



Central Atlantic States Association of Food & Drug Officials Virginia Conference

2011

April Newsletter
President's Message

Number 2

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Hello Members,

Another year has come to an end as my turn as the President of VA Conference of the Central Atlantic States Association of Food & Drug Officials (June '10 – May '11) I would like to take this time and say THANKS to our wonderful Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs! **THANK YOU** CASA members for continuously supporting this organization and actively participating in meetings throughout the year!

I'm also very excited about our upcoming meeting/training at the Navy Base in Norfolk, VA on June 14, 2011! Along with a Navy Ship tour, we have seafood/shellfish topics lined up for this training. Finalized agenda is coming out in a short while. Please mark your calendars and remember to pre-register by May 31, 2011. Don't miss out on this outstanding training opportunity. Hope to see you there!

It's also time to elect new Officers and Board members for the 2011 – 2012 year from a slate of outstanding candidates. Please review the biographical sketches, please vote and return your ballots to Courtney Rheinhart by April 15th, 2011.

PLEASE VOTE! PLEASE VOTE! PLEASE VOTE!

Sandor "Sean" Hejja
CASA President

P.S. Please remember to renew your membership!



Any dues or correspondence should now be addressed to:

Megan Lauff, CASA Treasurer
USFDA, US Custom House
200 Chestnut St Rm 900
Philadelphia PA 19106-2973
(215) 717-3749
fax (215) 717-3721
megam.lauff@fda.hhs.gov

www.casafdo.org

**MEMBERSHIPS ARE GOOD
JANUARY-DECEMBER
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!!!!**

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

The 95th Annual CASA Education and Training Seminar in Towson, MD is just a few weeks away. This conference will be held from May 16-19, 2011 at the Sheraton Baltimore North Hotel (<http://www.sheratonbaltimorenorth.com>). The Executive Board has confirmed speakers to give presentations on the following topics: salmonella trends, imported foods initiative, norovirus update from CFSAN, seafood safety, EPI 101, emergency response, ROP, dangerous documents, restaurant grading, food safety equipment, lab results, FDA OCI, bed bugs, employee behavior, and improving food safety. This conference is being held in conjunction with the FDA Central Region retail food protection meeting and a drug/device seminar. I would encourage all members to attend as this will be a great training opportunity. For more information and to register for the conference please visit (<http://www.casafdo.org/annual2011/index.cfm>).

If there is anyone that has not joined or paid their dues for this year please do so as soon as possible at (www.casafdo.org) and pull up the document by clicking on the “join/renew” tab. Fill it out and mail it to the CASA Treasurer, Mrs. Megan Lauff. We are also trying to recruit new members from government, academia and industry so please let all of your coworkers and colleagues know about the great educational and networking opportunities provided by CASA. The Executive Board would like to relay the message that CASA provides more opportunities for training/education at a lower cost than other regional associations. We welcome any comments the members may have in order to make CASA a better organization.

Mr. Erik Bungo
Representative to the Executive Board
Virginia Conference of CASA
Erik.Bungo@vdacs.virginia.gov
804-382-0911

Ballot for 2011-2012 Virginia Conference Officers

President

Paula Vile _____

Write-In _____

Board Members (Vote for three)

Courtney Rheinhart _____

Toinette Waldon _____

Kate Weakley _____

Sean Hejja _____

Write-In _____

Vice President

Keith Jordan _____

Write-In _____

Secretary-Treasurer

Rick Barham _____

Write-In _____

Newsletter Editor

Annie McCullough _____

Write-In _____

CASA Board Representative

Erik Bungo _____

Write-In _____

Please vote by Friday, April 15, 2011 and mail ballot to Courtney Rheinhart, CASA Board Member, at VA Department of Agriculture, 1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455, or email it to her at Courtney.Rheinhart@vdacs.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 noon on Friday, April 15 and from current members will be considered.**

Paula Vile

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

I have been with the Virginia Department of Agriculture working as a Food Safety Specialist for 7 years. Previously, I worked in the private sector as an Environmental Consultant where I primarily acted as liaison between private industry and federal and state agencies on compliance issues. In addition, I provided diagnostic testing services for federal and state agencies and over 500 public water systems while working as a Laboratory and Research Technician II for 15 years with DCLS. I received a B.S. in Health Sciences from Old Dominion University. I have been an active member of CASA since the start of my employment with VDACS. I'm currently serving as Vice-President for CASA and previously, served on the CASA scholarship committee for 2 years and planning committee for the Annual CASA Conference, which took place in VA Beach in 2007. I wish to extend my involvement with CASA by serving as President. CASA meetings are educational as well as a great opportunity to network with state and federal officials and representatives from the private industry. I'm a huge advocate for education and training and would welcome the opportunity to bring forth my ideas to foster quality, informative and educational training events. I believe my strong work ethic and genuine enthusiasm will be an asset to the organization.

Keith Jordan

CANDIDATE FOR VICE PRESIDENT

I am a Food Safety Specialist Sr. in VDACS serving for five years in southern Virginia from Greensville County to the City of Chesapeake. I have a B. S. in Animal Science from Virginia Tech. Prior to coming to the agency I worked for twenty one years in Operations for Gwaltney of Smithfield. I started in the stockyards and worked my way through the fresh meat division, but spent the bulk of my time there in manufacturing ready to eat hot dogs and lunchmeats in a processing plant. I joined CASA at the start of my employment with VDACS. I have learned a lot, and look forward to the educational opportunities that CASA provides. I have participated in organizing programs and speakers on a limited basis for CASA. I would like to contribute to this organization from which I have gained so much. Thank you for your consideration.

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 have attended numerous CASA meetings/seminars over the years and found them to be very educational and rewarding. If elected as Secretary/Treasurer I will work hard to support the mission of CASA in bringing pertinent training to both the regulatory community and our food industry members.

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.

Erik Bungo

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Erik Bungo – VDACS Food Safety Specialist Sr. and Current Executive Board Rep. I am currently serving as the VA Conference Exec. Board Rep. and would like to continue my position with CASA. Over the past year I have been instrumental in seeing that the VA Conference writes and adopts a Constitution and By-Laws in which to operate. I work with the current officers and board members to keep the VA Conference abreast on current issues with CASA and try to help organize beneficial training seminars for the members.

Courtney Rheinhart

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER

I have been employed as a Food Safety Specialist Senior for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in the Food Safety and Security division for three years. I conduct inspections of food processing facilities relative to food safety and security, investigates consumer complaints and foodborne illness investigations, collects samples of food products, reviews new food business proposals, and evaluates nutritional claims for foods and dietary supplements. I joined CASA shortly after starting work with VDACS and has attended numerous meetings and trainings. I am a graduate of Virginia Tech where I obtained my Master of Science degree in Food Microbiology. I volunteer for Southeastern Virginia Golden Retriever Rescue where I provide a foster home to Golden Retrievers waiting to be adopted.

Toinette Waldon

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER

I have been a Food Safety Specialist with the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services since 2007. During this time, I have attended numerous CASA meetings with great enjoyment. I have worked on multiple special assignments on the administrative end, as well as inspection activities when needed. I previously worked as an inspector with the Virginia Department of Health. I have attended numerous trainings and bring a broad range of knowledge. I have a B.S. In Biology and would enjoy the opportunity to fulfill the mission of CASA.

Kate Weakley

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER

I have been with VDACS for 7 years. Previously, I worked in the food industry, mainly in the area of 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 have served as Vice-President, President, and as a board member. I have enjoyed my participation with CASA and hope to continue serving the organization as a board member. I feel that I would be an asset to the organization, providing both experience and enthusiasm.

Sandor “Sean” Hejja

CANDIDATE FOR BOARD MEMBER

I am a Food Safety Specialist with VDACS Food Safety & Security since August 1999. During my employment with VDACS, I volunteered my services to special projects related to inspectional activities. I have trained and helped fellow inspectors and several food industry members. I was born and raised in Hungary and earned my B.S. degree in Agricultural Engineering/Economics from the Agricultural University of Godollo Hungary (GATE).I have been a member and fully enjoyed CASA activities since 1999. I was elected to the position of a Board Member in 2008. Since then, I am serving this great organization as Board Member, Vice President and President. I would like to offer my continuous services and expertise to CASA to serve another term as a Board Member.

Please vote by Friday, April 15, 2011 and mail ballot to Courtney Rheinart, CASA Board Member, at VA Department of Agriculture, 1444 Diamond Springs Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455, or email it to her at Courtney.Rheinart@vdacs.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 noon on Friday, April 15 and from current members will be considered.**

VA Conference of CASA

....A Day with the NAVY....

Tuesday, June 14, 2011



**The US Navy has invited CASA to visit for a day of training
and tour a Ship**

**A tentative agenda is being planned for
Speakers and Topics for a great training day**

- *NAVY Presentation**
- * NAVY Ship Tour**
- *Shellfish Topics**
- & much more**

**Deadline to register for this training is
Wednesday, June 1, 2011**

**Classroom seating and Tour is limited
(A more detail Agenda will be coming out soon)**

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Registration Form
Virginia Conference of CASA
Meeting Location: Navy Base in Norfolk

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

Deadline to register for this training is Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Name _____

Agency/Org _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

CASA Members.....\$20
Regulatory Non-Members.....\$35 = \$15 for membership / \$20 for training
Industry..... \$55 = \$35 for membership / \$20 for training
Retired.....\$30 = \$10 for membership / \$20 for training

MEMBERSHIPS ARE GOOD
JANUARY-DECEMBER

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

Please make checks payable to: CASA

**VA CONFERENCE of CASA COMMITTEE CHAIRS
MAY 2011 – MAY 2012**

- Advisory Committee: Chris Thackston (VDACS)
Christopher.Thackston@vdacs.virginia.gov
- Associate Committee: TJ Witten (The Kroger Co.)
t.j.witten@kroger.com
- Communications Committee: Annie McCullough (VDACS)
Annie.McCullough@vdacs.virginia.gov
- Constitution & By-Law Committee: Erik Bungo (VDACS)
Erik.Bungo@vdacs.virginia.gov
- Drug Committee: Brooke Higgins (FDA)
Brooke.Higgins@fda.hhs.gov
- Education Committee: Frank Scherra (VDH)
Frank.Scherra@vdh.virginia.gov
- Food Committee: Matthew Ettinger (VDACS)
Matthew.Ettinger@vdacs.virginia.gov
- Laboratory Committee: Janet Pruitt (DCLS)
Janet.Pruitt@dgs.virginia.gov
- Membership Committee: Steve Fuller
Sfuller10@verizon.net
- Nominating & Elections Committee: Courtney Rheinhart (VDACS)
Courtney.Rheinhart@vdacs.virginia.gov
- Resolutions Committee: Chris Thackston (VDACS)
Christopher.Thackston@vdacs.virginia.gov