

Industry executives convene at annual Elliot conference

NEW YORK — More than 200 foodservice executives met recently to share ideas and strategies during the 19th annual Elliot Leadership conference here.

Sponsored by the Elliot Group, a Tarrytown, N.Y.-based executive search and consulting firm, the by-invitation-only event, held at the Waldorf-Astoria, featured a number of industry leaders who discussed the economic status of the industry, food and nutrition trends and best practices in human resources.

Several awards also were given, including the Elliot Mentor of the Year Award, which went to Rick Berman, president of Berman and Co., a Washington,

D.C.-based public-affairs firm, and a columnist for Nation's Restaurant News.

Also honored as Motivators of the Year were Anne Varano, senior vice president of human resources, Carlson Restaurants Worldwide; Carol DeCanio, director of training and recruiting, Shells Seafood Inc.; Sandee Pritchard, chief people officer, Whataburger Inc.; David Kahn, vice president of human resources, Business Services division, Aramark; and Susie Southgate-Fox, senior vice president, human resources, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises Inc.

— Dina Berta



Left, from left: Russ Bendel, president and chief operating officer, Mimi's Cafe; Alice Elliot, founder and CEO, The Elliot Group; Bill Allen, CEO, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse and Wine Bar; and Jill Dilosa, research analyst, Vardon Capital Management

PHOTOS: MARK STEVENSON



Above, from left: Joe Cugine, vice president and general manager, Pepsi-Cola North America Foodservice Division; Sue Ann Hill; Eliot; Lloyd Hill, chairman and CEO, Applebee's International Inc.; Dawn Hudson, president, Pepsi-Cola North America; and Steve Caldeira, vice president of industry relations, PepsiCo. Inc.

Below, from left: Todd Diener, executive vice president and COO, Brinker International Inc.; Rick Berman, president, Berman and Co.; Paul Avery, president and CEO, Outback Steakhouses Inc.; and Randy Dewitt, founder and president, Rockfish Restaurants



Below: Diana and Gordon Miles, chairman of the board, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. International



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Above: John Grady, president, Ninety Nine Restaurant and Pub, left, and Scott Vasko, vice president of human resources, Palm Management

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Left, from left: Lou Kaucic, chief people officer, Applebee's International Inc.; Jeff Bell, vice president of human resources, Houston's Restaurants Inc.; Norm Hill, senior vice president, CBRL Group Inc.; Roz Mallet, chief operating officer, La Madeleine French Bakery and Cafe; and Pat Harris, chief diversity officer, McDonald's Corp.

Below, from left: Cameron Mitchell, founder and president, Cameron Mitchell Restaurants; Eliot Schwartz, chairman and chef, and Lori Daniel, chief inspiration officer, both of Two Chefs on a Roll Inc.; and Tim Ryan, president, The Culinary Institute of America



Above, from left: Jim Minidis, president, CEO and founder, and Lynn Minidis, vice president and CFO, both of RedBrick Pizza Worldwide Inc.; and Gary Bryant, president and CEO, Bear Rock Foods



Above, from left: Susan Osterberg, chief support officer, O'Charley's Inc.; John T. Bettin, president, Morton's of Chicago Inc.; and Gregory Burns, chairman and CEO, O'Charley's Inc.

Left, from left: Judy Shoulak, senior vice president, operations, and Sally Smith, president and CEO, both of Buffalo Wild Wings; Debi Benedetti, principal, Kitchen Sync; and Loret Carbone, chief operating officer, Tahoe Joe's Famous Steakhouse

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Left, from left: Kathleen Wood, president, Elliot Solutions; Julia Stewart, president and CEO, IHOP Corp.; Tim Taft, president and COO, Whataburger Inc.; Kevin Brown, president and CEO, Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises Inc.; and Richard Snead, president, Carlson Restaurants Worldwide Inc.

Sponsors and attendees of this year's Elliot confab

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John Tate, chief operating officer, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts Corp.



Left, from left: Alice Wheelwright, chair elect, Women's Foodservice Forum; Gerry Fernandez, president, and Stephanie Collier, senior director, operations and development, both of MultiCultural Foodservice Hospitality Alliance; and Ganis Catalina, senior vice president, Elliot Associates Inc.

Below, from left: Jack Shuessler, chairman and CEO, Wendy's International Inc.; Sherry and Kevin Hall, co-founder, president and CEO, Guru's Enlightened Eating



Above, from left: Reginald Washington, outgoing chairman, National Restaurant Association; William Anton, chairman, Anton Airfood Inc.; and R. Lee Culpepper, government affairs, NRA

