

THE BELL RINGER

The Newsletter of the Philadelphia Conference of the Central Atlantic States
Association of Food and Drug Officials

Spring 2019

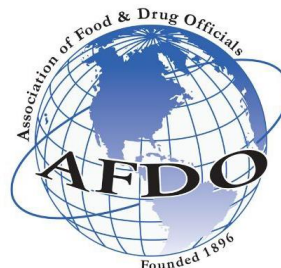


THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are enjoying the fresh air and sunshine. At the past few Spring Educational Seminars, we had to endure some snow. The March proverb "In like a lion, out like a lamb" has always seemed straightforward: when March starts, it's still winter, and by the end of the month spring has begun. Happy Spring Everyone!

I am approaching my one-year anniversary as CASA President for the Philadelphia Conference and I would like to thank everyone for all the help and support to make our quarterly trainings a success. With that being said, please reach out to me or any of the board members if you have ideas for topics and speakers. Please continue to support the Philadelphia Conference, spread the word, and bring your colleagues.

Mark your calendar for the **103rd Annual Educational and Training Seminar** in Annapolis, Maryland on May 6-9, 2019. The conference is being held at the Westin Annapolis, which is located close to downtown Annapolis and the Naval Academy. Please go to <https://casafdo.us/annual-seminar/> for more information.



Pam Lawn, President

Philadelphia Conference of CASA

Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

Mark your Calendars!!!

May 6-9, 2019

Annapolis, Maryland



*The Westin Annapolis
100 Westgate Cir, Annapolis, MD*



Please Join us for our 103rd Annual Education and Training Seminar

Donations requested

Donations are needed for the **Gordon K. Brown Silent Auction!** All proceeds benefit the [H. Thompson Price Scholarship Fund](#). It allows CASA to present a scholarship to a worthy student who shows superior academic resilience, ongoing community service, and financial need -- in hopes that this student will continue to give back to his or her community and professional associations in the future.

The silent auction will take place during the 103rd Annual Educational and Training Seminar in Annapolis, Maryland on May 6-9, 2019. Help us prepare for the auction by pre-registering your item. The associated form can be found on the [CASA website](#). Please submit it electronically to Megan Lauff at Megan.Lauff@fda.hhs.gov.

If you would like to donate an item to this year's silent auction but are not able to attend in person, you can bring the item to the Spring Educational Seminar on March 29, 2019 and give it to Megan.



2019 Educational Seminars

The **Spring Educational Seminar** will be held on March 29, 2019 in Conshohocken, PA. The election of officers for 2019 will be conducted during the seminar. See the agenda and ballots at the end of this newsletter.

The **Summer Educational Seminar** is tentatively scheduled for June 21, 2019 in New Jersey. An agenda will be distributed approximately one month beforehand.

The **Fall Educational Seminar** is tentatively scheduled for September 13, 2019 in Philadelphia, PA. And the **Winter/Holiday Educational Seminar** is scheduled for December 13, 2019 in Trevese, PA.



FDA Happenings – Retail Program Standards

By Barbara Kitay, REHS, CSO / Retail Food Program Specialist / FDA Office of Partnerships

Have you taken part in any of the **Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards** grants and cooperative agreements? Are you interested in receiving funding to implement the Retail Program Standards?

If so, FDA's Office of Partnerships (OP) would like to hear from you!!!

In what ways, did the funding programs help your regulatory retail food protection program? Are there areas within funding the standards that were not covered that you would like to see in the future? Are there considerations that may prevent your program from applying for FDA funding?

The Retail Program Standard Cooperative Agreement Programs were developed to further FDA's efforts towards supporting state, local, territorial, and tribal (SLTT) retail food safety programs of all sizes to make progress or advancements towards conformance with the Retail Program Standards. The Retail Program Standard Cooperative Agreement Programs encourage the SLTT to innovate, create, improve, and build upon existing programs, and accommodate both traditional and emerging approaches to retail food safety.

The feedback OP receives will be used to develop future funding ideas. Please send your feedback to op.feedback@fda.hhs.gov

Additional information regarding the Retail Program Standard Cooperative Agreements can be found at:

- <https://www.fda.gov/ForFederalStateandLocalOfficials/FundingOpportunities/GrantsCoopAgrmts/ucm475113.htm>
- <https://www.fda.gov/ForFederalStateandLocalOfficials/FundingOpportunities/GrantsCoopAgrmts/ucm475128.htm>
- <https://www.naccho.org/programs/environmental-health/hazards/food-safety/mentorship>

9th Annual Food and Drug Law CLE Symposium

All Matters FDA:

Marijuana, Kratom, Opioids, E-Cigarettes, Device Safety, Food Enforcement, Personal Care Products, Dietary Supplements, and Other Hot Topics . . .

*Presented by the Widener University
Delaware Law School Food and Drug Law Association*

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

12:30–5:00 p.m.

(light refreshments included)

Widener University Delaware Law School
Ruby R. Vale Moot Courtroom
4601 Concord Pike, Wilmington, DE 19803

*Four (4) CLE credits (including two ethics credits) in DE and PA.
NJ attorneys can self-report with Widener's Certificate of
Attendance. Course materials will be distributed electronically.*

"All Matters FDA" promises to be informative, focusing on the Food and Drug Administration's top accomplishments across the food and drug law spectrum. Find out about "hot topics" and hear the latest from seasoned professionals. Ethical issues will be explored.

Invited Speakers:

- **Judith D. Cassel, Esquire, Partner** — *Hawke, McKeon, Sniscak, LLP, Cannabis Law PA*
- **Charlene K. Fullmer, Esquire** — *Deputy Chief for Affirmative Litigation, Civil Division, United States Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Pennsylvania*
- **Stanley R. Milstein, PhD** — *FDA, Office of Cosmetics and Colors*
- **Matthew R. Noonan, Esquire** — *Compliance Officer, FDA Human & Animal Food Division*
- **Hooman Noorchashm, MD, PhD** — *Cardiac Surgeon, Philadelphia, PA*
- **Sandra S. Retzky, MD, JD** — *Medical Officer, FDA, Center for Tobacco Products*
- **Roseann B. Termini, Esquire** — *Food & Drug Law Legal Scholar; National Speaker; Teaches Online Food and Drug Law Courses, Widener University Delaware Law School*



Registration fee: \$75;

Students with valid school ID: Free

Online registration is available at
delawarelaw.widener.edu/fdacle

For questions or for accessibility
or special needs requests,
contact Carol Perrupato at
caperrupato@widener.edu or
302-477-2178.

Widener University 
Delaware Law School

Register [here](#).

Philadelphia Conference of CASA Officers

Pam Lawn, Montgomery County Health Dept.	President
Nancy Wilson, Wawa Inc.	Vice President
Dennis Bauer, Retired, Bucks County Health Dept.	Executive Officer
Megan Lauff, U.S. FDA	Treasurer
Harry Pfender, Bucks County Health Dept.	Secretary
Anitra Brown-Reed, U.S. FDA	Member-At-Large
Matthew Noonan, U.S. FDA	Member-At-Large
Danielle Bytheway, NJ Department of Health	CASA Representative
Lynn Bonner, Retired, U.S. FDA	Past President
Caroline Friel, Wawa, Inc.	Associate Representative

Educational Seminars

Our Winter Educational Seminar was held at Trevoise Fire House, 4900 Street Road, Trevoise, PA 19053 on December 7, 2018.

1st Presentation: "Pulsed Light Treatment of Foods: Limitations and Potential Applications"

Speaker: Lillian Hsu, PhD / Chemist / FDA CFSAN Office of Food Safety



Dr. Hsu explained how Pulsed Light technology works, factors to consider when designing pulsed light treatments, and applications of the technology for the food industry. A light-based technology that utilizes UV-rich broad-spectrum light to inactivate pathogens, pulsed light is effective against bacteria, viruses, and molds and has practical applications such as decontamination of medical instruments and pharmaceutical blister packs. Lillian described potential uses of pulsed light on decontamination of smooth, intact food contact surfaces and packaging materials and simple beverages that do not contain chemicals that would absorb UV light.

Additionally, pulsed light can be useful for extending shelf life of products such as hard cheeses by inactivating spoilage microorganisms.

2nd Presentation: "Update: How Technology is Advancing Food Safety"

Speaker: Eric Moore / Director of Food Safety and Regulatory Compliance / Testo North America



Mr. Moore talked about some benefits and challenges associated with modernizing food safety monitoring and equipment. He especially focused on the use of electronic records as a way of simplifying operations and improving tracking and trending.

3rd Presentation: "The Return of Retail Molluscan Shellfish Tanks at Retail Stores"

Speaker: Gary Wolf / Shellfish Specialist / FDA ORA

Mr. Wolf covered plan review and inspectional recommendations for live molluscan shell fish held in life-supporting tanks at the retail level.

Shellfish are either submerged completely in tanks or can be sprayed continuously with water to maintain the life of the shellfish. Advantages of this method include extended shelf-life, taste, sales, and appeal to consumers.

Considerations must include maintaining potability of water, maintaining temperature of water at 41°F or less, and monitoring effectiveness of UV lights and filtration systems within the tank system.



Tags must be used identifying each lot of shellfish stored in this manner according to the requirements of the FDA Food Code. Tanks must also be made of safe materials.

Use of molluscan shellfish life-supporting tanks requires a variance from the local health authority or the State health authority prior to using in a food establishment.

4th Presentation: "Coordinated Response to the *E. coli* 0157:H7 Outbreak in Romaine Lettuce"

Speaker: Judith Paterson, Emergency Response Coordinator/ FDA ORA

Ms. Paterson gave her perspective regarding the outbreak of *E. coli* 0157:H7 in romaine lettuce this past summer. It was the largest *E. coli* 0157:H7 outbreak in the U.S. since 2006, resulting in many hospitalizations and illnesses.

New voluntary labeling guidance from FDA, including harvest date and location, has been created to help in identification and traceback during future outbreaks.

Speaking of which...

FDA News Update

E. Coli O157:H7 outbreak in Romaine Lettuce

On February 13, 2019, the U.S. FDA announced that it has completed its investigation of the *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak in romaine lettuce. A traceback investigation conducted by FDA, CDC, and state partners formed the basis for an article entitled [*Investigation Summary: Factors Potentially Contributing to the Contamination of Romaine Lettuce Implicated in the Fall 2018 Multi-State Outbreak of E. coli O157:H7.*](#)

The investigation teams used the [Produce Safety Rule](#) and Good Agricultural Practices as the basis for assessing potential contributing factors that could have led to contamination of romaine lettuce on farms identified in the traceback. Areas of focus included:

- agricultural water
- equipment, tools, and sanitation
- soil amendments
- growing and harvesting practices
- animal intrusion
- adjacent land use
- employee health and hygiene practices



So why did FDA and CDC recommend the public refrain from consuming romaine lettuce all together on November 20, 2018?

The simple answer to this complex problem is that public health regulators and industry leaders could not pinpoint exactly which lots of romaine were affected and from which farms the romaine was harvested. Also, consumers who reported illness from the romaine could not be certain where and when they purchased it.

The traceback investigations revealed major challenges the industry has in maintaining traceability of produce. For example, romaine may be harvested multiple times per year and from various locations on one farm alone before being washed, packed, labeled, and distributed to the retailer. Traceability of produce is difficult but critical in quickly isolating affected produce and narrowing the risk to public health. Traceability also offers an added financial incentive for industry, as the affected lots can be swiftly recalled from the market without recalling all lots.

Editor's Note

Share your interests, information, and announcements with your fellow professionals. If you take great notes, contribute to the Bell Ringer and recount your training or meeting adventures. Please email: Matthew.Noonan@fda.hhs.gov or Daniel.Johnson@fda.hhs.gov.

Please consider suggesting topics, ideas, or speakers for our quarterly educational seminars via email to plawn@montcopa.org. Thanks so much!

Space is available for advertising in the Bell Ringer.

We look forward to your feedback and participation.


PHILADELPHIA  **CONFERENCE**

FOUNDED *in* AUGUST 3, 1923

OF THE CENTRAL ATLANTIC STATES ASSOCIATION OF FOOD AND DRUG OFFICIALS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH A.F.D.O.

and Co-Sponsored with the **SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE**



Friday, March 29, 2019 

SPRING EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR
NJ CEU's Pending (4 to 5)

Montgomery County
Public Safety Training Campus/Fire Academy
(Auditorium)
1175 Conshohocken Road
Conshohocken, PA 19428

- 8:00 – 9:00 Registration
- 9:00-9:30 ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- 9:30 – 12:00 Panel Discussion: "Boiled Water Advisory (BWA) & How Your Agency/Company Reacts to Such with Regards to Food Service Establishment Notifications & Compliance"

Robert Woolston, Environmental Group Manager
Department of Environmental Protection, Safe Drinking Water, Norristown, PA

Charles D. Hertz, Ph.D., Director, Water Quality
Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., Bryn Mawr, PA

Sheri Morris, Chief, Division of Food Safety Policy and Programs
PA Dep of Agriculture Bureau of Good Safety & Laboratory Services/Harrisburg, PA

Richard Flack, Environmental Supervisor
Bucks County Department of Health, Levittown, PA

Stephan Cap, Bureau of Environmental Health Protection Supervisor
Chester County Health Department, West Chester, PA

Pam Lawn, Director, Environmental Field Services
Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services/Norristown, PA

Emily A. Robbins, MPH, Waterborne Disease Program Associate, Acute Communicable
Disease Program, Philadelphia Department of Public Health/Philadelphia, PA

Mary Beck, Director of Food Safety
Summerwood Corporation, Conshohocken, PA

- 10:30 – 10:45 Break
- 12:00-1:15 LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
- 1:15 – 2:15 “Preventative Controls for Human Food Overview”
Barry Parsons, Senior Consultant
Paster Training, Inc., Gilbertsville, PA
- 2:15-2:30 Break
- 2:30-3:30 “Foreign Supplier Verification Program Overview”
Melissa Vaccaro, VP Consulting for PTI Consulting Group,
Paster Training, Inc., Gilbertsville, PA
- 3:30-4:00 Q & A and Evaluation

NOTE: Please register with Lynn Bonner at LSBonner@comcast.net (Philadelphia members) or with Ted Verisink at tveresink@easton-pa.gov (Susquehanna Conference).

COST: The following fees apply:

- Current 2019 Members – Registration Fee of \$5.00
- Non-members/Delinquent Members–Dues & Registration Fee of \$5.00
- Dues: Regulator - \$15.00
- Associate - \$35.00
- Academic - \$10.00
- Student - \$10.00
- Retired - \$10.00

CEUs: A New Jersey continuing education credit application is pending for 4.0 to 5.0 CEU's. This course will be listed on NJLMN web upon approval and you will then be able to register for the CEU's (<https://njlmn.njlics.net>).

***PLEASE bring items for donation for our quarterly CASA food drive to help the needy. Items will be donated to “The Unforgotten Haven” in Blackwood, NJ. Check them out on Facebook to see all that they do for those in need!**

Shelf Stable Food Items: Soups, juices, pasta, tomato sauce, tuna, chicken, canned stew, pancake mix, syrup, cereal

Paper products: Women's hygiene products - sanitary pads, Tampax
Diapers (any size)

Toiletries – soap, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, disposable razors, toothbrushes

Clothing Accessories – New underwear (any size) and new socks

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Central Atlantic States Association – Philadelphia Conference
March 29, 2019

The CASA Constitution states that each member of the Association in the Regulatory or Life Member categories is entitled to one vote on any issue. **Please do not vote if you are an Academic Member or Associate Member.**

The following nominations are presented to you by the Nominating Committee. Please cast your vote by making an X in the appropriate bracket or by using the write-in line.

1. President - serves 1 year term. May be re-elected for additional term (2nd term)

Pamela Lawn, Montgomery County Health Department []

Write-in: _____ []

2. Vice-President – serves 1 year term. May be re-elected for additional term (2nd term)

Nancy Wilson, Wawa []

Write-in: _____ []

3. Member At Large – serves a 2-year term & may be re-elected to serve an additional term (2nd term/2nd year)

Anitra Brown-Reed, US Food & Drug Administration []

Write-in _____ []

4. Member At Large – serves a 2-year term & may be re-elected to serve an additional term (1st term/2nd year)

Matthew Noonan, US Food & Drug Administration []

Write-in _____ []

5. Representative to the Executive Board – serves for a minimum term of 4 years as an advisor on the board. After 4 years, the person may drop off and be replaced by the conference or at any time could elect to enter the officer track (another 4 years, which would rotate them through the positions of President elect, VP, President, and Past President) – (2nd year)

Danielle Bytheway, New Jersey Department of Health []

Write-in: _____ []

6. Secretary – serves a 3-year term & may be re-elected with no limit to number of terms
(1st term/1st year)

Harry G. Pfender, Bucks County Health Department []

Write-in _____ []

7. Treasurer – serves a 3-year term & may be re-elected with no limit to number of terms
(1st term/1st year)

Megan Lauff, US Food & Drug Administration []

Write-in _____ []

8. Executive Officer – serves 3-year term & may be re-elected with no limit to number of terms
(1st term/1st year)

Denny Bauer, Retired/ Bucks County Health Department []

Write-in _____ []

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Central Atlantic States Association – Philadelphia Conference

March 29, 2019

The CASA Constitution states that each member of the Association in the Associate Member category is entitled to one vote regarding the election of the associate board member. Unless you are a current Associate Member, you should not vote.

The following nominations are presented to you by the Nominating Committee. Please cast your vote by making an X in the appropriate bracket or by using the write-in line.

1. Associate Member - Serves 1 year term. May be re-elected to 2 additional terms (3rd term)

Caroline B. Friel, Wawa, Inc. []

Write-in: _____ []