



NORTHEAST NEW YORK CONFERENCE OF CASA

Voyager

Summer 2014

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2014-2015

NENY CASA

Officers and Executive Board

President - Margaret Kehn: Albany County Health Department

Vice President - Nichola Miller: Albany County Health Department

Secretary-Treasurer—Marianne Stone: Albany County Health Department

Executive Board Rep. - Erin Sawyer: NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets

Past President - David Nicholas: NYS Health Department

Executive Board Members

Tara Becker: Columbia County Health Department

Marcia Galka: Schenectady County Health Department

Sharon Pretel: NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

Dominick DiCarlo: Schenectady County Health Department

Erin Lockhart: NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

Associate Board Representative: Vacant

Greetings NENY CASA Members

We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer season! CASA is an organization consisting of many different members from industry and regulatory agencies within the Northeastern New York region. The members deal with food, drugs, medical devices, cosmetics and various other public health and sanitation issues to keep all of those mentioned products safe for consumers. The purpose of our organization is to provide training and professional development as well as networking opportunities in food and drug safety.

Fiscal constraints in both industry and State and Local regulatory offices emphasize the importance of organizations like CASA. With staffing issues we are all facing, there is no better time than now for us all to work together, train each other and expand our collective knowledge base. As we know, there are many emerging trends and challenges as we strive to protect the consumer, it is important that we as professionals stay current on the issues. We must continue to look for ways

to meet our overall objectives; to be a resource for training and education and to be a voice for industry and the consumer when regulations can be strengthened or improved. When we look back at the history of food and drug safety in this country it is amazing how far we have come and what we can still hope to achieve! Thank you to all our current members for your support of CASA over the years. We encourage you all to invite an interested colleague to a CASA meeting so that we may continue to increase our overall membership and share what we have to offer to others who have a vested interest in protecting public health. Also, please continue to share your topics of interest with us that you would like to learn more about. We look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming quarterly meeting!



Quarterly Meeting Announcement

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on Friday September 12, 2014 at the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets; The Pride of New York Room 10 B Airline Drive; Albany, NY 12205. Topics will be; "integrated Pest Management for Schools and Daycare, presented by Joellen Lampman,

School & Turf IPM Extension Agriculture and Markets. As Support Specialist, Cornell University, NYS IPM Program. A discussion of "Trans Fats" by Dr. Scott Bello, MD, MPH, Professor of Chemistry at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and "Conducting Inspections at Breweries", presented by Erin Lockhart, Food Inspector, NYS Department of

always, lunch will be served. To register for this training, please send a check for \$12.00 NENY-CASA Members or \$15.00 to: Marianne Stone, Albany County Department of Health, 175 Green Street Albany, NY 12202.

CASA Executive Board Report - Erin Sawyer

Welcome to another year for CASA. I hope this finds everyone well. As many of you know, the year for elected positions begins at the close of the Annual Training session. Mr. Erik Bungo from the Virginia Conference, and the CASA representative to the AFDO Board, Tara. In August, the Board will begin the stepped into the position of CASA President. Erik works for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. He is a Seafood HACCP trainer and a graduate of the IFPTI Fellowship program. I look forward to a wonderful year under his leadership as CASA President. The 98th annual CASA Educational and Training Seminar was held this past May in Grantville, Pennsylvania. The conference was well attended and offered a number of speakers on timely issues such as living gluten free, high pressure pasteurizing, and food safety in various types of processing facilities including meat processing plants, chocolate manufacturers and breweries. If you missed the ETS, many of the speakers presentations be posted on the CASA website. The CASA Award winner was, for the first time, a representative from Industry, Ms. Tara Pas-

ter. Tara sits as the Associate Representative on the Executive Board and bring with her a lot of energy and many great ideas for improving CASA. She has work tirelessly to involve industry in CASA. Congratulations to Tara. In August, the Board will begin the planning for the 2015 CASA ETS will begin. This Board meeting will start with deciding on topics and speakers for next year. The 2015 Annual Educational Training Seminar will be hosted by the Virginia Conference and will be earlier than usual, with the dates of April 20-24, 2015. In addition, I would like to thank Andy Sufлита, NENY's rep to the board and past president, who is currently continues to serve on the Board as the communication rep for all his work to help get the CASA website redesign off the ground. If you have not visited our website recently, please do so. You can register your email to receive email notification of upcoming events. I will be representing CASA as the representative to the Seafood HACCP Alliance. My first meeting is August and I look forward to this new venture. I am currently a Seafood HACCP trainer and

feel that this position will be benefit me in my job skills and my experience as a Regulator will be beneficial to the Seafood HACCP Alliance. The Board will also be working on hosting the AFDO Conference in 2016, which also happens to be CASA's 100th anniversary. The CASA Training Seminar will be held in Philadelphia that year to commemorate where the first meeting was held. I look forward to a great year. Thank you to everyone who has filled a position with our Conference. We're always looking to see new faces at our meetings, so I encourage you to attend our meetings locally and to bring a friend and introduce them to CASA as well. Lastly, we are always looking for your input on training ideas. If you have a topic that is related to Public Health that you would like to hear about or if you feel you need training on some aspect of your job, please contact anyone who is on the Eboard. Thank you so much!

- Erin Sawyer

Did You Know?

More than 200 diseases are spread through food? Millions of people world-wide fall ill every year and many die as a result of eating unsafe food. Diarrhoeal diseases alone kill an estimated 1.5 million children annually and most of these are attributed to contaminated food or water. (WHO)

Membership Dues

If you have not already paid your annual dues, please forward payment as soon as possible to Marianne Stone, Albany County Health Department PO Box 678, Albany NY or you can pay at our next quarterly meeting. Payment can also be forward to Central Atlantic

States Association of Food and Drug Officials, 200 Chestnut Street, Room 900, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2973. Annual dues are: \$15.00 for Regulatory members; \$35.00 for Associate members; and \$10.00 for Retirees and Academic memberships.



CASA Website

The CASA organization has a newly designed website that has up to date information, on all conference information, meetings, events, newsletters etc. All membership renewals and news updates will be sent via email. If you have not already done so, please register your email address so that you do not miss out on current information at: www.casafdo.org. CASA also has a Facebook page that can linked to through the CASA website, so be sure to "like" us on Facebook!



FDA defines “gluten-free” for food labeling



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration today published a new regulation defining the term “gluten-free” for voluntary food labeling. This will provide a uniform standard definition to help the up to 3 million Americans who have celiac disease, an autoimmune digestive condition that can be effectively managed only by eating a gluten free diet.

This new federal definition standardizes the meaning of “gluten-free” claims across the food industry. It requires that, in order to use the term “gluten-free” on its label, a food must meet all of the requirements of the definition, including that the food must contain less than 20 parts per million of gluten. The rule also requires foods with the claims “no gluten,” “free of gluten,” and “without gluten” to meet the definition for “gluten-free.”

The FDA recognizes that many foods currently labeled as “gluten-free” may be able to meet the new federal definition already. Food manufacturers will have a year after the rule is published to bring their labels into compliance. The term “gluten” refers to proteins that occur naturally in wheat, rye, barley and cross-bred hybrids of these grains.

The FDA was directed to issue the new regulation by the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act (FALCPA), which directed FDA to set guidelines for the use of the term “gluten-free” to help people with celiac disease maintain a gluten-free diet. *Source: FDA*

Personnel Changes at the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets

The Division of Food Safety and Inspection at the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets has some personnel changes in recent months.

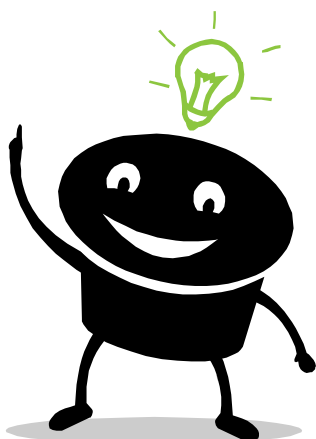
Long-time NENY CASA member Paula Barber retired from the Department in July of 2013. Paula has been a valuable asset to Food Safety since 1999. She worked out of the Sullivan County area in several surrounding counties.

Supervising Food Inspector Sharon Pretel has moved from the Bronx, where she was a Field Supervisor, to Albany. She now works in the Central Office at the Supervisor for the Economic Unit.

Jim Healy has been promoted to Supervising Food Inspector for Zone 2. This area covers 14 counties from the PA border to the Canadian border.

Welcome to Food Inspectors Drew Walling, Erin Lockhart and Sarah Czapranski. Drew started in September of 2013 in the Binghamton area, and Erin and Sarah started in December of last year. Erin is in Warren & Saratoga Counties and Sarah is in the Central Office’s Compliance unit.

Inspector Terry Dixon who worked in the Central Office, also made a career change and has moved to Florida.



Associate Member Sought for NENY CASA E-Board

The NENY CASA Executive Board would like to include an Associate member from Industry on the Executive Board. If you or any of your colleagues may be interested, please contact one of the Board members listed on the newsletter cover page.

Tell us your ideas!

If you have any ideas or topics that you would like to hear about or suggestions for speakers, please let one of our officers or e-board members know. As always, all ideas are appreciated.

NENY CASA Member Retirements

Andrew Sullita, Schenectady County Department of Health- 35 years ago a spry young man eager to pay off his recently acquired college student loans graced the door step of the Schenectady County Dept. of Environmental Health. This year, that man ("weathered", but still spry) exited that door for the last time.

Andrew Suflita has retired after 35 years of service to the Schenectady County Health Department. Andrew began his career with the Health Department as a laborer in 1979, and rose up through the ranks retiring as Director of Environmental Health.

Andrew had an unbelievable knowledge of every aspect of Environmental Health and his expertise and wisdom will truly be missed. Throughout his career he was dedicated to his work, co-workers, and the safety of the general public.

He has been an active member of CASA holding nearly all executive board positions on both NENY and Mama CASA levels. In 2012 Andrew was the deserving recipient of the CASA Award which is given to the member in recognition of their dedication and service to the CASA organization.

Andrew finally has more time to spend with his wife Debbie and 3 children, Zachary, Matthew and Rachel, as well as taking time to enjoy other activities such as golf, hiking and fishing.

With the retirement of Andrew, Mr. Jack Frame has been promoted to Director. Jack also has been an active NENY CASA member for 28 years. His knowledge and dedication to Environmental Health will surely be welcomed.

So if you're out on the golf links, hiking an Adirondack mountain trail, or fishing just about any NY State body of water and happen to run into Andrew, wish him a happy and well deserved retirement. Andrew plans to remain active in CASA as a retired member.

Best Wishes and happy trails, Andrew!



Clarence Davis, NYS Department of Agriculture and Marketing- The time has come to say goodbye to a true gentlemen, to bid farewell to a well-respected, well received man. Our good friend and colleague Clarence Davis retired on July 30th 2014 after twenty years of dedicated service with NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. Mr. Davis has been an vital part of food safety in NYS and is known by many in our circles outside of the state for his diligence in food safety matters. He served as NENY Conference president in 2011-2012 and continues to be a member of CASA. Please join me in wishing Clarence a happy and prosperous retirement. Clarence will continue to partipate as a CASA retiree member and continue his dedicated work with CASA.



Ed Carloni, NYS Department of Health- Ed Carloni, Principal Sanitarian with the New York State Department of Health, retired in September of 2013. He was a long time member of CASA. Ed's long and distinguished career in public health spanned over 30 years and included both Local and State service. Ed decided to trade his day job in Upstate New York for spending time with his wife Sharon in the warm and sunny weather in Southwest Florida. His many years of experience and wealth of knowledge will surely be missed by the Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection.

