



Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

SUSQI NEWS

Susquehanna Conference –

December 2009

President's Message

My father was a pastor for 40 years. Frequently over the years during his home visitations to church members, he received a predictable reply when he asked them about their spotty attendance on Sunday mornings. "I don't get anything out of the service when I go." My dad's standard response: "You only get out what you put into it". What you get out is proportional to what you put in. It's true with CASA as well. The more you participate, the more you'll benefit!

It was good to see a solid showing at the December 10th CASA meeting in Harrisburg. Once again we had very positive responses from attendees to the presentations by our guest speakers, confirming that we are offering timely topics of interest. The agenda for our meetings are developed from suggestions you, as members of the Susquehanna Conference, have brought to the board's attention. We're always looking for new ideas and subjects of interest to keep our meetings fresh and current. So, here's an assignment for you. What is your most pressing "issue of the day"? What new problem are you dealing with on your job? Is there an emerging pathogen, a new technology, new regulations or a new direction for an old program? Email me and let me know. These could be things that your contemporaries may also be facing and could benefit from by making it a topic on a future meeting agenda.

Right about now you may be receiving Christmas cards from family and friends, and as seems to be the case these days, inside the card you'll get a family newsletter highlighting all the sport and academic accomplishments of the nieces and nephews, which aunt and uncle took a cruise, or a photo of your brother's family in front of Disney's Magic Kingdom castle. Yes, maybe there's a little bit of bragging going on, but it is good to get back in touch with those we hold near and dear. On the same note, there's a lot happening amongst our membership that is noteworthy. Maybe you have a new position, a promotion, or attained a professional certification. We'd really like to know! Let us know what's happening so we can all be proud of your accomplishments with you as a CASA member. Just contact myself, Ann Marie Karnick or Ted Veresink with the good news, to be included in a future newsletter edition.

Look for an email with the details of our next meeting on February 11th coming soon. Until then, may you have a blessed holiday celebration.

Garry

Send newsletter submission to:

Garry Ritter: ritterg@allentowncity.org

Ann Marie Karnick: annmarie.karnick@fda.hhs.gov

Ted Veresink: tveresink@easton-pa.gov

Tentative dates for 2010 training sessions – Mark your calendar

- **2/11/10 – Mechanicsburg area**
- **4/08/10 – Lehigh Valley**
- **7/22/10 – Hamburg area**
- **9/29-9/30/10 – SYSCO's - Harrisburg**
- **12/9/10 – Dauphin County area**

CASA-People *In The News*

Joseph Gill, a sanitarian with the City of Allentown Bureau of Health, recently passed NEHA's certification exam for the REHS/RS credential. Congratulations Joe!

Ann Marie Karnick recently changed her position to Supervisory Investigator, FDA located in the Wilkes-Barre Resident Post. This new FDA office address is 100 N. Wilkes-Barre Blvd, Suite 400, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702, phone: 570-825-7181.

Howard Rabinovitch, FDA, has accepted the position as the Emergency Response Coordinator for the Central Region. Howard is already part of the Regional Staff in his position as Retail Food Specialist in the Region's Cooperative Programs Branch. Howard will begin transitioning to his new duties early in 2010.

Gary German, Director, Division of Human Resource Development, FDA is retiring on January 29, 2010!

ORA U will recognize Gary's 41 years of dedicated public service (25 years with FDA (almost) and 16 with the State of Pennsylvania) by presenting him with a book of letters, photos, cards.

In recognition of his 41 years of public service, Gary has requested that a donation be made towards an A/V sound system for his church—Atlantic United Methodist, Attn: Pastor Norm Poultney, 4th Street, Ocean City, MD 21842.

Please send your retirement contributions (cards, notes, photos and monetary donation to:

Bobbie Giganti
11919 Rockville Pike
Attn: HFC-60, Rm. 247
Rockville, MD 20852
E-mail: Barbara.Giganti@fda.hhs.gov
Phone: 301-796-4532

SUSQUEHANNA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

12/10/2009

ATTENDEES: Garry Ritter, Ted Veresink, Lynn Roche, Ken Hohe, Russell Dorm, Dave Malloy, Melissa Vaccaro, and Sue Yeager.

The meeting was called to order by Garry Ritter, President.

Future training dates/sites:

- 2/11/10 – Site will be a meeting room on the second floor of the new Giant on Linglestown Road, Harrisburg. Potential topics/speakers are:
 1. 2009 FDA Model Food Code – Sherri Morris or Melissa Vaccaro (Melissa will talk with Sherri about speaking)
 2. Proposed Congressional Food Laws – speakers as above
 3. FDA Import Regulations – Ann Marie Karnick (Garry Ritter to contact)
 4. FDA Food Registry – Sue Polifko (Garry Ritter to contact)
 5. Update on H1N1 Flu – Andre’ Weltman (Sue Yeager to contact)
 6. Incubator Kitchens – PSU Extension agent (Melissa Vaccaro to contact)

- 4/14/10 – Lower Macungie Township Building not available. Garry Ritter will find a location for this date in the Lehigh Valley. Speakers/topics are needed.

Discussion was held regarding sending request letters to potential speakers and confirmation letters to those that agree. Garry will send out template of letter to board for review.

Ted Veresink stated that 1 more Susquehanna newsletter is needed this year. Garry Ritter will write a president’s letter and send to Ann Marie Karnick. Requests were made for information on members for posting.

Garry Ritter will notify the board of the next meeting date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.
Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne Yeager, Secretary

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SAVE THE DATE: 94th Annual Educational and Training Seminar, May 17-20, 2010.

GO TO: www.casafdo.org for additional information, location, and to register early **online**.

Also, while at the CASA website, review the information for the **H. Thompson Price Scholarship**. Check eligibility and application deadlines.

FDA Food Processing and Technology (FD152) Course on February 22-26, 2010

This Food Processing and Technology course (FD152) is being sponsored by the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI) in collaboration with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO).

This is a great opportunity to provide the basic principles in food processing, technology and associated equipment used to ensure the safety of manufactured foods, and is available to federal, state, local, territorial and tribal regulators. The skills and knowledge obtained by investigators through this course will result in an increased protection of the public health.

For applicants selected to participate in this course, travel-related expenses will be reimbursed according to AFDO's policies. *Applications must be received by the AFDO office no later than Friday, January 8, 2010.*

For more information or to download an application, please visit <http://afdo.org/IFPTI/course10-004.cfm>.

Fraudulent Emails Referencing CDC-Sponsored State Vaccination Program

CDC has received reports of fraudulent emails (phishing) referencing a CDC sponsored State Vaccination Program.

The messages request that users must create a personal H1N1 (swine flu) Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov website. The message then states that anyone that has reached the age of 18 has to have his/her personal Vaccination Profile on the cdc.gov site.

The CDC has NOT implemented a state vaccination program requiring registration on www.cdc.gov. Users that click on the email are at risk of having malicious code installed on their system. CDC reminds users to take the following steps to reduce the risk of being a victim of a phishing attack:

- Do not follow unsolicited links and do not open or respond to unsolicited email messages.
- Use caution when visiting un-trusted websites.
- Use caution when entering personal information online.

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2010 IS NOW DUE. GO TO:

<http://www.casafdo.org/membership.cfm>

YOUR CHOICES ARE: 1. PRINT RENEWAL FORM AND MAIL TO ADDRESS LISTED ON FORM, OR 2. RENEW AND PAY **ONLINE** USING **PAYPAL**, A NEW OPTION THIS YEAR!!

If you have any questions, contact: tveresink@easton-pa.gov or 610 250-6765