



Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

SUSQI NEWS

Susquehanna Conference –

Spring 2011

President's Message

Greetings! Anxious to get things growing, I planted sugar snap peas and an apple tree on a sunny March Sunday, so of course it snowed the following morning. But by the printing of this newsletter, all signs of winter should be a memory. Also soon a memory for me is the time I have spent as president of the Susquehanna Conference. I want to thank all of the dedicated board members who volunteer their time to make our conference one of the most active in CASA. Thanks also to all of the speakers that contributed timely and pertinent topics for our edification. And certainly, thanks to all of you, our members, for your continued participation and support. It has been a pleasure to serve the conference. In a way, I believe I may have benefited most of all from working for you and with you.

Please join me in welcoming Michelle Clarke, PA DOH, as your president following the Annual Educational and Training Seminar in May. I know she will do an excellent job taking over the reins. But as always, the conference is also what you make of it. So I am asking that you give your full support and participation to assist Michelle in not only continuing the legacy of the Susquehanna Conference but in improving it to meet the needs of all of us, regardless of which side of the food and drug safety 'coin' you are on.

Be sure to check out the scholarships available to attend the Annual CASA Educational and Training Seminar May 16th to 19th in Towson, MD. I hope to see you there! Also, please make sure you cast your votes by returning the ballot by email to Ken Hohe or bringing it to our April 14th training meeting in Allentown. Best Regards,

Garry

Tentative dates for all meetings in 2011:

- April 14 – Allentown –see details that follow.
- May 16-19--Annual Conference in Towson, MD
- July 14
- October 12-13 at Sysco's in Harrisburg
- December 8

Please keep these dates on next year's calendar and, plan to attend.

We are trying to get a good representation of items for the silent auction from the mid-state area for the annual conference in Maryland in May 2011. Please try to help.

We will be having an election prior to the annual conference. Please see 2011 Election Ballot in this newsletter.

Calls for Resolutions:

Submitting a resolution to change or improve policies effecting current food and/or drugs laws and practices is your chance to make your voice heard. CASA resolutions, if approved, are forwarded to the Association of Food and Drug Officials and other applicable governmental agencies recommending concrete change and action. Please download the [CASA Resolutions](#) template from our web site to submit your resolutions to Christopher Sortino, Resolutions Chairperson at christopher.sortino@suffolkcountyny.gov or to your local conference Resolutions committee member by April 1, 2011.

Attention: State and Local Food & Drug Regulatory Members

The Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials (CASA) has received a small conference grant award from the Food and Drug Administration. The purpose of the award is to provide seminar scholarships to state and local food regulatory personnel to attend the 2011 CASA Educational and Training Seminar. The seminar will be held in Baltimore/Towson, Maryland, from May 16-19, 2011.

We will be able to fund a **limited** number of state and local program representatives to the seminar. We hope a number of worthy candidates from the Susquehanna Conference submitted an application.

The CASA Scholarship Review Committee will consider each online application. In some cases, we will only be able to assist with partial funding, but we will attempt to pay for a minimum of fifty percent of the cost of seminar attendance to those selected recipients. Applicants should not make travel arrangements until they have received confirmation of selection. *Selected recipients will be notified by Friday, April, 15, 2011.*

Criteria for receiving funding will be based upon a number of factors such as: whether or not your agency has funded participation in the past; the number of participants previously and currently funded by your agency; how active you have been in CASA; and any other sources of funding available to you, including agency reimbursement and/or local conference assistance.

The theme for this year's seminar is "*Public Health Alliances: Staying Connected in the 21st Century.*" There will also be an FDA Retail Food Regulators' Meeting on Monday, May 16, 2011. There is a separate registration fee for this meeting and this fee is not reimbursable through the CASA scholarship.

Best regards, Christopher Sortino, Past President, CASA, www.casafdo.org

Food Safety Legislation Key Facts

The food safety law passed by Congress on December 21, 2010 aims to ensure the U.S. food supply is safe by shifting the focus of federal regulators from responding to contamination to preventing it. FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D. issued a written statement shortly after passage. Key facts about this legislation are presented below.

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA): Key Facts

The burden of foodborne illness is considerable. Every year, 1 out of 6 people in the United States—48 million people--suffers from foodborne illness, more than a hundred thousand are hospitalized, and thousands die.

Below are some of the important food safety enhancements included in the legislation.

Preventive controls: For the first time, FDA has a legislative mandate to require comprehensive, prevention-based controls across the food supply.

- The legislation transforms FDA's approach to food safety from a system that far too often responds to outbreaks rather than prevents them. It does so by requiring food facilities to evaluate the hazards in their operations, implement and monitor effective measures to prevent contamination, and have a plan in place to take any corrective actions that are necessary.
- It also requires FDA to establish science-based standards for the safe production and harvesting of fruits and vegetables to minimize the risk of serious illnesses or death.
- This new ability to hold food companies accountable for preventing contamination is a significant milestone in the efforts to modernize the food safety system.

Inspection and Compliance: The legislation recognizes that inspection is an important means of holding industry accountable for their responsibility to produce safe product. FDA will meet this expectation by:

- Applying its inspection resources in a risk-based manner
- Innovating in its inspection approaches to be the most efficient and effective with existing resources

Imported Food Safety: The legislation provides significant enhancements to FDA's ability to achieve greater oversight of the millions of food products coming into the United States from other countries each year. An estimated 15 percent of the U.S. food supply is imported, including 60 percent of fresh fruits and vegetables and 80 percent of seafood.

More specifically, relative to import food safety, the legislation:

- requires importers to perform supplier verification activities to ensure imported food is safe
- authorizes FDA to refuse admission to imported food if the foreign facility or country refuses to allow an FDA inspection
- authorizes FDA to require certification, based on risk criteria, that the imported food is in compliance with food safety requirements
- provides an incentive for importers to take additional food safety measures by directing FDA to establish a voluntary program through which imports may receive expedited review of their shipments if the importer has taken certain measures to assure the safety of the food

Response: For the first time, FDA will have mandatory recall authority for all food products. While FDA expects that it will only need to invoke this authority infrequently since the food industry is largely compliant with FDA's requests for voluntary recalls, this new authority is a critical improvement in FDA's ability to protect the public health.

Enhanced Partnerships: The legislation recognizes the importance of strengthening existing collaboration among all food safety agencies – Federal, state, local, territorial, tribal, and foreign – to achieve our public health goals.

It also recognizes the importance of building the capacity of state, local, territorial and tribal food safety programs. Among other provisions, it directs the Secretary to improve training of state, local, territorial and tribal food safety officials and authorizes grants for training, conducting inspections, building capacity of labs and food safety programs, and other food safety activities.



Earth Day is a day that was founded by Senator Gaylord Nelson and focuses on environmental awareness. Another Earth Day called International Earth Day takes place earlier in the year on the Spring Equinox.

Earth Day
is
Friday, April 22, 2011
in the United States
this year.

Earth Day 2011: A Billion Acts of Green®

From greening schools to hosting town hall discussions on clean energy investment and green jobs, Earth Day Network leads its network in thousands of Earth Day events and actions worldwide each year. To catalyze global environmental activism, Earth Day Network has chosen **[A Billion Acts of Green®](#)** as the theme for Earth Day 2011. At over 40 million actions to date, A Billion Acts of Green®—the largest environmental service campaign in the world—inspires and rewards simple individual acts and larger organizational initiatives that further the goal of measurably reducing carbon emissions and supporting sustainability. The goal is to register one billion actions in advance of the global Earth Summit in Rio in 2012. <http://act.earthday.org/>



Statewide Food Safety Certification Training

The Penn State Cooperative Extension, Division of Continuing Education, has scheduled a number of Food Safety Certification training courses for March-August 2011. The locations, dates, contact persons, phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed below:

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Carlisle	04-18; 05-02	Karen Karnes	717-948-6536	ksk1@psu.edu
Chambersburg	05-09; 05-23	Judy Yohn	717-709-0778	jev114@psu.edu
Gettysburg	03-21; 04-04	Judy Yohn	717-709-0778	jev114@psu.edu
Lancaster	03-01; 03-08	Debbie Rubin	717-299-7667	dpr5@psu.edu

“	“	04-05, 12,19	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	“
“	“	05-05, 12, 19	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	“
“	“	06-06; 06-13	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	“
“	“	07-12, 19, 26	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	“
Lebanon		04-12, 19	Karen Karnes		717-948-6536				ksk1@psu.edu	
		07-19, 26	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	“
Middletown		03-23, 30	Karen Karnes		717-948-6536				ksk1@psu.edu	
New Bloomfield		04-11, 25	Karen Karnes		717-948-6536				ksk1@psu.edu	
Schuylkill Haven		03-07, 08	Jodi Staller		570-385-6221				zjs7@psu.edu	
York		03-14, 28	Anne Haines		717-771-4197				azh2@psu.edu	
“		05-09, 23	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	“
“		04-11, 25, 27	“	“	“	“	“	“	“	“

Department of Health Urges Pennsylvanians to Monitor Diabetes Risks

March 22 was National Diabetes Alert Day

Knowing your risk of diabetes and taking steps to prevent or manage the disease can improve your health and even extend your life. Diabetes is the seventh-leading cause of death in the United States. If left undiagnosed or untreated, diabetes can lead to serious health problems such as high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke. Diabetes is the leading cause of new cases of blindness among adults and non-traumatic lower extremity amputations.

Diabetes is a serious disease, particularly when it is left undiagnosed or untreated. Everyone should be aware of their risk for diabetes especially those who may have a family history of the disease or women who may have had issues with diabetes during pregnancy. Those individuals are at an increased risk and, if they haven't already done so, should speak with their healthcare provider. Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when the pancreas does not produce or stops producing insulin, resulting in type 1 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes occurs if the body is not producing enough insulin and/or the body cannot use the insulin that is produced. Insulin is a hormone that helps convert sugar and starches from food into energy.

Diabetes rates are on the rise nationwide. Nearly 26 million Americans have diabetes and an estimated 79 million adults have pre-diabetes, placing them at increased risk for developing the disease. In Pennsylvania, nearly 872,000 adults – or approximately 9 percent - have been diagnosed with diabetes. If you are at risk for diabetes, the good news is that you can take action now to lower your risk for developing type 2 diabetes through healthy lifestyle changes. Although the causes of diabetes are not certain, genetics and lifestyle factors, such as obesity and a lack of exercise, can play a role. Diabetes can be prevented or delayed by eating healthy foods and exercising regularly. For those who already have diabetes, it is important to manage the disease by monitoring what you eat, exercising often, testing blood sugar regularly and taking medication as prescribed.

To take the Diabetes Risk test and to learn more about your risk for developing type 2 diabetes, visit the National Diabetes Education Program's website at www.YourDiabetesInfo.org. The test is available in English and Spanish. For more information about diabetes in Pennsylvania, visit www.health.state.pa.us/diabetes.

March - National Nutrition Month

Learn about healthy eating from the American Dietetic Association and steps to take now to improve your total diet. Read about the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2010*, from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Get information on the top five reasons to prepare meals at home, according to the NIH Division of Nutrition Research Coordination. <http://www.health.gov/dietaryguidelines/>

SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE OF CASA QUARTERLY TRAINING MEETING

THURSDAY, April 14, 2011

Sodexo Allentown Office
6081 Hamilton Boulevard, Allentown, PA 18106
610 395-3800 / 800 545-7710

Directions: For those without GPS capabilities, please note that Hamilton Blvd is Route 222, and Sodexo is in the area east of the village of Trexlertown and west of Allentown. From I-78, exit at #54A for Route 222 south, keep right onto the Route 222 Bypass. Stay on Bypass until the Krocks Road exit. Make left turn onto Krocks Road, go to traffic light at Hamilton Blvd., turn right. Go to 2nd traffic light - Grange Road. Sodexo office is on right side at corner of Grange Road and Hamilton Blvd. Proceed left around the building to park. ENTER AT THE TRAINING ROOM ENTRANCE (glass door). A security person will be there to allow you to enter.

YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED AND HAVE APPROPRIATE IDENTIFICATION.

Agenda:

- 8:30 – REGISTRATION / WELCOME – Garry Ritter, Susquehanna Conference President
- REVIEW OF ACT 106 / GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL HEALTH - PA Dept of Agriculture staff
- FARMER'S MARKET REGULATIONS - PA Dept of Agriculture Staff
- THE OPERATION OF A FARMER'S MARKET FROM A MANAGERIAL AND VENDOR PERSPECTIVE
Megan McBride, Manager, Easton Farmer's Market--the nation's oldest, continuous since 1752.
- FARMER'S MARKET - OPEN DISCUSSION / Q&A
- ANNOUNCEMENTS / EDUCATIONAL TRAINING UPDATES
- SODEXO'S HACCP / VACUUM PACKAGING PROGRAM - Susan Gregro, Zone Manager, Food Safety Sodexo
- ELECTRONIC INSPECTION SYSTEM UPDATE - PA Dept of Agriculture staff
- OPEN FORUM - Professional development sharing. Bring topics for discussion.

Pre-registration CASA Quarterly Training Meeting YOUR COOPERATION IS SINCERELY REQUESTED.

Deadline: **APRIL 11, 2011** - to arrange for security list, adequate seating and refreshments. Please register early.

NAME _____ Agency/Firm _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

PLEASE BRING A FRIEND OR ASSOCIATE WITH YOU!! FIRST TIME ATTENDEES ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS CAN BE PAID AT TRAINING.

Registration fee: \$5, payable at training, to: CASA, Susquehanna Conference

REGISTRATION CHOICES:

Email to: tveresink@easton-pa.gov or Fax to: 610 250-6607

or Mail to: CASA, Susq Conference, c/o Easton Health Bureau, 1 S Third Street, Easton, PA 18042

Questions – contact Ted Veresink @ 610 250-6765

SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE BALLOT

As Chairman of the Nominations and Election Committee, it is again time for the members of the Susquehanna Conference of the Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials (CASA) to hold an election of officers.

Garry Ritter's term of President will end prior to the Annual Educational and Training Seminar in May. Michelle Clarke, the current Vice-President will automatically assume the office of President for a two-year term. Therefore we will have to elect a person to serve as Vice-President for a two-year term. Also, the offices of Secretary and Treasurer will need to be filled.

We will also be electing two candidates for Member-at-Large for our conference. Their duties will include welcoming attendees at our training sessions, assisting the speakers with A-V set up and distribution of handouts, and with "clean up" after the program ends. These are two year terms.

Melissa Vaccaro, having served for four years, is now automatically installed as the Susquehanna Conference's representative to the CASA Board.

Please cast your ballot by marking an X in the appropriate box, or you may write in a name on the line provided. All ballots must be returned by the close of business on April 12, 2011. Please send your ballot to Ken Hohe, 4731 Count Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109-3039 or you may bring your completed ballot to the quarterly meeting on April 14, 2011. You may also copy the ballot, mark it, and e-mail it to Kenhohe@aol.com. We must be able to verify your name and you must be current with your 2011 dues.

Vice President

Craig Copper []
PA Department of Corrections

Pauline Risser-Clemens []
PA Dept of Health

Write in _____ []

Secretary

Suzanne Yeager []
Paxtang Boro Health Inspector

Write in _____ []

Treasurer

Theodore Veresink []

Write in _____ []

Member-at-Large (vote for two)

Russell Dorm []
York City Health Dept.

Marcia Noles []
PA Dept of Corrections

Kimberly Warren, MPH []
PA Dept of Health

Mary Theresa Temarantz []
PA Dept of Health

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