



The SkipJack

August 2017

President's Message

Greetings Members and Colleagues,

The public health industry is continuously evolving through time. Our goal as an organization is to help professionals in the food and drug sectors of the public health industry adapt to changes in legislation and practice through education, and to facilitate an exchange of information between regulatory officials, industry groups and the public. It is necessary that we continue to promote the mission of the Central Atlantic States Association (CASA) by making sure our members are well-informed on emerging issues, new developments, processes and regulations, and are prepared to welcome change.

The Baltimore Conference of CASA is also evolving to keep up with changes in the industry by offering diverse training opportunities and modifying existing protocols. Moving forward, the executive board would like to improve the membership experience by soliciting feedback from our members through the use of surveys. We strongly suggest that all members get involved by sharing your ideas and opinions. We would like to encourage our members to move beyond participation at quarterly meetings to become active on committees or as officers of the executive board. Those who are elected as board officers or appointed to serve as committee members must be active members. Therefore, it is important that all members who have not renewed their membership for 2017 complete the renewal process before December 31st and remember to renew again the following year to take advantage of various opportunities and privileges of the Association. Please refer to the Announcements section of this issue for information on the membership renewal process. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, feedback and continued support.

Respectfully,

Ndidi Okoh, LEHS, MBA
President, CASA Baltimore Conference

New Executive Board Officer

Vice President of CASA Baltimore Conference

Sara Lou Trescott, M.A., LEHS, Director of Environmental Health, Washington Co. Health Department

Sara L. Trescott, M.A., L.E.H.S., currently serves as Director of Environmental Health for the Washington County Health Department, Maryland Department of Health. She holds a master's degree, certificate from Harvard's JFK School of Government, two United States Patents, and her biography has appeared in *Who's Who in Science and Engineering, America, and the World*. Her technical expertise, legislative and management experience, and well known trouble shooting skills make her a valuable asset for State service.

New Committee Charges

Food Committee – Cheryl Chaney, LEHS, Carroll County Health Department

Communications Committee – Sabrina Cole LEHS, Prince George's County Health Department

Membership Committee – Robin Sleeman, LEHS, Prince George's County Health Department

Education Committee – Vera Thompson, LEHS, Prince George's County Health Department

Nominations and Elections Committee – Alan Taylor, LEHS, Maryland Department of Health

Outgoing Officers and Committee Charges

Membership Committee – Jeff Lewis, LEHS, Prince George's County Health Department

A sincere thank you from the executive board and members to Jeff Lewis for managing and promoting growth of our membership in recent years. His service and commitment to the Baltimore Conference are appreciated.

Communications Committee – Theresa Holland, RN

The executive board and members would like to thank Theresa Holland for her long-term dedication to the role of Communications Committee Charge. Ms. Holland contributed her time and efforts to improve communications between members and the Association. We appreciate her vast contributions to the Baltimore Conference.

Nominations and Elections Committee, Past Treasurer – Al Ondis, Food and Drug Administration

On behalf of the executive board and members, we would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation to Al Ondis for years of hard work and dedication as Treasurer and Nominations/Elections Committee Charge. Mr. Ondis worked continuously to manage finances for what was once the largest conference in the CASA network, and provided guidance on nomination and election protocol. We are more than grateful for his past involvement in both roles.

The CASA website will be updated soon to include new executive board and committee information. Please visit the CASA Baltimore Conference website at <http://casafdo.us/baltimore/> for a complete list of Board Officers and Committee Charges.

Review of the 337th Quarterly Meeting

The Baltimore Conference would like to thank all of the speakers that participated in the 337th quarterly meeting held June 7, 2017 at the Randallstown Community Center in Randallstown, Maryland.

Jeff McGovern, Pest Coach, The Resource Shop, “The 12 Key Factors of Pest Control”

Mr. McGovern presented “The 12 Key Factors of Pest Control” to assist food service environmental health specialist during inspection and food service establishments with the tenants of pest prevention and control. According to Mr. McGovern, the 12 key factors to pest control are: access, food, water, harborage, underneath, around, behind and on top of, cleaning, sanitation, maintenance, and product rotation. The institution of best management practices for the prevention of pests in kitchen work areas is a key tool in eliminating the threat of pest in your food service facilities. With careful monitoring, the prevention measures should be a strong deterrent in fighting pests.

Matthew Noonan, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Office of Regulatory Affairs, “Reduced Oxygen Packaging”

Mr. Noonan works with the FDA as a food specialist. He discussed the fundamentals of reduced oxygen packaging (ROP) which can be defined as any packaging procedure that results in a reduced oxygen level in a sealed packaged. It may include ‘vacuum packaging’ which is one type of reduced oxygen packaging method or “Modified Atmosphere Packaging”, this is a process that uses a gas flushing and sealing process to reduce the oxygen content of the package. When ROP is used, it is important to note that it be included in the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan.

Janna Howley & Kelly Dudek, Grow and Fortify, “Value-Added Products at Markets and Wineries / Breweries / Distilleries

Ms. Howley and Ms. Dudek defined Value Added Products or Value Added Agriculture (VAA) as essentially altering or processing a raw agricultural product in a way to increase its worth to the consumer, and in turn, bring more revenue to the farmer, producer or processor. By expanding markets to agricultural products, wineries, breweries, and distilleries, producers begin to experience return on investments through new markets and products, longer seasons to sell their products, and creating business opportunities for their farming operation. They also touched on the permitting and regulatory processes as being an impediment to success of VAA, but are working with stakeholders to try and streamline the process.

Kevin Schneider, Giant Food, “Safe Quality Food Certification Program”

Mr. Schneider works as Giant Food’s Quality Assurance Manager. Safe Quality Food (SQF) programs are recognized by retailers who require a rigorous, credible food safety management system. SQF employs a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach to food safety; improve existing food safety plans by identifying and managing risks proactively, thereby decreasing the potential for foodborne illnesses and product recalls. SQF also helps to ensure a high level of food safety from “farm to fork.” SQF is recognized by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) and links primary production certification with food manufacturing, distribution and supplier management certification. GFSI’s mission is to provide continuous improvements in food safety management systems to ensure confidence in the delivery of safe food to consumers worldwide.

Barbara Zektick, Esq., Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), Associate Director, “2017 Legislative Update”

Ms. Zektick is an Associate Director for MACo and contributes broadly to MACo’s advocacy and policy efforts in Annapolis. She provides principal policy coverage for a range of policy areas. Ms. Zektick provided an update on the Maryland General Assembly 2017 legislative agenda that had direct and potential future impacts with respect to environmental health issues, such as, mobile food truck inspections, best management practices related to septic issues, and fiscal overview of the State’s budgetary and legislative processes.

Survey Results for the 337th Quarterly Meeting

Survey results are in! An electronic survey, courtesy of Survey Monkey, was used to garner feedback from members who attended the 337th quarterly meeting. The survey was sent to all attendees by email a week after the meeting. We appreciate the comments provided and anticipate additional feedback after future meetings. Here are some of the responses from the survey:

What is your affiliation?

Of those who responded: Regulatory - 86.66% Associate - 6.67% Retired - 6.67%

What other areas of information would you like to see presented at future meetings?

Answers: Sushi at retail establishments, Code of Maryland (COMAR) regulations and updates, mobile inspections and requirements, cottage foods, food preservatives and farmer’s markets

What do you like the most about attending CASA meetings?

Most answered: Networking and interaction with colleagues

Funding to States for FDA Food Safety Modernization Act Produce Safety Rule

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was developed to transition from a response-based food safety system to prevention through a risk-based approach. As an important part of FSMA, the produce safety rule established new science-based standards that will ensure safe growing, harvesting, packing and holding of fruits and vegetables. Implementation of the FSMA produce safety rule requires support of state partners who communicate new requirements to food producers and growers, and help the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to provide education and training to agriculture communities to facilitate compliance. In order to move a step further in supporting state-based partners, the FDA is awarding an additional \$30.9 million in funding to 43 states to help state agencies support implementation of the FSMA produce safety rule and develop produce safety programs. Funding to states in support of the produce safety rule was initially announced in March 2016. In September 2016, \$21.8 million was awarded to 42 states. A second year of funding to states and U.S. territories has been granted by the FDA to provide continued support to state partners to provide education and outreach to agriculture communities.

Reference:

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2017). *Statement from FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D., on the Funding Awards to States for FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Implementation* [Press Release]. Retrieved August 8, 2017 from [https:// www.fda.gov/News Events/Newsroom/Press Announcements/ucm567565.htm](https://www.fda.gov/News/Events/Newsroom/Press%20Announcements/ucm567565.htm)

Announcements

338th Quarterly Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 18, 2017 at Oregon Ridge Park in Cockeysville, MD. Please make sure to check your email for the conference announcement which was forwarded in July and with the newsletter. The registration application deadline is September 8, 2017. The conference announcement will be available on the CASA website at <http://www.casafdo.org/>.

Membership Renewal

Memberships can be renewed through the CASA website at <http://www.casafdo.org/> or by mailing payment to Lisa Staley, c/o CASA, P.O. Box 1793, Westminster, MD 21158 with your registration application for the next quarterly meeting.

Elections

Elections will be held at our quarterly meeting in March 2018. Please remember to attend this meeting to exercise your voting privileges for electing the new executive board members. If you are interested in an executive board or committee position, please contact Ndidi Okoh (nokoh@howardcountymd.gov) or Sara Lou Trescott (sara.trescott@maryland.gov).

CASA Annual Conference 2018

The 102nd Annual Educational and Training Seminar will be held at the Stony Brook University Campus in Stony Brook, New York from April 23 – 26, 2018. Member participation is strongly encouraged. Please continue to check the CASA website for more information on registration requirements.

