

**VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OF CASA**  
**CENTRAL ATLANTIC STATES ASSOCIATION OF FOOD AND**  
**DRUG OFFICIALS**

**April 2007**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Number 1**



**President's Message**

My year (June '06 – May '07) as President will soon be ending. I have certainly enjoyed serving CASA in this position and value the experience. It has been wonderful working with the Officers, Board and Committee Chairs during this time and **THANKS** to each of them for all their time and energy contributed to training sessions and CASA business! **THANK YOU** CASA members for supporting this organization and actively participating in meetings throughout the year!

For a “year in review” since the Annual Conference, our training opportunities have covered numerous topics, facility tours have been amazing and meeting sites have been held all over the state. Last July, we held a meeting in Warsaw and then visited Omega Protein in Reedville. VEHA and CASA co-sponsored an Educational Workshop in Charlottesville in the fall. We traveled to the west again in November to meet and tour WhiteWave Foods Company in Mt. Crawford. A medical device seminar was held in Colonial Heights at Church and Dwight this past January. Last month the VA Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center hosted a CASA Seafood Training Workshop in Hampton. Food Service Manager training was also conducted by the Prince Edward County Extension Office in March. Expect future excellent meetings to continue during 2007!!

I strongly encourage you to attend the CASA Annual Conference to be held in VA Beach, May 15 -18. An exceptional program will be presented, and the Virginia Local Arrangements Committee, chaired by Debbie Paul, has planned every detail to ensure a well organized week and enjoyable time. The Virginia Conference will proudly host this great meeting and showcase the Commonwealth for our out-of-state visitors. For registration and program information, visit the CASA website [www.casafdo.org](http://www.casafdo.org). and sign up today. You don't want to miss it!

It's time to elect new Officers and Board members for the 2007 – 2008 year from a slate of outstanding candidates. Review the biographical sketches, please vote and return your ballots to Debbie Paul by April 16.

Hope to see you in Virginia Beach!!

Janet Pruitt  
CASA President



**REMINDERS!**  
**CASA has a New Address**

**Any dues or correspondence should now be addressed to:  
Mr. William R. Kinder, CASA Treasurer  
P.O. Box 488  
Abington, PA 19001-0448**

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE GOOD  
JANUARY-DECEMBER  
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!!!!  
Regulatory \$15.00  
Associate \$35.00**

**Attention CASA members!**

Plan now to attend the **91th Annual CASA Conference** in Virginia Beach, Virginia, May 15-18, 2007. Please visit the CASA website at [www.casafdo.com](http://www.casafdo.com) to view a press release regarding the conference and please continue checking the website for program and registration information updates as they become available.

**The Virginia conference of CASA is always striving to provide interesting and educational training for it's members so I want everybody to put on their thinking caps and come up with some topics, and speakers for the topics, that you would like to see offered. We will make every effort to provide that particular training to the membership, but we need feedback from you on what you want and/or need.**

**Message from Sterling Solutions**

Our company has a contract with a large retail chain to perform internal food safety inspections in Virginia and Maryland. One of our auditors is a member of CASA and has seen job ads in your newsletters. We are wanting to hire another auditor for our VA and MD area. Food safety auditor needed to inspect selected stores in the VA and MD areas of a large retail chain. Requires a minimum 3 to 5 years experience with food safety/sanitation auditing or Board of Health experience. Two to three days per week required with a flexible schedule. Send resume to [tcastro@sterlingsolutionsllc.com](mailto:tcastro@sterlingsolutionsllc.com).

Trisha Castro  
Sterling Solutions  
[tcastro@sterlingsolutionsllc.com](mailto:tcastro@sterlingsolutionsllc.com)  
865-288-0092 (Office) 865-288-0087 (fax)

# **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

**April, 2007**

**Hello Everyone !**

**The winter holidays are gone, spring has come, gone, and is now trying to come back again-with snow in April. What is up with the weather? This time of year always reminds me of new beginnings or renewed interests with all the new growth in the yards, buds on the trees, tadpoles in the swamps, and the aggravating, yet promising, presence of the yellow dust-called pollen. I always seem to get a little excited with the proliferation of life that comes about in the spring. Part of my excitement this year is the upcoming 91<sup>st</sup> annual CASA conference. A bittersweet feeling for me since I am excited about the conference, while all the while knowing the conference also signals that my term as president is drawing to a close-which is the second dose of that bittersweet feeling.**

**The CASA executive board met in Timmonium, MD for our February meeting and made the decision that in the future the February meeting would be held only if the board feels that it is necessary. In the past the board has always met in August, December, February, and at the annual conference. The discussions included, but were not limited to, the use of the conference planner which CASA has contractually agreed to utilize for the next few years to set up the lodging and food/beverage arrangements at the next annual conferences. In 2008 they will be utilized and are already setting up the accommodations in New York. I also participated in a nationwide conference call in April with all of the affiliate presidents, the executive director of AFDO, and the president of AFDO-Ms. Charlene Bruce. This call allowed each affiliate president to discuss what their organization is doing and what the objectives of AFDO are for the upcoming year. I also told Ms. Bruce how excited we are that she is able to come to our conference this year and give an AFDO address as well as a presentation on "Field Shield".**

**Please remember the Virginia Conference of CASA will host the Annual Conference this year and it will not be here again for 8 more years. This is a prime opportunity to attend this event and not have out-of-state travel. We will be at the Ramada Plaza Resort-Oceanfront in Virginia Beach, but keep in mind that the hotel is probably changing owners/names on May 1, 2007 to Wyndham. The present phone number will still work and I am told that the existing web site will direct you how to get to the site for the Wyndham. Remember that change is sometimes a little uncomfortable, but is necessary and usually helpful.**

Visit the CASA website at <http://www.casafdo.org> for information on the conference and make your reservations and send in your registration now. Attendance is looking good at this point and there are only a certain number of rooms set aside for us at the government per diem rate.

I so look forward to seeing everyone at the conference so please make plans to attend.



Until then,

**Christopher A. Thackston**  
**President, CASA**  
**Executive Board Representative-Virginia Conference of CASA**  
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434-223-7416 home office  
540-201-2067 pager

## Ballot for 2007-2008 Virginia Conference Officers

### President

Dawn Collins \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### Vice President

Tom Hudson \_\_\_\_\_

Frank Scherra \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### Secretary-Treasurer

Rick Barham \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### Board Members (Vote for three)

Erik Bungo \_\_\_\_\_

Catherine Cummins \_\_\_\_\_

Joyce Gaver \_\_\_\_\_

Allyn Olinger \_\_\_\_\_

Ron Orr \_\_\_\_\_

Brooke Seeman \_\_\_\_\_

Kate Weakley \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### Newsletter Editor

Annie McCullough \_\_\_\_\_

Write-In \_\_\_\_\_

### CASA Board Representative

Chris Thackston is automatically on the CASA Board because of his previous years of service and he will be completing his rotation on the Board as Past President.

Biographies for candidates are included in this newsletter. Please complete and mail ballot to Debbie Paul, Nominating Comm. Chair, VA Div. of Consolidated Laboratory Services, 600 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond, VA 23219, or email it to her at [Debbie.Paul@dgs.virginia.gov](mailto:Debbie.Paul@dgs.virginia.gov). If you mail your ballot, please be sure to include your name on the outside of the envelope so that membership can be verified prior to opening the ballot. **Only ballots emailed or postmarked by April 16 will be considered.**

**Dawn Collins**

**CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT**

I'm currently serving as Field Supervisor in the Northern Virginia Area for Virginia Department of Agriculture. I have been with the Department for the past twenty years. I received my B.S. in Environmental Health from East Carolina University and my M.A. in Public Administration from Troy State University. I have enjoyed being involved with CASA over the past years and would like to continue for the 2007/2008 year as your President.

**Frank Scherra**

**CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT**

Frank Scherra - Past President of Virginia Chapter of CASA - Chesterfield Health District Environmental Supervisor. I have worked for the State Health Department for 11 years after 26 years with the U.S. Army in Food Inspection and Public Health. Received Bachelor's degree from University of Maryland 79. Attended U.S. Army Academy of Health Sciences for Food Inspection, Preventive Medicine and FDA Training. Completed Food Science and Technology Program with American Institute of Baking 94. I am a Father of 3 and a Grandfather of 6. I look forward in serving as your Vice-President.

**Thomas J. Hudson**

**CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT**

Hey everyone! I am currently on the Board of Directors and look forward to serving as your Vice- President. I joined CASA shortly after accepting a position as a Consumer Safety Officer with the FDA in Norfolk, Virginia in 2002. I originally started my public health career as an Environmental Health Specialist with a County Public Health Unit in Florida almost 20 years ago. After three years working with the Health Department I accepted a position as an Environmental Specialist managing and monitoring shellfish harvesting areas in NW Florida. I remained in that field position until 1999 when I was promoted to the Laboratory Director of the Florida Shellfish Laboratory in Apalachicola, Florida. After 9/11, my priorities changed and I applied for and was offered the position I hold with FDA. I have experience at developing training and organizing events that help to develop skills and improve cooperation among private, state, and federal organizations. I believe my experience and commitment to improving public health professionals will work together to help me serve as a productive Virginia Conference board member. . I appreciate your support for CASA and look forward to working for you in providing training and service during 2007-2008.

**Rick Barham**

**CANDIDATE FOR SECRETARY/TREASURE**

I have been a member of CASA for a number of years and would like to become more involved in making this organization the best possible. I have been employed with the Virginia Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Security Program since 1984. I started my career as a Field Inspector working in the Newport News/Northern Neck area of the state and in 1998 became the Regional Manager for the Tidewater region. I have attended numerous CASA meetings/seminars over the years and found them to be very educational and rewarding. If elected to the Board I will work hard to support the mission of CASA in bringing pertinent training to both the regulatory community and our food industry members. Thank you for your support.

**Catherine Cummins, REHS**

**CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER**

Position: State Food and Dairy Consultant

Office of Environmental Health Services- Virginia Department of Health

I am currently serving as a Board member to CASA and would like to continue my service to the organization as a Virginia Department of Health/Environmental Health representative. I would like to see a stronger representation from VDH and feel that my input will assist the organization in planning for training sessions that will be of value and interest to individuals serving in our VDH Environmental Health programs. I currently am serving a term on the Board of the Virginia Environmental Health Association as Delegate-At-Large, and function as their representative to the Virginia Food Safety Task Force. I have also served terms as President, Vice-President for Programs, and Vice-President for Professional Advancement. My experience and involvement with that organization gives me access to them for planning joint training ventures such as the CASA-VEHA training session held this past October.

**Brooke Seeman**

**CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER**

I have been an Investigator for Food & Drug Administration for approximately five years, working in the pharmaceutical arena and inspecting firms located in Virginia and Maryland. I have been serving as Chair for the Drug Committee for CASA for the past several years. I organized last year's CASA training meeting at Wyeth. I would like to be more involved with CASA and would like very much to be a member of the CASA board.

Erik Bungo

**CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER**

I am currently employed with VDACS-Food Safety and Security and have almost 3 years of service. I have previously received extraordinary contributor awards and the outstanding achievement award with VDACS. I was previously employed with the FDA in Pennsylvania and I have also worked at the Hershey Creamery Company as a lab technician. I graduated in 2001 from Juniata College in PA and received BS Degree in Physics/Math. I am a certified ServSafe Instructor and I currently hold classes to certify food service managers. I have been a member of CASA since the start of my employment with VDACS and I have attended all of the meetings to date. I currently serve on the 2007 CASA local arrangements committee. I am also a part of the Virginia's Finest committee and serve of the CFPAC committee for VDACS. I would like to be more involved with CASA as a board member and I feel that my background, knowledge and insight would be very beneficial

Ron Orr

**CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER**

Education-Ohio State University MS Food Technology

Ohio University BS major Botany

I believe every CASA member can make a unique contribution to our organization. I would like to develop a routine peer recognition system that encourages all members to share their own work related accomplishments, discoveries, original ideas, and educational experiences. This peer recognition could be used for employment networking, identifying training opportunities, sharing practical ideas that can be applied in the workplace, and enhance annual evaluations.

I'm currently a Food Safety Specialist Senior with VDACS-Food Safety & Security. I have been with the Department for the for nineteen years. I have spent two years as Quality Control Supervisor RC 7UP Bottling Company in Springfield, VA. Six years as a Grain Marketing Specialist with International Monitoring Program of the Federal Grain Inspection Service. Three years as an Agricultural Commodity Grader for the Federal Grain Inspection Service in Indiana and Texas and two years as a Lab Technician at the Letterman Army Institute of Research in San Francisco while doing active duty in the Army.

Allyn Olinger

**CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER**

I have been with VDACS-Dairy & Food Safety since 1986. I received a B.S. degree in Agricultural Business Ed. from V.P.I. & S.U. in 1979. I have attended majority of the casa meetings for the last sixteen years. The area I live in central Virginia is the fastest growing area for wineries and they may be a good place to hold some casa meetings that I will look forward to arranging. Will do my up most to bring even more excitement to casa.

Joyce Gaver

**CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER**

I am an Environmental Health Specialist at the Virginia Beach Department of Health. I received my Master of Science Degree in Community Health from Old Dominion University in 2002. At the Health Department I work primarily with the food and rabies programs. I am active in the Tidewater Environmental Health Association. My previous career was as a Medical Technologist where I worked in hospital laboratories, specializing in microbiology and blood banking. I have a firm conviction to community service and I have served as a Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout leader, worked with Clean the Bay, Toys for Tots, Relay for Life and I am actively involved with my church's charities.

Kate Weakley

**CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER**

I have been with the Department of Agriculture, Division of Food Safety and Security for 3 years. Before working for the agency, I worked in the food industry, mainly dealing with quality control. I have been an active member of CASA since coming to work for the department. I have tried to attend as many of the meetings and trainings offered as possible. I am currently on the planning committee for the Annual CASA Conference being held here in Virginia Beach this year. I also assisted in obtaining a site for a CASA meeting in my inspectional territory. I have enjoyed my participation with CASA thus far, and hope to expand my involvement to include membership on the board. I feel that I would be an asset to the organization, provide new ideas, and bring with a me a great deal of enthusiasm.

Chris Thackston

**EXECUTIVE BOARD REPRESENTATIVE from the Virginia Conference**

**Chris Thackston is automatically on the CASA Board because of his previous years of service and he will be completing his rotation on the Board as Past President.**

Annie McCullough

**CANDIDATE FOR NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

I'm An Administrative Office Specialist For The Food Safety & Security Office, Virginia Beach. I Have Held The Position Of Newsletter Editor Since 1993. The Newsletter Is An Important Communications Resource In Reaching All Members. It Offers The Information And Ideas Essential To All Health Related Agencies. By Continuing My Position As The Editor I Will Attempt To Offer An Informative And Beneficial Newsletter To All Its Readers.

## Committee Chairs

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**VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OFFICERS  
JUNE 2006 TO JUNE 2007**

**PRESIDENT**

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