



# A New York Minute



## CASA Newsletter

NY Conference

Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

Issue 1, Volume 07

March, 2007

### President's Message

I would like to thank all of the members who joined us at our annual holiday meeting in December. The board is happy to report that this meeting was the most well attended meeting in the New York Conference's recent history. The members were given the opportunity to hear four excellent presentations and also had the time to network and share information with colleagues from other agencies and industry. I would like to extend a special thank you to Joe Corby, Director of the Division of Food Safety and Inspection, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, for taking time out of his busy schedule to share important information about scheduled processes with our members.

The Executive Board of CASA is working with the eight local conferences in the planning of the 91st Annual CASA Conference. The conference will be held May 15-17 at the Ramada Plaza Resort in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Information about the conference, including topics and speakers, will be available on CASA's website. Please visit [www.casafdo.org](http://www.casafdo.org) for more details.

I would also like to remind you that membership renewals should be sent to our Treasurer, Alice Peltz, as soon as possible.

Applications can be downloaded from CASA's website. Please remember that your membership must be in good standing in order for you or your family member to be eligible for the CASA Scholarship. The CASA scholarship is worth \$1500 and is awarded at the annual conference in May. More information about the CASA Scholarship and applications for the Scholarship can be found on CASA's website.

Christopher Sortino  
President  
NY Conference CASA



Joseph Corby from NYS Agriculture and Markets discusses scheduled processes.



Visit our website at  
[www.casafdo.org](http://www.casafdo.org)



Frank Rudilosso from MEDIGAS discusses medical gas systems.



Samuel Wong from MD Consulting discusses "Bridging the Ethic Gap".



Steve Nattress from the FDA shares information on ethnic foods.

# News and Notes

## FDA Updates:

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### Contamination Associated with Illnesses at Taco John's Restaurant

On January 12, 2007, the FDA announced that it has moved closer to identifying the source of illness for the Taco John "E. coli" outbreak. FDA and the State of California, working in conjunction with State health officials in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin, have DNA-matched the strain of "E. coli" O157:H7 associated with the outbreak with two environmental samples gathered from dairy farms near a lettuce growing area in California's Central Valley. FDA has no indication that any lettuce currently on the market, including iceberg lettuce, is connected with any consumer illnesses. This outbreak is not connected to any previous outbreak.



### FDA Proposes to Define the Term "Gluten-Free" for Voluntary Use in Food Labeling

On January 23, 2007, FDA published a proposed Rule in the Federal Register, Docket No. 2005N-0279, titled "Food-Labeling: Gluten Free Labeling of Foods." Included in the proposed Rule is a definition established by the FDA for the term "gluten-free" for voluntary use in the labeling of foods. A definition for the term "gluten-free" would assist those who have celiac disease (also known as celiac sprue or gluten-sensitive enteropathy) and their caregivers to more easily identify packaged foods that are safe for persons with celiac disease to eat. This proposed Rule has been prepared in response to the "Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004," Title II of Public Law 108-282, enacted on August 2, 2004, which directs the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to propose, and later make final, a Rule that defines and permits the use of the food labeling term "gluten-free." FDA is proposing to define the food labeling term "gluten-free."



### Executive Board Elections

It is time once again to hold elections for positions on the executive board. The following positions are up for election:

President  
Vice President  
Junior Vice President  
Secretary  
4 Board Members

Elections will be held at the next quarterly meeting on March 20th.



### 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](http://www.ramadaplazavabeach.com)



### 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 12th  
Russo's on the Bay



### Open Forum

Have something to say?

Share news from your organization with our membership during the open forum at the quarterly meetings!

Reserve a time slot by contacting any of the board members.

Visit our website at [www.casafdo.org](http://www.casafdo.org)

# Quarterly Meeting

Our first quarterly meeting of the 2007 calendar year will be held on March 20th, at the FDA facility located at 158 Liberty Ave in Jamaica. Proper ID is required to gain entrance to the building. Pre-registration is requested, so that we may give your name to the security guard at the front gate.

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

9:30-10:30

"The Role of the Hospital Safety Officer"

Steve Marzo  
Corporate Safety Officer  
North Shore-LIJ Health System

10:30-10:40

Coffee Break

10:40-11:10

Produce Outbreaks/Produce Safety

Mary Leong  
Retail Food Specialist  
FDA

11:10-12:00

Open Forum and Elections

12:00-1:00

Lunch

1:00-2:00

"One World/One Health"

Dr. William Karesh  
Director of Field Veterinary Program  
Wildlife Conservation Society

2:00-3:00

NYC Point System

James Middleton  
Associate Executive Director  
NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

3:00-4:00

Question and Answer Session

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## Registration Form 2007 March Meeting

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Firm \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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 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

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### 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.