



NACC – Scottish Region Report 2008

This has been a busy year for the Scottish Group and its members. However, as always, we have risen to the challenge, moving forward the topical catering issues in both the public and commercial sector. We have forged local links with The Hospital Caterers Association, (West of Scotland Branch) and made a concerted effort to increase the membership, particularly within Local Authorities, by targeting the Council Officers in the localities surrounding our meeting venues. We are able to draw on the experience of colleagues in the “Supplier” sector for the names of contacts in this ever-changing environment. Membership has increased by 26%, from 37 to 50, and although attendance at meetings is seldom at this level we are pleased to find new faces round the table alongside the stalwarts.

As Chair of the Scottish Region I have attended the ASSIST (Facilities Management) Conference and presented at both an ADSW (Assistant Directors of Social Work) meeting and the Scottish APSE (Association for Public Sector Excellence) Conference. I was also delighted to participate in the launch of MOW week when HRH, Camilla, Duchess of Rothesay, delivered meals to a service user in Ballater.

For the second year running and in only our third year competing, a Scottish entrant was placed in the top three of the Care Cook of the Year Competition, thus highlighting the quality of Scottish skills and produce.

Our past Chair, Colin Kennedy, was awarded a well deserved Life Membership and we congratulate him on that honour.

Meetings

Although we are still struggling to maintain numbers at our quarterly meetings those who have attended have benefited from the variety of topics presented.

The Scottish Region participated in the HCA Study Day at The Marine Hotel, Troon at the kind invitation of the West of Scotland Branch of the Hospital Caterers Association.

Members struggled against atrocious weather conditions to reach the venue famous for its links golf course. Not even the hardiest seagull ventured out to brave the horizontal rain and force 8 gales! An interesting day was promised and the speakers throughout the programme did not disappoint. Informative presentations on the mechanics of dysphasia, the modern role of the WRVS, and Protected Mealtimes within the NHS were provided and an amusing talk by the NHS “Fraud Squad” showed how, from the top of the tree to the lowest level, “entrepreneurial” employees have developed scams to cream off pennies and pounds from the public pot. The annual Burns Supper proved a wonderful finish to this event.

Our joint meeting with colleagues from The North (but actually the South!) took place in June when a great time was had by all. (See Ellens report) With their usual enthusiasm for anything free our NACC members headed home with “carbootfuls” of local veggies.

A warm welcome was extended to the eight members who attended the meeting hosted by E.R. Moffat at the Bonnybridge factory on 3rd Sept 2008. The business meeting covered the usual agenda items providing updates on Care Cook of the Year 08, the National Treasurer Post, Conference, National Awards, and membership news. We heard a brief summary of the issues being discussed at National Executive and made some progress in our attempts to establish some working parties to spread the workload.

We were delighted to welcome Douglas McLellan from Age Concern, Scotland who gave us a brief history of the organisation in Scotland. He updated us on the Scottish perspectives of the "Hungry to be Heard" campaign, as that waged south of the border did not fit easily with the Scottish statutory requirements and different agencies monitoring and providing guidelines on nutrition. Douglas was recruited to ensure that the square peg fitted into the round hole.

The factory tour provided the opportunity to walk off our lunch. We were amazed to watch state of the art laser machinery cut and press sheets of metal into the recognisable shapes of the equipment we use in catering establishments every day.

Despite the weather and treacherous driving conditions, most members eventually joined us in time to enjoy a very informative talk giving us an insight into hospital catering at the new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. The facilities at the state of the art hospital are designed to regenerate and serve meals direct to the patient on the ward ensuring optimum freshness.

We were delighted to welcome our National Chair, Sue Ullmann, who told us about her role in our organisation and our vision for the future. A shortened business agenda was required to allow speedy departure to the restaurant for Xmas lunch which our "supplier colleagues kindly sponsored.

As the current office bearers hand over to the new team we wish them well as they lead the Scottish group to continued success.

Shona Strachan
NACC Scottish Chair

12/01/09