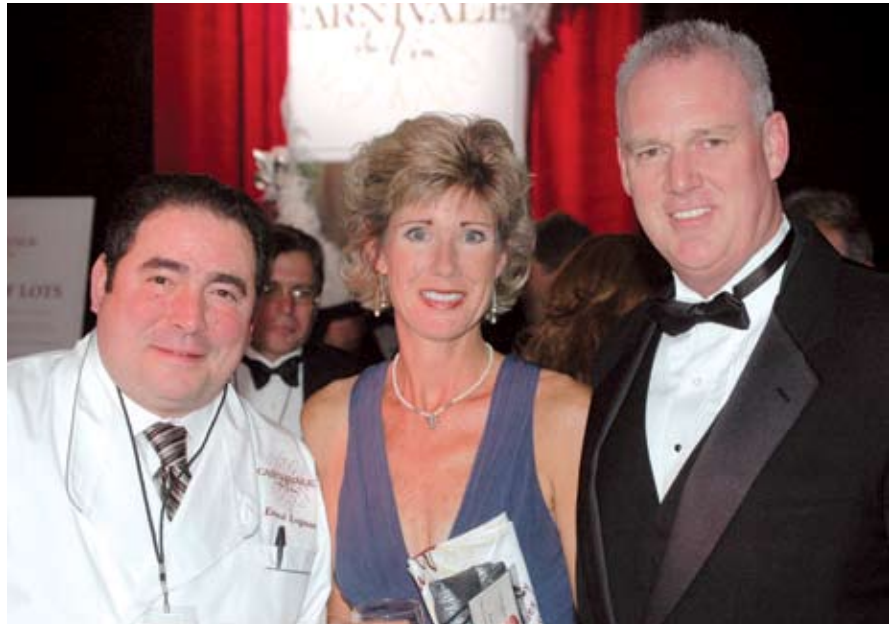


# III Supports Emeril Lagasse's Carnivale du Vin

Carnivale du Vin is a charity event created by Emeril Lagasse, the famous chef and TV personality. The event is a per-plate event, created to raise money for The Emeril Lagasse Foundation which supports children in the New Orleans area.

The Carnivale du Vin is an evening of incredible food and wine, music and entertainment, along with a charity auction. The 2006 items for auction included many exciting items, such as a birthday celebration with Emeril and Sammy Hagar in Cabo San Lucas, a Napa Valley getaway; a Domaine Serene Oregon package; rare wine; and personal tennis lessons by Stephe Graff and Andre Agassi! In 2006, it raised over \$2 million.

The 2006 meals were prepared by famous chefs from across the country, including Wolfgang Puck, Mario Batali, and Lidia Bastianich. Entertainment included famous musicians, such as the world-renowned Michael MacDonald, and local New Orleans celebrities such as Irma Thomas and Allen Toussaint and his band.



For the 2006 event, III was represented by Carl and Ann Van, pictured above with Chef Emeril.

In 2007, III has committed to a table of 10. International Insurance Institute supports the fund and the Carnivale du Vin by inviting fans of Emeril in the insurance community to come join their table and support The Emeril Lagasse Foundation. III will be giving away a set of two tickets to the 2007 event to a lucky student in one

of its training sessions some time this year.

For information on the event, visit [www.carnivaleduvin.com](http://www.carnivaleduvin.com).

*If you are interested in joining the III table in 2007 (\$1,000 per plate), please contact Carl Van at 504-393-4570.*

## Personal Development from page 9

customer service. He feels the present survey is too long and this is affecting the return rate of the surveys. He wants to limit the survey to five key questions. So, he writes down his points, and why he thinks limiting the questions will result in an increased return rate. This may involve bringing in some outside data on the issue. Once Peter has decided what he wants to say, he practices presenting his ideas to the group in a clear, convincing, and logical manner. Remember the old saying, "As you practice, so shall you do."

## Implementing Feedback

Peter asks someone else in the meeting to assist him by evaluating his par-

ticipation and communication. After the meeting, he seeks out immediate feedback on how he did and ways he can improve.

After receiving feedback, he continues to implement changes in order to keep enhancing his performance. When he feels comfortable, he may go back to the same individuals who provided the original assessment to see if they have noticed improvement. When he is comfortable with his own development, he can move on to other areas of possible improvement.

The process can, at first, seem a bit overwhelming. To avoid this, Peter selects one or two areas to work on at a time. Many habits are hard to break,

so patience and perseverance are very important. Trying to break more than one or two habits at a time can be extremely difficult.

Peter must realize that he is changing behaviors that have been developed over many years. Success will take time and will likely involve a few setbacks, but it will be worth the effort.



*Scott Thomas, AIC, CPCU, is director of claims at West Bend Mutual Insurance based out of West Bend, Wis., and past president of the Wisconsin Claims*

*Council. He may be reached at 262-334-6461 or [sthomas@wbmi.com](mailto:sthomas@wbmi.com).*