



A New York Minute



CASA Newsletter

NY Conference

Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

Issue 4, Volume 06

December, 2006

President's Message

As the year nears an end I would like to take a moment and thank all of the NY Conference members for making 2006 one of our most productive and successful years. With the completion of our holiday meeting we will have held four training sessions this year, all of which had record breaking attendance.

Thanks to our editor, Nadine Roe, our newsletter, "A New York Minute", has been singled out by our fellow conferences as a leading CASA publication.

It is apparent that our members are out there spreading the good word about our organization in that membership has increased 10% from this time last year. Our conference is now ranked as the 4th largest CASA conference behind Baltimore, Philadelphia and Susquehanna.

The Executive Board has been busy planning an exceptional holiday meeting that will include, as a special guest speaker, J. Joseph Corby, Director of the Division of Food Safety and Inspection for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Due to overwhelming demand, the meeting will again be held at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach. As a way of saying thanks for your support throughout the

year the cost of the holiday meeting will be partially subsidized by CASA and we'll spice things up with gift giveaways throughout the day.

I look forward to seeing you at the holiday meeting!

Christopher Sortino
President
NY Conference CASA



Donald Ullstrom from the FDA discusses shellfish biology.



Muhammad Ghani from the New York City Department of Health discusses hand-held technology.



Mary Leong from the FDA discusses the ALERT system.



Jane Greenko from the New York State Department of Health discusses viral hepatitis in health care settings.



Faina Stavinsky shares information about a recent outbreak of V. parahaemolyticus in NYC.

Visit our website at www.casa.org

News and Notes

FDA Updates:



On October 12, 2006, FDA and the State of California announced that test results from the field investigation of the outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 in spinach are positive for E. coli O157:H7. Samples of cattle feces on one of the implicated ranches tested positive based on matching genetic fingerprints for the same strain of E. coli that sickened 199 people. The trace back investigation has narrowed to four implicated fields on four ranches. The outbreak strain of E. coli O157:H7 from cattle feces was identified on one of these four ranches. More information may come forward as the investigation continues. These four fields, located in Monterey and San Benito counties, are not currently being used to grow any fresh produce.



On October 6, 2006, FSIS issued Notice 2006-0026, "Facilities and Inspection." FSIS is publishing this Notice to inform Federally-inspected meat and poultry establishments that the Agency has determined that, under certain circumstances, the installation of a satellite dish on establishment premises by the Agency is essential to the efficient conduct of inspection. The Agency intends to use satellite technology to provide high-speed Internet access to inspection personnel in approximately 2000 establishments nationwide.



On October 6, 2006, the FDA CFSAN Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling and Dietary Supplements issued a letter responding to the health claim petition dated January 7, 2006, requesting the Agency to authorize a qualified health claim characterizing the relationship between the consumption of unsaturated fatty acids from canola oil and a reduction in risk of coronary heart disease. FDA concluded that there is sufficient evidence for a qualified health claim, provided that the claim is appropriately worded so as to not mislead consumers.



Emergency Contact/U.S. Agent Data in the Food Facilities Registration Database Section 305 of the "Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002" ("Bioterrorism Act") requires facilities that manufacture, process, pack, or hold food for consumption in the U.S. to register with FDA, and FDA to compile and maintain an up-to-date list of facilities that are registered. FDA established a Food Facilities Registration Database in response to Section 305 of the "Bioterrorism Act," as implemented by the Registration of Food Facilities Final Rule. To date, 300,840 facilities have registered with FDA (127,046 domestic and 173,794 foreign).



Annual Conference 2007

The 91st Annual CASA Conference will take place on May 15th-17th at the Ramada Plaza Resort in Virginia Beach, VA

View the Conference Center at www.ramadaplazavabeach.com



From the Editor:

If you have not renewed your membership in 2006, this will be your last newsletter. Don't miss out on CASA news! Join now, and renew your membership for the 2007 calendar year.

If you are interested in joining, or are unsure as to your membership status, please e-mail either Alice Peltz or Wilma Arce for more information.

alice.peltz@suffolkcountyny.gov
warce@health.nyc.gov



Quarterly Meetings, 2007

Our next 4 quarterly meetings are tentatively scheduled for:

March 20th
FDA Facility

June 12th
FDA Facility

September 18th
FDA Facility

December 11th
Russo's on the Bay

Visit our website at www.casa.org

Quarterly Meeting

Our last quarterly meeting of the 2006 calendar year will be held on December 12th, at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach. SEATING IS LIMITED, SO PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED!

Please join us beginning at 9am for registration and continental breakfast

9:30-10:30

"Bridging the Ethnic Gap"

S. Samuel Wong
President
MD Consulting

10:30-10:45

Coffee Break

10:45-11:45

An Overview of the CDC's Vessel Sanitation Program

Steve Natrass
Regional Retail Food Specialist
FDA

11:45-12:00

Business Meeting

12:00-1:00

Lunch

See page 4 of this newsletter for details on our special holiday luncheon

1:00-2:00

Scheduled Food Processes at Food Service Establishments

J. Joseph Corby
Director of Food Safety and Inspection
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

2:00-3:00

Installation and Inspection of Medical Gas Systems

Frank Rudilosso
CEO
MEDIGAS Life Safety Group

Quarterly Meeting

Join the New York Conference of CASA on December 12th, 2006 for our Holiday Meeting at beautiful Russo's on the Bay.



Russo's on the Bay is located at 162-45 Cross Bay Blvd in Howard Beach.

Our Special Holiday Luncheon Buffet will include:

Soup Du Jour

Russo's Homemade Salads

Tossed Garden Greens with Tomato & Cucumbers
Grilled Vegetable Platter
Mushroom Salad
Tomato and Mozzarella Salad
Green and Black Olives

Entrees

Carving Station
Fresh Mixed Vegetables
Chicken Toscano
Sausage Lupini
Fried Calamari
Rigatoni Marinara
Tortellini Alfredo
Sicilian Rice Pie
Poached Pears Orecchiette Bosciola

Dessert

Pastries and Italian Cookies
Coffee, Tea, Espresso, and Cappuccino

Seating is limited for this meeting, and pre-registration is required. Please send your registration form (on page 5) to Alice Peltz by December 5th.

Quarterly Meeting

Our last quarterly meeting of the 2006 calendar year will be held on December 12th, at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach. SEATING IS LIMITED, SO PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Registration Form 2006 December Meeting

Name _____

Agency/Firm _____

E-mail Address _____

Meeting Registration: \$40 (member)

\$50 (non-member)

CASA Membership:

Regulatory Agency- \$15

Academic & Retired Regulatory Member- \$10

Associate Member- \$35

Please make checks payable to NY Conference CASA

Fax Registration form to Alice Peltz (631) 852-5871

Or, mail registration form to:

Alice J. Peltz

Suffolk County Department of Health

360 Yaphank Ave, Suite 2A

Yaphank, New York 11980

Directions to Russo's on the Bay :

From Manhattan : Queens Midtown Tunnel onto Long Island Expressway east. Take Woodhaven Blvd, turn right/south onto Cross Bay Blvd. Russo's is on the left. Proceed to 164th Ave & make U-turn.

From Staten Island: Verrazano Bridge to Belt Parkway east. Take Exit 17 (Cross Bay Blvd) and turn right/south for approximately 1mile. Russo's is on the left. Proceed to 164th Ave and make U-turn.

From Brooklyn: Atlantic Ave east to Woodhaven Blvd., south onto Cross Bay Blvd. Russo's is on the left. Proceed to 164th Ave and make U-turn.

From Eastern Long Island: Southern State Parkway west to Belt Parkway west. Take Exit 17S (Cross Bay Blvd). Turn right/south for approximately 1 mile. Russo's is on the left. Proceed to 164th Ave & make a U-turn.