

The Fireside Theatre's Executive Chef Honored by Governor Doyle and Assemblyman Jorgensen

(March 17, 2009...Fort Atkinson, WI) On behalf of Governor Jim Doyle, a State of Wisconsin Certificate of Commendation was presented to David Wolfram, The Fireside Theatre's executive chef by Assemblyman Andy Jorgensen on Friday, March 13, 2009 at The Fireside Theatre in Fort Atkinson. The award was requested by Jackie Wenkman of the Office of Independence and Employment within Wisconsin's Department of Health Services in recognition of Mr. Wolfram's years of service to developmentally disabled workers and his recent retirement after nearly 45 years with The Fireside.

The award stated:

“Whereas, David Wolfram has worked since 1964 at The Fireside Dinner Theatre, one of Wisconsin's finest restaurants and dinner theatres; and

Whereas, in his role as Executive Chef of The Fireside Restaurant, David has brought Broadway caliber entertainment accompanied by fine dining to Wisconsin with great success; and

Whereas, The Fireside's owners, the Klopocic family, and David have been instrumental in hiring and retaining staff with developmental disabilities in real jobs for real wages since 1976; and

Whereas, David, without fanfare, has successfully trained these staff and mobilized critical “natural supports” for these employees among the full staff; and

Whereas, David has created an environment in the Fort Atkinson community that is welcoming and supportive of diversity in the workforce; and

More...

Whereas, despite the recent economic challenges confronting all citizens and all sectors of Wisconsin's economy which have resulted in job losses statewide, the staff with disabilities, under David's guidance, remain on the job making substantial contributions to their employer's success; and

Whereas, David has set a positive example for his colleagues by demonstrating a strong commitment to people with developmental disabilities in south-central Wisconsin who have; in return, added value to their community through their economic advancement and employment success;

Now, therefore I, Jim Doyle, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby commend David Wolfram for his leadership and years of service in making The Fireside an inclusive place for children, individuals, and families and wish him all the best in his retirement.”

The Fireside continues to employ approximately 20 developmentally disabled associates through their relationship with St. Coletta School and Opportunities Inc. “All of us at The Fireside are incredibly pleased for the recognition David has received from Governor Doyle with this award,” said Rick Klopocz, president of The Fireside. “He has always been a strong advocate for these associates and praises their dedication, hard work, and commitment to quality. We look forward to continuing David’s tradition and legacy in our inclusive employment here at The Fireside,” Klopocz concluded.

Since 1964, The Fireside Theatre in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin has been the premiere entertainment destination in the Midwest for superb musicals featuring Broadway performers, fine dining, and boutique shops in a one-of-a-kind setting. Consistently named as a top destination for travel tours across the United States, The Fireside is owned by the Klopocz family, who were awarded the distinction of “America’s Best Restaurant Family” by Jones Dairy Farm and the Culinary Institute of America in 2006. For more information on The Fireside, visit www.firesidetheatre.com, or call 1-800-477-9505.

###