



Central Atlantic States Association of Food & Drug Officials Virginia Conference

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2008 October NEWSLETTER Number 3

President's Message

Hello everyone! Hope you all had a wonderful summer and that you are also enjoying the great fall weather we have been having, lately. Thank you all for supporting CASA by attending the Training Sessions we have had this year.

Since our last newsletter, a training session was held at the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) which was well attended and extremely informative. This training provided the attendees with up to date information on infectious diseases, chemical terrorism, bio-terrorism, epidemiological investigations and food analyses conducted at DCLS. Many thanks to Debbie Paul for making this so successful!

Our next Training will be take place on November 12, 2008 at the Food Lion Distribution Distribution Center in Disputanta, VA. Educational topics will include an overview of Food Lion Food Safety Programs and Quality Assurance, Agroterrorism, Food Defense, Fire Safety in Food establishments and Pest Control. (Please see the separate agenda and registration form) Note that the space is limited at this location so please sign up early! Thanks go to Sima Hussein, Food Lion Food Safety Manager for making this possible and to Sean Hejja for his efforts in obtaining speakers.

Plans are also in the works for a training session in December so look for more on that later.

In July, we sent out a call for volunteers for CASA committee chairpersons. Now that the summer is over, maybe you will find you have a little extra time to devote to CASA. This is a great opportunity to get more involved with and help shape the future of CASA. I hope you will consider volunteering to head up or join one of the committees.

CASA is for YOU, the members, so if you have any ideas for future training topics or locations, please feel free to contact any of the officers or board members. We invite and welcome your input.

As a final note, this will be my last newsletter as President of the VA Conference of CASA. I am leaving VDACS and will be taking a position with FDA/CFSAN in College Park, MD. Since this will require relocation, I do not feel I can adequately fulfill the duties of President, but I am leaving the responsibilities with a very talented and capable Board in charge. I have enjoyed meeting many CASA members and serving as CASA President this year. I hope you will all continue to be active and support the VA Conference.

Linda Cox
Casa -President

CEU credits for CASA Training

Attention VDH members! I am pleased to report the following information from Catherine Cummins concerning CEU credits for attending CASA Training Sessions. She has reviewed our 2008 agendas for credits you can receive and also provided information for you for receiving credits for future meetings:

“Please see below my assessment of the contact hours that should be recognized by VDH for EHS staff attending each of the listed educational sessions. This assessment does not include times for the breaks, lunch or, in the case of the winery, the wine tasting.

Cuisine Solutions - March 27, 2008 - 3 hours and 20 minutes (This time is based upon presumption that the Q & A lasting 1.0 hour. If it did not last an hour then the time should be adjusted accordingly.)

Barboursville Vineyards - June 5, 2008 - 3 hours and 50 minutes

DCLS Tour and Training Session - August 14, 2008 - 4 hours and 20 minutes

Environmental Health staff who attend educational sessions and are maintaining contact hours for their standardization in the Food Program should maintain a personal log of their hours earned to show to their Standardization Officer. These hours can be entered into our VENIS Configuration Center under the LHD field, or kept in a personal file by the EHS and/or Standardization Officer. Each standardized EHS is to accumulate at least 20 contact hours prior to restandardization every 3 years.

Those individuals who are NEHA certified as an REHS or as a CP-FS will submit their hours directly to NEHA. Most will use the electronic database that allows for submission of contact hours. NEHA will determine how many CEU's they will recognize, based upon the agenda.

When I have more time I will visit the NEHA web site to see about pulling down a hard copy of a submission form. I haven't had to use a hard copy in so long that I no longer have one to share. Most people should be using the electronic database for their submissions, but if a hard copy is available it might expedite the process. More later.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if you need additional information.”

Catherine Cummins, REHS



REMINDERS!

Memory of Joyce Gaver

The Virginia Beach Health Dept. is planting a tree in Joyce's memory at Eastern Shore Chapel on Laskin Road, Virginia Beach. There will be a short tree-planting ceremony this Friday afternoon, October 24, at 3:00 p.m.

Thank you.
Melanie Roberts

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

The 93rd Annual CASA Conference is scheduled to be held from May 11-14, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA

MEMBERSHIPS ARE GOOD

JANUARY-DECEMBER

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!!!!

Regulatory \$15.00

Associate \$35.00

Virginia Conference of CASA Agenda

November 12, 2008

Meeting Location: Food Lion Distribution Center
6500 Enterprise Drive, Disputanta, VA 23842
Phone: 804-861-8960

- 8:30-9:00am** **Registration** – light breakfast Provided by Food Lion
- 9:00-9:15am** **Welcome** - CASA VP Kate Weakley
- 9:15-10:00am** **Food Lion Food Safety Program**
(education, pest control, auditing)
Sima Hussein-Food Lion Food Safety Manager
- 10:00 – 10:45am** **Agroterrorism**
Dr. Donald Butts,
Emergency Services Manager, VDACS
- 10:45 – 11:00am** **Break**
- 11:00– 11:45am** **Food Defense Update**
Charlotte Wilkins, FDA
- 11:45- 12:30pm** **Lunch-Provided by Food Lion**
(brief CASA board meeting)
- 12:30-1:15pm** **Fire Safety Equipment in Food Establishments**
Ron Reynolds, Chief Deputy, VDFP,
State Fire Marshal's Office
- 1:15-2:00pm** **Pest Control in Food Establishments**
Dodson
- 2:00-2:15pm** **Break**
- 2:15-3:00 pm** **Food Lion QA Program**
(VA Growers, category management)
Joe Belyea, Food Lion QA
- 3:00-3:45pm** **Warehouse operations & tour**

Questions & Adjourn

Registration Form

Virginia Conference of CASA

Food Lion Distribution Center
6500 Enterprise Drive, Disputanta, VA 23842
Tour/Training
Wednesday, November 12, 2008

Pre-registration required by November 3, 2008

Name _____

Agency/Org _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

CASA Members.....\$20.00

Non-Members.....\$35.00

Mail Registration form to: Mr. Rick Barham

CASA Secretary-Treasurer

VA Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services

1444 Diamond Springs Rd

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Email: Rick.Barham@vdacs.virginia.gov

Ballot for to fill the Unexpired Terms for 2008-2009 Virginia Conference Officers

You are all aware that we need to fill the unexpired Board member position vacated by the untimely death of Joyce Gaver. We now need to fill the Vice-President position, also. Linda Cox, our President, will be moving to Northern Virginia to accept a new position with FDA. Congratulations to her and we hope to see her at CASA meetings! However, she doesn't feel that she can continue in her CASA position. Therefore, our current VP, Kate Weakley, has agreed to step into the President's position as stipulated in the Constitution. That leaves her position vacant. Therefore, we are voting to fill that slot, also.

President

Will be filled by Kate Weakley, current Vice President

Vice President

Janet Pruitt _____

Write-In _____

Board Members (Vote for one)

John Connell _____

Terry Edwards _____

Write-In _____

Biographies for candidates are included. Please complete and mail ballot to Debbie Paul, Nominating Comm. Chair, VA Div. of Consolidated Laboratory Services, 600 N 5th Str, Richmond, VA 23219, or email it to her at 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 November 1, 2008 and from current members will be considered.**

Janet Pruitt

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

Janet Pruitt has worked for the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services for 29 years. She is a Principal Scientist (technical expert) in the Food Chemistry, Filth and Mycotoxin Unit, where she has had 27 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 two Local Arrangements Committees which planned the 1999 Joint Annual Conferences of CASA and AFDOSS and the 2007 Annual Conference held in Virginia Beach. Janet has served as a CASA Board member, Vice President and President for the local conference. Attending Annual Conferences, assisting in quarterly training meetings and giving lab presentations for CASA over the years are other activities of interest.

John Connell, REHS, CP-FS

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER

I am an Environmental Health Specialist for the Virginia Department of Health. During my 20 plus years working in the regulators role of the food industry, I have had the pleasure of working with restaurants, dairies, farmers, shellfish growers and packers, and a wide variety of food manufactures. The dynamics of the food industry is wide and varied so there is always more to learn. It is how we approach these changes and challenges that keep us learning and sharing new technologies and ideals that we are able to share this information with others in the hopes of a safer product for the consumer. I would like the opportunity to become a Board member and bring a stronger representation from VDH while at the same time support our other members and their interests.

Theresa "Terry" Edwards

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER

My name is Theresa "Terry" Edwards and I was born and raised in a small town on Long Island, New York. I moved to Virginia to attend Lynchburg College and received a B.S. degree in Environmental Science in 1983. While I attended Lynchburg College I worked as a student waiter in the college dining hall for four years-thus starting my illustrious career in the business of food. After college I worked in various food service establishments in the Lynchburg area as well as Lynchburg General Hospital as a Pharmacy Tech.

Since 1986 I have been employed by the Virginia Department of Health as the Food Specialist at the Bedford Health Department. My main emphasis as the Food Specialist has been inspections of food service facilities as well as temporary facilities. I also inspect hotels, motels, campgrounds, bed & breakfasts as well as work in the rabies program.

I am ServSafe Certified and help teach the course several times a year along with the Occasional Quantity Cooking Class. I also developed a basic four hours Food Safety & Sanitation class that is taught once a month free of charge at the Lynchburg Health Department and open to anyone who handles food. In December of 2007 I presented a program on food safety with Joell Eifert of the Virginia Tech Food Science and Technology Department at the Virginia Agriculture Summit in Abingdon. I have also done several presentations at workshops presented by the Virginia Cooperative Extension as well as various programs for the community. I have also developed several user friendly hand outs that the district uses to guide people when setting up new establishments as well as a newsletter for our food service operators

explaining the regulation changes as well as other handouts that are beneficial to food service operators.

I received Environmental Health Specialist of the Year honors for our district in 1995 and 2003. I am also a member of the Southwest Regional Food Committee and the district Emergency Response Team. In March of 2008 I became the Standardization Officer/Technical Consultant for the Central Virginia Health District. I currently reside in Big Island and have 2 sons.

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

I would like to first say “Thank You” to Linda Cox, our current President, for a job well done. We will all miss you and wish you the best of luck. The board will be meeting in November at the scheduled Food Lion Training to discuss the position of President for the VA Conference.

A few weeks ago I attended an executive board meeting/planning session in Philadelphia for the upcoming 93rd Annual CASA Educational Program. The conference is currently scheduled for May 11-14, 2009 in Philadelphia, PA at the Hilton Airport Hotel (http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/PHLAHHF/index.do). The conference/speaker agenda is in the process of being finalized and I will share it with all of the members once it is complete. A preliminary version includes topics such as organic foods, on-farm processing, homeland security and agriculture, high pressure processing, lead and candy, Marler-Clark mock trial, food allergens, salmonella St. Paul, and the Olympics. I would encourage everyone to attend if possible. I will soon be attending an upcoming board meeting January 20th – 22nd in Timonium, MD to continue work on planning the conference.

Also discussed was the idea of “Bring a Friend” day to a CASA meeting and what other conferences are doing to increase membership and participation. The Virginia conference is also looking to increase the number of registered CASA members and we need your help. Let friends and co-workers know of the excellent training opportunities that we provide. A detailed explanation of membership benefits can be found at the CASA website (<http://www.casafdo.org/membership.cfm>) along with an .pdf version of the application. Recent developments will also permit VDH personnel to receive contact hours/CEUs toward their standardization in the food program. The Board is always open to comments or concerns and we look forward to input from all members.

Mr. Erik Bungo
Executive Board Representative-Virginia Conference of CASA
[Erik.Bungo @vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:Erik.Bungo@vdacs.virginia.gov)
804-382-0911

Committee Chairs

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Advisory Committee | Steve Fuller (Retired) Sfuller10@verizon.net |
| Associate Committee | VACANT |
| Communications Committee | Annie McCullough Annie.McCullough@vdacs.virginia.gov 757-363-3909 |
| Constitution & By-Law Committee | Steve Fuller (Retired) Sfuller10@verizon.net |
| Drug Committee | Brooke Higgins, FDA brooke.higgins@fda.hhs.gov |
| Education Committee | Frank Scherra Frank.Scherra@vdh.virginia.gov |
| Food Committee | Charlotte Wilkins, FDA charlotte.wilkins@fda.hhs.gov |
| Laboratory Committee | Janet Pruitt, Chairperson Janet.Pruitt@dgs.virginia.gov |
| Membership Committee | Joe Fabrizio Joseph.Fabrizio@vdacs.virginia.gov |
| Nominating & Elections Committee | Debbie Paul, DCLS Debbie.Paul@dgs.virginia.gov |
| Resolutions Committee | Chris Thackston Christopher.Thackston@vdacs.virginia.gov |