



Bernie Mulholland

Territory Sales Manager

The J.M. Smucker Company

Years in position: 8

Professional / Other Experience:

Away from Home Sales Manager, Broker Sales Manager, Broadline Distribution Healthcare Sales & Beverage Manager, Foodservice Director Healthcare.

AHF Involvement:

I have been active with AHF-NJ/NY chapters for eight years. Currently serving on the Board of AHF-NJ for four years. I have been active with J.M. Smucker and AHF National for three years. I will continue to utilize my experiences in operator, distributor, broker and manufacturer positions to assist AHF-NJ grow and continue the development of self-operated Healthcare foodservice in our region.

Statement of Intent:

I will continue to dedicate my experience and knowledge with AHF both Regionally and Nationally to improve our local AHF-NJ chapter. My enthusiasm to bring additional vendor members and create a synergy with New York and Pennsylvania AHF chapters will be a focus. Along with the AHF-NJ team, I seek to initiate best practice programs for all members. Together we look to have answers for all members looking to have quality products, systems and services at their facilities.



Mike Cocco

Senior Territory Manager

Aladdin Temp-Rite

I respectfully ask to be considered to be an allied board member of GNJSHFSA. I have been an active member of this organization since joining Aladdin Temp-Rite 13 years ago. I have enjoyed my current vendor partner level status for several years. I am also a member of the NY AHF chapter at the vendor partner level as well. Prior to joining Aladdin, I was a healthcare foodservice sales rep. at US Foods. Overall I have over 21 years of direct sales experience to the healthcare industry.

During my tenure at Aladdin, I've seen many changes and challenges to our industry. Smaller community hospitals have been acquired by bigger health systems. Many hospitals have closed. Nursing homes and rehab facilities continue to struggle under reimbursement cuts and still difficult economic conditions.

Obamacare has radically changed our industry, and with the new incoming administration, its future is unknown. In spite of all these challenges, operators continue to be pressed to improve patient satisfaction, while resources to do so are diminished. Vendors struggle under these conditions as well. In my opinion, this organization and the value it provides are needed now more than ever.

If I am chosen to serve as an allied board member, my intention would be to continue to promote and help grow this organization, and add value wherever I can for both operators and the vendor community. Thank you for the consideration.



Nicholas Mercogliano, WCMC, CEC, CPC

Position: Corporate Executive Chef

Company: Pecinka Ferri

Years in position: 4.

Other experience:

- Board member of the local chapters of the American Culinary Federation Jersey Shore Chefs;
- Food committee Member of Mafsi (Manufacture's Agents Association for the Foodservice Industry);
- American Culinary Federation Certification Commission Member;

AHF-NJ Involvement: Have been a member of AHF-NJ for over 8 years

I have:

Competed in the culinary competitions for 6 years

Presented for the white toque educational training

Hosted the annual fall culinary challenge

Hosted the summer BBQ

Presenter November Seminar 2018

Awards:

- First place AHF-NJ Culinary Vendor Competition
Future Horizon Awards-2014
- Chef of the year-2013

Statement of Intent:

I have been very involved with AHF-NJ for the past seven years. Being part of this great organization it has allowed me to grow both personally and professionally.

In my current role as a corporate Chef it allows me to visit many operations and help operators improve their overall food presentation and production needs.

AHF-NJ is the strongest AHF chapter in the country and if I'm selected to serve as a board member I will work extremely hard to help increase our membership and help deliver excellent educational programs. I'm a dedicated food service professional that enjoys making a positive impact in all I do.



Ken Persing

Regional Territory Manager with **RC Fine Foods** for 15+ years

The foodservice industry is in my blood. Starting as a busboy with Red Lobster when I turned sixteen, learning all of their positions, and a manager with them the last 2 years of my 6 year tenure. My last restaurant position was with Old Man Rafferty's restaurant group as a General Manager over multiple locations for 8 years.

I have been involved with the AHF-NJ for over 10 years. I am also very fortunate to be an active member with the American Culinary Federation (ACF) in the Jersey Shore Chefs Association. I am Serve Safe Certified.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working/networking with colleagues in AHF-NJ. The healthcare foodservice industry has evolved dramatically in the last few decades and the need for creativity has never been more. I find myself wanting to learn more and help with the challenges of today and would like to share my unique background of experience with others in the industry.



Amir Kamal

Patient Services Coordinator

Atlantic Health/Overlook Medical Center

Years in Position: 3.5

Other experience: I have worked in many facets of the hospitality industry, and have done so for over 20 years. I have also operated a family owned restaurant in NYC.

AHF-NJ Involvement: I am an active member with the AHF-NJ. I have been on the board for the last two years and look to continue serving the organization for many years to come.

Other Professional Affiliations: I am an active Member of the Association for Healthcare Food Service. I am in the process of joining committees and supporting events sponsored by the AHF.

Statement of Intent:

My intentions are to carry on the philosophy and mission of this great organization. To build upon the accomplishments already realized. I wish to bring my experience and passion to this organization and to help prepare our member and allied colleagues for the future. Through ingenuity, creativity and collaborative means, I will work hard to keep AHF-NJ at the forefront of our industry.



Dawn Cascio, MS, RD

Director of Food & Nutrition

The Valley Hospital, Ridgewood NJ *Years in position: 10*

Other Experience:

2004-2008 Assistant Director Patient Services, Mountainside Hospital, Montclair, NJ

2000-2004 Director Food & Nutrition Summit Oaks Hospital, Summit NJ

1998-2000 Registered Dietitian, Summit Ridge Center, West Orange NJ

Education: BS Nutrition, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
UMDNJ Dietetic Internship Program, Newark, NJ
Masters in Health Care Management, College of Saint Elizabeth, Morristown, NJ

AHF-NJ Involvement: Member since 2003, Board Member 2010-2016, President 2013

Other Professional Affiliations: Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM), Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND) and the Association for Healthcare Foodservice (AHF)

Statement of Intent:

I would like to play a continued role in promoting and supporting AHF-NJ and the positive opportunities and professional advances that it provides.



Elizabeth Silverthorne, DCN, RD

Position:

Manager of Food and Nutrition Services

Coordinator, Weight Loss Surgery Program

Institution/Company:

Prime Healthcare

Saint Clare's Health

Dover Campus

Years in Position:

I have been with Saint Clare's for five years but have been in the food and nutrition industry as a Registered Dietitian for 20 years all the while having the opportunity to do both operations as well as clinical nutrition.

Other experience: While I currently find myself at Saint Clare's in the acute care setting and working with the bariatric surgery program, my career in healthcare foodservice began in long term care. I spent many years overseeing both the foodservice operations as well as clinical nutrition services for a large senior care company. Additionally, my husband and I own a well-established restaurant in Morris County for over two decades.

AHF-NJ Involvement:

My involvement to date has consisted of being a member for the past five years and attending many of the educational and fun networking events put forth by the chapter. It is for that reason, I am now looking forward to becoming a more active member of the organization.

Other Professional Affiliations:

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Statement of Intent:

I am seeking a position on the board of AHF-NJ as I firmly believe in its mission and understand the tremendous value of networking and continuing education. Over the past five years I have witnessed the energy and worthwhile experiences that this chapter has brought to our NJ healthcare foodservice industry and I wish to take a greater role at this time. I believe my many year's experiences as both an operator in the healthcare food service industry as well in the retail restaurant industry will enable me to contribute to the organization and its members. It would be a privilege to be considered for election to this unique and energetic organization.

**Jill Wedeen, MPA, RD**

Position: Assistant Director, Patient Service and Clinical Nutrition

Company: Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital – New Brunswick

Years in position: Have in been in the healthcare industry for over 30 years.

Other experience:

- Board member of the local chapters of the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association;
- Registered Dietitian for over 30 years,
- Private Practice in Dietetics;
- Speaker for the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association, lecturing on nutrition related topics.

AHF-NJ Involvement: Have been a member of AHF-NJ for over 22 years, and attended many lectures, and programs that were provided.

Other Professional Affiliations:

- Member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for over 30 years;
- Member of National Association of Professional Women for 3 years;
- Team captain for the Lupus Research Alliance for the past 15 years, raised over \$43,000.

Awards:

- Culture of Kindness Excellence Award – 2018;
- VIP Woman of the Year Award – 2015
- Lupus Research Alliance Gold Level Award for Fundraising – 2016, 2017, 2018

Statement of Intent: I have been in healthcare foodservice for the past 30 years. In my role as Assistant Director at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, I have been very fortunate to be involved in our local AHF-NJ chapter. If I am selected to become a board member, my experience and commitment to continuously improve healthcare foodservice, will be very evident. I am very dedicated to our profession, and it is time for me to give back, and to help develop the future leaders of healthcare foodservice. I feel I can be a great asset to the Board of Directors of AHF-NJ.



April Albanese, DTR

Patient Services Supervisor

Saint Peters University Hospital

22 years

Member of the New Jersey Chapter Association for Healthcare Foodservice

Member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Member of the New Jersey Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

A Certified ServSafe Instructor & Registered ServSafe Examination Proctor

As a Board Member with the Association for Healthcare Foodservice along with my many years of food service management experience I feel that I can support this association and their mission. Enhancing staff performance along with my proven leadership skills will prove useful to the association. By utilizing these skills I have gained in my time with Saint Peters I will be able to assist with providing services for educating and representing our members along with promoting the interests of our members. I am confident that these qualities together with my commitment to work will be an asset to the association.



Elaine C. Ashe

Position: Director of Dietary Services

Institution/Company St. Mary's General Hospital

Years in Position: 4 years (2014 – present)

Other Experience: 2008-2014- Clinical Nutrition Manager – Jersey City Medical Center, Jersey City, NJ

2000-2008 – Infant Nutrition Representative - Nestle Nutrition, Glendale, Ca.

2003-2005 - Clinical Nutrition Instructor, Microtech, Jersey City , NJ

1995-2000 – Clinical Dietitian – Columbus Hospital, Newark, NJ

AHF-NJ Involvement: Member: Member since 2008

Other Professional Affiliations: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

NJ Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Dietetic Practice Group: Clinical Nutrition Management

Statement of Intent: It would be an honor to serve as a Board Member of NJ-AHF, an organization dedicated to supporting its members with professional growth and educational opportunities. I am presently the Director of Dietary Services for St. Mary's General Hospital. I am responsible for reviewing, evaluating and directing all aspects of nutrition care for patients, employees and visitors while recognizing our diverse community and being sensitive to cultural nutritional ideals.

As a Nutrition professional, I have been able to enjoy the benefits that your organization offers. It is my goal that as a member of this Board to reciprocate by contributing through my experiences and support the members to the best of my ability.

