

**NERCA Dinner Meeting
Friendsgiving
J. Anthony's, Auburn, MA
October 7, 2025
Time: 6PM
Agenda**

- I. Welcome -Erin
- II. Secretary's Report
 - a. Review Minutes of May 3, 2025 (Membership Vote next May 2026)
 - b. Review Agenda for Next Year's Annual Meeting in Montreal
- III. Slate of 2025-2026 Board of Directors -Erin (Membership Voted in May 2025)
 - President -Erin Collins, Haven's Candies
 - 1st Vice President -Sharon Wintersteen, Snowflake Chocolates
 - 2nd Vice President -Carmen Romeo, Fascia's Chocolates
 - Past President -Jillian Winfrey Pallazola, Winfrey's Fudge & Chocolates
 - Secretary -Brian Sweenor, Sweenor's Chocolates
 - Treasurer -Lori Gowell, Gowell's Candy
 - Board Member -Richard Gowell, Gowell's Candy
 - Board Member -Kathie Williams, Richardson's Candy Kitchen
 - Vendor Board Member -Howard Robinson, H&C Sales
 - Vendor Board Member -Dan Andersen, Hillard's Chocolate Systems
 - Vendor Board Member -Laurie Taunton, Borrow Distributing
- IV. Treasurer's Report -Lori
 - a. Financial Update
 - b. Annual Membership Dues (Membership Voted in May 2025 -\$200 Annually)
- V. Old Business
 - a. NERCA Website Update
 - b. Sub-Committee Updates
 - i. Website & Social Media Committee
 - ii. Event & Dinner Planning Committee
 - iii. New Member Committee
 - iv. Educational Scholarship Committee
 - c. Bylaw Discussion, if necessary
- VI. New Business / Open Discussion -Erin
 - a. October 2026 Dinner and May 2027 Annual Meeting Ideas
- IV. Next Meeting -schedule

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Meeting Minutes**

- I. Welcome -Erin
- II. Secretary's Report
 - a. Review Minutes of May 3, 2025 (Membership Vote next May 2026)
 - b. Review Agenda for Next Year's Annual Meeting in Montreal

There were no meeting minutes to vote on at this meeting, our next official vote will occur in May 2026. Ms. Taunton provided an overview for the upcoming Annual Meeting in Montreal. She handed out a detailed agenda and a cost breakdown on what we could expect. Interested NERCA members should plan to submit their respective deposits either via check or the website. A total of approximately 40 NERCA members can attend and all festivities will be hosted by Barry Callebaut at their Chocolate Academy.

- III. Slate of 2025-2026 Board of Directors -Erin (Membership Voted in May 2025)
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No vote is necessary until the next annual meeting in May 2026. Ms. Collins mentioned that Ms. Wintersteen is planning to step down as 1st Vice President but will remain on Board. Also, Mr. Romeo is now serving on the Board of Retail Confectioners International, and this new role comes with greater responsibility and time commitment. With this said, Ms. Collins did ask if anyone in the membership would be interested in joining the Board. Both Marie Schaller from the Chocolate Delicacy and Kristin Fraizer from Wilbur's of Maine expressed interest and willingness to join the NERCA Board.

- IV. Treasurer's Report -Lori
 - a. Financial Update
 - b. Annual Membership Dues (Membership Voted in May 2025 -\$200 Annually)

Ms. Gowell provided an update on our NERCA finances. We currently have \$13,521.23 in our NERCA checking account and a total of 39 paid NERCA members. Again, no vote necessary concerning annual dues at this meeting.

- V. Old Business
 - a. NERCA Website Update
 - b. Sub-Committee Updates
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- VI. New Business / Open Discussion -Erin
 - a. October 2026 Dinner and May 2027 Annual Meeting Ideas

The membership was asked for future ideas of places they might be interested in for future events and membership meetings. Many ideas were discussed such as possible trips to Vermont, Cape Cod, Lake Winnepesaukee etc. Stay tuned for future communications regarding future events. We will add them to our Events Calendar on the new NERCA website.

IV. Next Meeting -schedule

Our next meeting will be the Annual Meeting in Montreal, hosted by Barry Callebaut May 3-5, 2026. Since there were no further matters to address the meeting was adjourned.

NERCA 2026

YOU ARE

Officially

INVITED

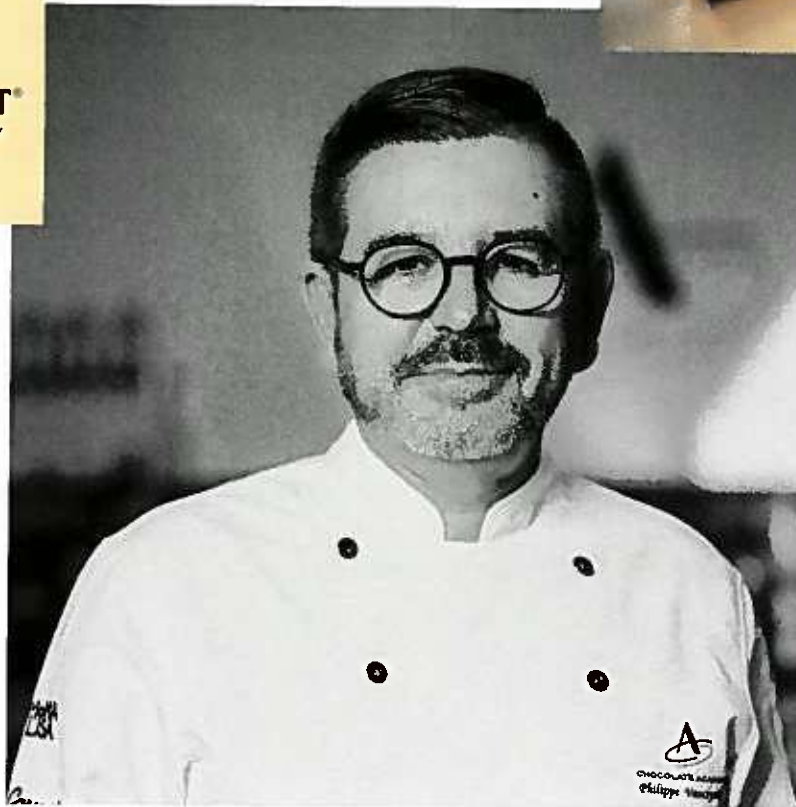
BARRY CALLEBAUT

CHOCOLATE
ACADEMY

May 3rd, 4th and 5th 2026

MONTREAL CANADA

PHILIPPE VANCAYSEELE



Chef Philippe started his culinary training in 1975 in Belgium. After 6 years of working as a pastry chef, he joined Mondose & Corné Port Royal factory (now Neuhaus-Mondose). He graduated in Biochemistry/Grundings and Teachers Highest degree in Brussels. In 1994, Chef Philippe joined Barry Callebaut and became a worldwide Callebaut chef and technical advisor. This gave him the chance to become an expert in chocolate manufacturing & sharing his creativity and passion for chocolate in more than 80 countries. Chef Philippe moved to Canada in 2012 and is now the Master Chocolatier & Senior Technical Advisor at the Chocolate Academy™ Montreal Training Centre".

MONTRÉAL - DAY 1

ITINERARY

Monday 5/4

9AM - Callebaut Chocolate Academy Check-in and Depart – Hotel Lobby

9:30AM Groups Break-out:

Group A – 15 People for the Master Class at the Chocolate Academy

Group B – 20-25 People depart for Chocolatier tours

12:30 – 1:30PM – catered lunch in the Barry Callebaut Amphitheater

1:30 – 3:30PM - Afternoon Session Break-out:

Group B – 15 People for the Master Class at the Chocolate Academy

Group A – 20-25 People depart for Chocolatier tours

4:00PM - Depart to host hotel

6:30 – Time Out Market for drinks and dinner! OYO



MONTREAL - DAY 2

ITINERARY

Tuesday 5/5

7AM – Depart for tours; Barry Callebaut Plant Tour – St Hyacinthe, Quebec

8:00 AM – Barry Callebaut Plant Tour

9:30 AM – Depart for the French Macaroon Plant Tour – Quebec

10:00 – Macaron Plant Tour

11:30 AM – Depart for Barry Callebaut Chocolate Academy

12:15 PM – NERCA Meeting and lunch at the Barry Callebaut Amphitheater

1:30 PM – Auditorium Amphitheater Barry Callebaut Demonstration

3:30 PM – Book Signing (if pre-ordered) / Goodbyes

4:00 PM – Bus departs for host hotel

Montreal –

Accommodation:

Hotel Omni Mont-Royal – 3 nights (5/3 – 5/5) \$264.00 / night - \$792.00



Sunday 5/3

Arrival & Check-in – Any time after 3 PM

6PM Welcome Dinner – Group Dinner (\$120.00 /person)

Proposed location is the iconic rooftop of Hotel Nelligan and is called Terrasse Nelligan (Elegance at a height)



Budget -

Estimated Total Event: \$1562.00 (1 room, 1 person)

Additional guest cost estimate: \$620.00 per person

Per couple guesstimate - \$2182.00 (\$1091.00 per person)

- NERCA Expenses - \$370.00
- Hotel Est. per room - \$792.00
- OYO Est. Expenses per person - \$250.00
- Chocolate Bible - \$150.00 (optional)

Budget Details -

NERCA Dinner – 5/3 - \$120.00 / person (dinner plus tax & gratuity)

Bus Charter for 2 days – \$150.00 / person (covers transportation for 5/4 & 5/5)

Lunch, Snacks and Drinks at Barry Callebaut Chocolate Academy - \$100.00 / person (covers 5/4 & 5/5)

Breakfast for 2 days - \$50.00 / person – OYO

Dinner 2 nights - \$200.00 / person – OYO

Host Hotel / Accommodations: \$792.00 / room - OYO

OTHER INFO:

RSVP immediately to ensure participation.

Must be a paid and active NERCA member.

We will have to cap attendance at 50 – due to bus capacity or we add another bus!

We will have to cap Chocolate Academy Master Classes to 15 people per session.

Wait list for the Master Classes and wait list for the actual trip in its entirety will be first come / first right of refusal.

Non-refundable but transferable deposit of \$370.00 per person due 1/1/26 (covers expenses of NERCA)

Chocolate Bibles need to be pre-ordered and is an optional expense

RSVP's open on 10/8/25

laurie@bobrowdistributing.com

or lorigowell@gmail.com

Please be sure to include the following with your RSVP email

request:

Business Name:

of Trip Attendee's:

of Chocolate Master Class Attendee's: