all the South East Regional 2014 Seminar Dates and booking forms; the March one, which incorporates the 2014 Regional Care Cook of the Year Competition, is being held at a new venue in Finchley, North London.

<http://www.thenacc.co.uk/regions/southeast>

We also have 2014 Nutrition and Hydration Week in March, which I urge you to sign up for and we can't wait to see the innovative ideas on how you plan to engage with this. Details below;

http://www.thenacc.co.uk/events/Nutrition_Hydration_Week

The NACC National Training and Development Forum moves to a new location in 2014: East Midland Conference Centre, so we hope you'll all look to attend that as this year, it's getting a total revamp and I know the organising committee have a few surprises up their sleeves!

And finally, following last years AMAZING Christmas Seminar and Celebrations, listening to the feedback already, we have secured the same venue as not only do we have a tough act to follow in Neel's organisation, but I'm confident, you won't be disappointed with either the seminar or the party afterwards.

As your new committee, it will take us some time to contact you all individually, either when you attend a seminar or electronically, or via the phone, but we'd love to hear from you with your views, comments and feedback as we want to continue to ensure that the South East Region remains the biggest and best region there is, combined with having the most passionate and pro-active members.

On behalf of Cathy, Viv and myself, we look forward to seeing you all very soon and please visit the regional pages on the website (also below) or follow us on **Twitter** using @NACCSOUTHEAST, or via our LinkedIn group page

Regards,

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