A New York Minute

CASA Newsletter

NY Conference
Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

Issue 1, Volume 10
March, 2010

President's Message

Greetings New York Conference members:

I would like to thank all members who joined us at our annual holiday training last December. In spite of torrential rains that morning, it was well attended.

I would like to extend special thanks to Richard Olson of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets who with short notice presented an interesting topic regarding fermented sausage. Also, thanks to Stephen Stich of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, our very own Angela Montalbano and Phyllis Black, and Mike Riccardi of Suffolk County Department of Health who volunteered to share his field experience.

For all of those who renewed their membership, thank you, and to members who have not done so, please send in your membership renewals as soon as possible. It is still not too late for renewal. Casa membership applications can be downloaded from the official CASA website located at: www.casafdo.org.

Lastly, I hope that you will be able to make a donation to the silent auction at our Annual Conference. All proceeds will help fund the CASA Scholarship known as the H. Thompson Price scholarship fund. Please remember that you or your immediate family member are eligible for the CASA scholarship provided that your membership is in good standing. I am encouraging you to bring 1 or 2 items to donate to the Silent Auction at our March training. Your name will be visibly featured during the conference.

And most importantly, I urge you to attend the 94th Annual CASA Conference which will take place on May 17th-20th at Hyatt Regency Hauppauge Long Island. Information about the conference, including topics and speakers is available on CASA's official website, www.casafdo.org We need your support. Chris Sortino and the executive board members and planning committees are working tirelessly to have this annual conference be the best CASA Conference ever.

See you all on March 9th and I hope to see at our 94th Annual Conference.

Wilma Arce
President
NY Conference CASA

Rich Olson

Steve Stich

Mike Riccardi

Annual Conference 2010

Save the Date

The 94th Annual CASA Conference will take place on May 17th-20th at the Hyatt Regency Long Island in Hauppauge, NY.

View the Conference Center at

http://longisland.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp

Register Now! The complete agenda and registration information is available on the CASA website www.casafdo.org

Don't miss this great training and networking opportunity.

H. Price Thompson Scholarship

The deadline for CASA members or their relatives to take advantage of the H. Thompson Price Scholarship is April 1, 2010. Applications must be completed and submitted to the Scholarship Chairperson by that date.

Don't miss this opportunity. Visit the CASA website at www.casafdo.org/scholarship.cfm for more information.

Gordon K. Brown Memorial Silent Auction

Donations are needed for the silent auction at our Annual Conference. All proceeds from the auction help to fund the H. Thompson Price Scholarship fund.

If you have an item you wish to donate, please contact any of your board members.

NYC Health Department Announces Proposed Targets for Voluntary Salt Reduction in Packaged and Restaurant Foods

The National Salt Reduction Initiative, a New York City-led partnership of cities, states and national health organizations, unveiled its proposed targets to guide a voluntary reduction of salt levels in packaged and restaurant foods. Americans consume roughly twice the recommended limit of salt each day – causing widespread high blood pressure and placing millions at risk of heart attack and stroke – in ways that they cannot control on their own. Only 11% of the sodium in Americans' diets comes from their own salt shakers; nearly 80% is added to foods before they are sold. Through a year of technical consultation with food industry leaders, the National Salt Reduction Initiative has developed specific targets to help companies reduce the salt levels in 61 categories of packaged food and 25 classes of restaurant food. Some popular products already meet these targets – a clear indication that food companies can substantially lower sodium levels while still offering foods that consumers enjoy.

January 11, 2010

Parking

As parking at the FDA facility is limited, we have been able to secure parking spaces at nearby York College. **We encourage all of you to take advantage to this option.** We will still need you to pre-register, so that we may give your information to York. Please see directions below:

Parking for the March 9th CASA meeting is available at York College's South Parking Lot which is located on Guy R. Brewer Blvd. between Liberty & South Aves. The lot is across the street from York College's Gymnasium.

Congratulations!

Our CASA Secretary, Marsha Beecher, is now a proud mom! Her daughter Caitlyn was born on 1/28/10.

Membership Drive

In order to facilitate an increase in our membership, the board has approved an incentive program for the recruitment of new members.

Bring a friend or colleague to a CASA meeting. If they join our organization, your next meeting is free!*

* applies to *new* memberships only. You will be given a voucher good for one free meeting for each new member you recruit. Vouchers may not be used at the holiday meeting. See any board member for more details.

Quarterly Meeting

Our first quarterly meeting of the 2010 calendar year will be held on March 9th, at the FDA facility at 158-15 Liberty Ave. in Jamaica. Proper ID is required to enter the building. Please be sure to pre-register so that we may give your name to the security guard at the front gate

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

9:30-10:30	Retail Industry Perspective of Food Safety Darrell Newell Food Safety Manager The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company Inc.
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45-11:45	Genetically Modified Foods Laxman Kanduri Professor Kingsborough Community College
11:45-12:45	Lunch Buffet Lunch
12:45-1:45	Food Safety Thermometers David Bergen Cooper Atkins Thermometers
1:45-2:00	Business meeting
2:00-3:00	Open Forum Local jurisdictions discuss recent and noteworthy events

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Registration Form
2010 March Meeting

Name _____

Agency/Firm _____

E-mail Address _____

License Plate # _____

Meeting Registration: $20 (member)

$30 (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 Nadine Roe at (631) 852-5871
Or, mail registration form to:
Nadine Roe
Suffolk County Department of Health
360 Yaphank Ave, Suite 2A
Yaphank, New York 11980

Directions to FDA facility :

The FDA building is easily accessible from the Van Wyck Expressway (678) from either north or south. Exit at Liberty Ave. and proceed east for approximately 1 mile. The building will be located on the north side of Liberty Ave. just beyond the Long Island Railroad trestle. Enter through the main gate, identify yourself and announce that you are attending the NY CASA meeting. You will be directed where to park. Enter through the main entrance and proceed to the main floor conference room.

Parking at the FDA building is extremely limited. Free parking is available at York College. Please see directions on page 3 of this newsletter.