

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

*February 2006*

*NEWSLETTER*

*Number 1*



**President's Message**

Greetings to everyone! I hope that everyone is off to a good start for 2006. As we can all see, this year is going by very fast. I would like to welcome all of our new members from our 2005 trainings and encourage everyone to participate in CASA and thank you for your continued support.

It's election time, attached within this newsletter, are the short biographies of the prospective new officers and board members for the 2006-2007 year. So please take the time and read through the newsletter and vote for our conference officers and board. As you will notice on this year's ballot (2) names are no longer listed, Steve Fuller & Frank Scherra. Steve Fuller has been with our VA Conference for over sixteen years and our Secretary/Treasure now for a number of years. Steve is also a Member Of The Virginia Environmental Health Association and serves On The Health Departments Regional And State Food Committees. Frank Scherra has been our VA Conference Chapter of CASA President, Vice President and a very active board member. I would like to take this time and sincerely say thanks to you (Steve and Frank) for all your hard work. You will be truly missed.

I would like to sent out thanks to Brooke Seeman, our drug committee chairperson for setting up our next training which will be on **MARCH 28, 2006. Meeting Location:** Wyeth Pharmaceutical, Cummings Drive Facility (Auditorium) located off of 95./with a tour at the Darbytown Road location. Check out the CASA website <http://www.casafdo.org/> and thanks to Mr. Andrew Suflita for posting the training on the Virginia website. Again, don't forget to vote and thanks for letting me serve as your 05/06 President.

**Dawn Collins 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 **90th Annual CASA Conference** in Gettysburgh, Pennsylvania, May 16-19, 2006. 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.

Members are also asked to renew their membership in CASA. You can download and print our membership application from our website at <http://www.casafdo.com/CASADuesInformationApplication.pdf>. The Executive Board and Officers want to thank CASA members who have renewed already and urge others to renew soon.

Members must have a current membership to take advantage of the H.Thompson Price Scholarship and to be considered for officer and/or Association positions. Please renew now.

Hoping to see all members of CASA in historic Gettysburg this May.

## *EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT*

I attended the executive board meeting/planning session on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of February, 2006 in Gettysburg, PA. We had a productive and hectic meeting, which was held at the Eisenhower Inn where the annual conference will be held in May, 2006. The hotel is a very nice facility and the location offers many opportunities for sight seeing (especially for Civil War buffs) after meeting hours. The conference will be held from Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. We have many topics of interest including, but not limited to the following: Foodborne Illness CSI, Retail Food Allergens, Flu Pandemic Threat, Development of Emergency Preparedness Training for Retail Food Stores, Amusement Park Ride Inspections, School Food Safety, Updating Temperature Control for Potentially Hazardous Foods, Updating the Food Code to Address Norovirus, Posting of Restaurant Inspections on the Internet, and Molecular Epidemiology. This is going to be a fast paced educational conference and I hope everybody can attend. In the afternoon of the 16<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting of the executive board members, local conference officers, and committee chairs. In addition to the Thursday night banquet we will also have an associates sponsored reception that will afford you the opportunity to network with coworkers in industry and government agencies from the central Atlantic states, and we will also have vendors there that will be showcasing products and/or services that could make your jobs more effective and efficient. Don't forget to bring some money so that you can purchase items in the "Gordon K. Brown" silent auction. *Go ahead now and put it on your calendar and get your travel requests in early so you can make sure that you are there.*

At the end of the annual conference this year I will strike the gavel on the podium which starts my one year term as CASA president. May, 2007 will be the end of the 8 year obligation/term and I am really looking forward to this upcoming year as president!

If there is anyone that has not joined/paid their dues for 2006, please do so as soon as possible. It is simple to do—just go to the web site <http://www.casafdo.org> and go to the "join/renew" tab and pull up the document. Fill it out and mail with your check to the CASA Treasurer-Mr. Bill Kinder.

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.

2007 will be the year that the Virginia Conference of CASA will host the Annual Conference. We will be at the Ramada Plaza Resort-Oceanfront in Virginia Beach. It will not be in Virginia again until the year 2015-so next year is the year to attend!!!! A view like this and training-what more can you ask for??



I do appreciate the time and effort all the members take to attend the CASA functions and I hope to see everyone's smiling faces in the near future.

*Sincerely,*  
*Christopher A. Thackston*  
*Representative to Executive Board*  
*Virginia Conference*  
*Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials*  
*434-223-7416 (home office)*  
*540-201-2067 (pager)*  
*[Christopher.thackston@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:Christopher.thackston@vdacs.virginia.gov)*

Thanks For A Job Well Done!!!



*Frank Scherra, Dawn Collins & Steve Fuller*

*Virginia Conference of CASA  
Registration Form*

*Meeting Location: Wyeth Pharmaceutical, 1407 Cummings  
Drive Facility-main Entrance located off of 95.*

*Phone 804-257-2000*

*Please use mapquest for directions*

*March 28, 2006*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Org: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

CASA Members.....\$25.00  
Non-Members.....\$40.00  
Associate Members.....\$25.00  
Associate Non-Members.....\$60.00

Mail Registration form to: Steve Fuller  
c/o CASA  
3909 Grove Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221-1901  
Steve Fuller, Amelia Health 804-561-2711  
**e-mail address** [Steve.Fuller@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Steve.Fuller@vdh.virginia.gov)

*Virginia Conference of CASA*

*Agenda*

*March 28, 2006*

*Meeting Location: Wyeth Pharmaceutical, 1407 Cummings  
Drive Facility-main Entrance located off of 95.*

*(Auditorium)*

- 8:00-8:30am Registration & Coffee*
- 8:30 - 8:45am Welcome- CASA-President- Dawn Collins  
Welcome/overview of the Company - Wyeth*
- 8:45-9:00am Wyeth Pharmaceutical*
- 9:00-10:00am Wyeth Pharmaceutical*
- (Coffee Break)*
- 10:00 – 11:00am Speaker (TBA)*
- 11:00 - 11:30am CASA News - Sue Yeager, CASA President*
- 11:30-12:30pm Lunch*
- 12:30 – 3:00pm Plant tour (hairnets will be provided)*
- \*no open toe shoes will be worn*
- \*no Cameras*
- \*no Jewelry*
- 3:00 – 3:15pm Adjourn*

*Meeting Tour: starting at 12:15 we need to carpool, the afternoon  
will be comprised of a tour of the Wyeth Pharmaceutical facility,  
2248 Darbytown Road, Richmond, VA 23231  
Phone 804-257-2000*



## Janet Pruitt

### CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Janet Pruitt has worked for the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services for almost 27 years. She is a Principal Scientist (technical expert) in the Food Chemistry, Filth and Mycotoxin Unit, where she has had 24 years of food testing experience. Communicating with VDACS, FDA, USDA, Health Departments and Police Departments is a major job responsibility and provides a great opportunity to interact with state and federal regulatory agencies.

Janet has been an active member of CASA since 1982, along with memberships in AFDOSS and AFDO. In the past, she served as Secretary/Treasurer for the Virginia Conference for four years. CASA responsibilities have included serving on and chairing the Membership Committee. For several years, Janet has been the Chairperson of the Laboratory Committee and has assisted the Program Committee with identifying laboratory/technical topics for the Annual Conferences. She also was a member of the Local Arrangements Committee, which planned the 1999 Joint Annual Conferences of CASA and AFDOSS held in Virginia Beach. Janet has served as a CASA Board member for four years and as Vice President this past year. Attending Annual Conferences, assisting in quarterly training meetings and giving lab presentations for CASA over the years are other activities of interest.

## Dawn Collins

### CANDIDATE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT

I'm currently serving as Food Safety Specialist Senior in the Northern Virginia Area for Virginia Department of Agriculture. I have been with the Department for the past sixteen 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 your President for the past year and would like to continue for the 2005/2006 year. I am married with two children and enjoy being around my family.

## 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.

## 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 his rotation moving to President

[Thomas J. Hudson](#)

[CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER](#)

Greetings everyone! 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 was actively involved with the Florida Environmental Health Association during my early career, where I served as both Co-Chairman and Chairman of District II. 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.

[Catherine Cummins, R.E.H.S.](#)

[State Food Consultant](#)

[Virginia Department of Health, Office of Environmental Health Services](#)

[CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER](#)

I have been a member of the CASA Board for the last year, and have also been professionally involved with organizations such as the Virginia Environmental Health Association and National Environmental Health Association. I currently serve as the VEHA representative to the Virginia Food Safety and Security Task Force. I have been employed in the field of environmental health with the health department for over 20 years.

I am an active member of Altrusa International, Inc. of Charlottesville, Va., and currently serve as their newsletter editor and Vice-President, and am the in-coming President for a two-year term. I also try to contribute time as a volunteer with The Nature Conservancy. My hobbies include reading, camping, fishing, scuba diving and scrapbooking.

[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 am actively involved with my church's charities.

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.



**Only up-to-date members for 2006 may vote. Please bring the ballots to the March 28 VA Conference meeting or mail or email the ballots to:**

**Deborah Paul  
VA Division of Consolidated Labs  
600 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond, VA 2321**

**[Debbie.paul@dgs.virginia.gov](mailto:Debbie.paul@dgs.virginia.gov)**

**If you choose to mail your ballots, please include your name on the outside of the envelope so your membership can be verified prior to counting.**

## Committee Chairs

*Advisory Committee*

*Steve Fuller*  
[Steve.Fuller@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Steve.Fuller@vdh.virginia.gov)

*Associate Committee*

*Monica Martin, Chairperson*  
*Farm Fresh*  
[Monica.B.Martin@Supervalu.com](mailto:Monica.B.Martin@Supervalu.com)  
757-306-7006

*Communications Committee*

*Annie McCullough*  
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757-363-3909

*Constitution & By-Law Committee*

*Steve Fuller*  
[Steve.Fuller@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Steve.Fuller@vdh.virginia.gov)

*Drug Committee*

*Brooke Seeman, FDA*  
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*Education Committee*

*Frank Scherra*  
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*Food Committee*

*Charlotte Wilkins, FDA*  
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*Laboratory Committee*

*Janet Pruitt, Chairperson*  
[Janet.Pruitt@dgs.virginia.gov](mailto:Janet.Pruitt@dgs.virginia.gov)

*Membership Committee*

*Joe Fabrizio*  
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*Debbie Paul, DCLS*  
[Dpaul@dgs.state.va.us](mailto:Dpaul@dgs.state.va.us)

*Resolutions Committee*

*Chris Thackston*  
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**VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OFFICERS  
JUNE 2005 TO JUNE 2006**

**PRESIDENT**

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