



# A New York Minute



## CASA Newsletter

NY Conference

Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

Issue 2, Volume 09

September, 2009

### President's Message:

Greetings everyone. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. As this is my first newsletter since I became your President, please allow me to introduce myself.

I have over 22 years experience in public health, food safety, and regulations. I began my career with the Philippines Bureau of Food and Drugs, and have been with the New York City Department of Health for the last 16 years. I've been a member of CASA since 1999, and became actively involved in 2004 when I served as your Secretary and then as your Vice President. It is now my honor and privilege to serve as your President.

Our executive board is made up of individuals from different regulatory agencies, industry, and academia, and I am excited to work with our new slate of officers.

We ask that you not only make every effort to attend our quarterly meetings, but also encourage your colleagues and associates to join and participate in our trainings. In return, we promise to continue to provide you with useful, quality educational trainings at a minimal cost.

I'd like to thank Laxman Kanduri for your assistance in making our last training at Kingsborough Community College possible, and for providing us with a refreshing view of Jamaica Bay.

Many thanks to our June speakers, who took the time out of their busy schedules to provide us with informative presentations. I'd also like to thank those of you who filled out the evaluation forms, providing us with such excellent feedback. These evaluations will guide us in choosing topics of interest, and we will try our best to implement some of your suggestions.

Lastly, I would like to thank my office, the Bureau of Food Safety and Community Sanitation, especially Beth Torin. Robert Edman, Elliot Marcus and Michelle Robinson for their encouragement and continued support.

Wilma Arce  
President  
NY Conference of CASA



### Photos:

*James Middleton discusses mobile vendors in NYC, Mary Leong discusses food safety at the Presidential inauguration, and Kevin Peterson discusses threats to our infrastructure.*

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## 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>



### Talent Search

Got talent? Know someone who does? Let us know!

The executive board is currently in search of a band or DJ to perform at the Annual Conference banquet on May 19th 2010.

If you are interested in performing, or know someone who might be, please contact any of your board members.



### H. Price Thompson Scholarship

The deadline for CASA members or their relatives to take advantage of the H. Thompson Price Scholarship is March 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](http://www.casafdo.org) 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.



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## NY Conference News and Notes

### Parking for September Meeting

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 September 22nd 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.

From the FDA building, attendees should proceed east on Liberty Avenue and turn right onto Guy R. Brewer Blvd. The parking lot entrance is on the left hand side.

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### 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.

## Six Arrested in Probe of City's Food Vendors

*Update: The official announcement from the Department of Investigation.*



New York City's thriving black market in illegal food vending permits took a blow recently when six people were arrested and charged with multiple counts of fraud as a result of multiple sting operations by the city's Department of Investigation. One is charged with submitting false documents with forged signatures to the Department of Health, which issues the permits. Another, a sheet metal contractor, is accused of renting inspection-worthy carts to vendors whose own carts would have failed, then transferring the inspection decal to those carts. A notary public is alleged to have notarized blank and pre-signed documents submitted with renewals of permits, which are valid for two years and can be renewed indefinitely by mail.

The probe concluded that at least 500 food vendor permits now in circulation in the city are probably held illegally. Some of the permits were in the names of dead people, others were held by people who were no longer working in the vending business. Those cases have been reported to the Department of Health for possible revocation.

The investigation began two years ago, when inspectors at the central health department inspection facility in Maspeth, Queens, noticed that the same cart was repeatedly submitted for inspection, with different documentation.

Turnover of food vending permits is excruciatingly slow, vendors say. Each year, only a dozen or so permits become available through the health department, fostering the market for illegal documents. No matter what your background is, what your resources are, everyone has to go through the same back channels, said Ali Issa, an organizer for the Street Vendor project, an advocacy group for vendors.

Rose Gill Hearn, the commissioner of the Department of Investigation, called the black market a double whammy of fraud saying that the accused had both defrauded the city of fees and created a public health risk. She said that the findings suggest that the city should institute a bidding process for permits, and tighten inspections.

Under the current system, the permits are so inexpensive and the inspection process is so loose that it creates an opportunity for fraud, she said in an interview. The city of New York should get the money that's on the table, not black marketeers.

By [Julia Moskin](#)

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## MAYOR BLOOMBERG, STATE SENATOR KLEIN AND HEALTH COMMISSIONER FRIEDEN ANNOUNCE NEW RESTAURANT INSPECTION PROGRAM TO IMPROVE FOOD SAFETY

### Public Posting of Sanitary Grades Gives Customers More Information Up Front

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Deputy Senate Majority Leader Jeff Klein today announced that New York City is updating its restaurant inspection system to improve sanitary conditions and give consumers more information. Under the new model, the Health Department will increase inspections for less sanitary restaurants and require all establishments to conspicuously post letter grades – a measure championed by Senator Klein to keep the public better informed about inspection results.

The new system will be phased in over the next two years. This approach will concentrate City resources on the restaurants that pose the greatest risk to public health and place no additional burden on establishments that maintain sanitary conditions. Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, New York City Health Commissioner, and State Assemblyman Steve Cymbrowitz joined Mayor Bloomberg and Senator Klein at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge for today's announcement.

"We know New York City's restaurants are the best in the world and we want them to also be the cleanest," said Mayor Bloomberg. "This new system will encourage the less sanitary restaurants to clean up – and won't punish the good guys. As sanitation improves, so will business. The more residents and tourists can trust the food they buy in New York City restaurants, the more likely they are to patronize them."

*(Excerpt from Jan. 2009 press release)*



# Quarterly Training Session

Our third quarterly meeting of the 2009 calendar year will be held on September 22nd, 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 "Oral Rabies Vaccination Program in Suffolk County"

Jeffery Minder  
Associate Sanitarian  
General Sanitation & Temporary Residence Units  
Suffolk County Department of Health Services

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:15 "Updates in Pest Management Relating to Food Safety"

Dr. Robert Corrigan  
NYCDHOMH Veterinary and Pest Control Services

12:15-1:15 Lunch  
Buffet Lunch

1:15-2:15 Open Forum

Nicolle Woods (NYCDOH)  
"Yankee Stadium and CitiField- Then and Now"

Kervyn Mark (NYCDOH)  
"Ethnic Foods at NYC Street Fairs and US Open Tennis Tournament"

Adam Kuemmel (SCDHS)  
"Multi-Jurisdictional Typhoid Investigation"

2:15-2:30 Coffee Break

2:30-3:30 "OHSa Regulations and Pandemic Flu in Correctional Facilities"

Patricia Feeney  
Assistant Commissioner  
New York City Department of Corrections

3:30-4:00 Question and Answer Session

# Quarterly Training Session

Our first third meeting of the 2009 calendar year will be held on September 22nd, 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 guard at the front gate.

## Registration Form 2009 September 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.