

# THE BELL RINGER

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

**Summer 2018**



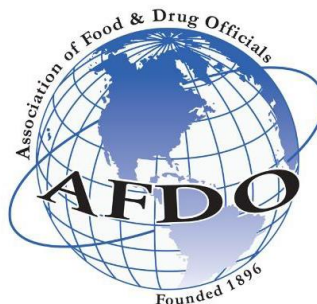
## **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This is my first President's message and I am excited and thankful for everyone who encouraged me to take on this new role. I have been a member of CASA on and off, for the past 25 years. Some of those years more involved than others but for the past six years I have been serving on the executive board.

When I started my career 26 years ago, I was hired as an Environmental Health Specialist for the Montgomery County Health Department. I was a supervisor for approximately 10 years and for the past 14 years I have been the Director for the Division of Environmental Field Services. Our county health department has been part of a transition to collaboratively provide an accessible network of resources that fosters, supports and enhances the health and well-being of Montgomery County residents. The health department is now part of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and we are called the Office of Public Health.

I thought I would begin by discussing the relationship of the Central Atlantic States Association (CASA) of Food and Drug Officials with our parent organization, the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). I think it is imperative that we remember our main goal and purpose is education and training. CASA serves as a vital mechanism for partnering with other Federal, State, and local agencies and private industry. Being involved will help in fostering relationships with our counterparts in the food industry. AFDO is the parent organization for six regional affiliates, CASA being one of them. AFDO is a professional organization for regulatory food, drug and medical devices officials from local, state, and federal agencies as well as those from the regulated industry. AFDO has a voice in generating and shaping national policies that affect all public health and consumer protection issues to maintain and improve our nation's public health and safety. AFDO and CASA have the resources and skills through our member organizations and our individual members to promote uniform regulations.

I look forward to learning and growing personally and strengthening our organization while we move forward.



Pam Lawn, President  
Philadelphia Conference of CASA

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

--Please mark your calendars for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Education and Training Seminar, hosted by our colleagues from the Baltimore Conference in Annapolis, MD on May 6-9, 2019. Consult the [CASA website](#) for information regarding the conference details. It will be a great opportunity to network by meeting new colleagues and renewing old friendships!

**Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials**

*Mark your Calendars!!!*

*May 6-9, 2019*

*Annapolis, Maryland*

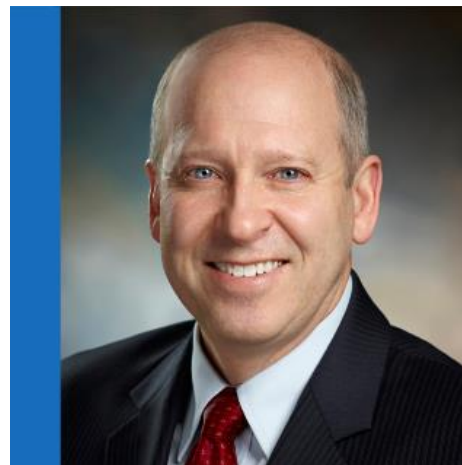
**CASA**

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

Please Join us for our 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Education and Training Seminar

## 2018 Annual Educational Training Seminar

The 102<sup>nd</sup> Annual Education and Training Seminar was hosted by the New York Conference in Stony Brook, NY on April 23-26, 2018. The theme was "Back to Basics: Advancing Professionalism through Continuing Education". Presentations ranged from an overview of the International Food Protection Training Institute, to Regulating Food Safety for Internet Sales, to a Rapid Response to a Complaint of Intentional Blood Contamination of Bananas. If you missed the seminar or would like to refresh your memory, the presentations are available on the [CASA website](#).



## 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 |

The 2018 election of officers was conducted during our Spring Educational Seminar. Congratulations to our new President Pam Lawn, who is replacing Lynn Bonner (Past President). Congratulations as well to the new Vice President Nancy Wilson and a new Member-At-Large Matt Noonan. In addition, Anitra Brown-Reed was reelected as Member-At-Large and Caroline Friel was reelected as Associate Representative.

## Educational Seminars

Our SPRING EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR was held on March 23, 2018 at the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Campus Auditorium, 1175 Conshohocken Road, Conshohocken, PA 19428.

Scott Hood, Ph.D., presented "**Pathogens in Flour – Insight from the 2016 Recall**". Dr. Hood is the Director of Global Scientific & Regulatory Affairs at General Mills Inc. in Minneapolis, MN. In the summer of 2016, General Mills recalled several types of flour due to illnesses from a strain of *E. coli*. Over 50 illnesses were linked to eating uncooked dough and batter made with raw flour. Dr. Hood explained the difficulty in determining the source of the pathogen. Wheat is grown in open fields and is often stored on the ground outside. Flour is not typically treated to kill bacteria during a normal milling process. Dr. Hood described General Mills' efforts to mitigate risk, such as by emphasizing sanitation and by controlling yield. He also stressed collaboration between industry partners and government agencies. Dr. Hood described his company's goal of educating consumers not to eat raw cookie dough or cake batter (e.g. by prominent labeling).



Jack Welte presented "**Species Substitution**" regarding seafood. Jack is a Sanitarian with the PA Department of Agriculture, Creamery, PA. Seafood substitution is a type of economic fraud when a less expensive species is substituted for a more expensive species. The motivation is an increased profit margin for a retail store or restaurant. The harm is that a consumer is not receiving what he/she was promised (e.g. mako shark for swordfish). Jack presented many examples of species substitution and described tips for detection as both a regulator and consumer.

Kyle Hobson, REHS, presented "**Norovirus: An Overview of Outbreaks and Prevention**". Kyle is an Investigator with FDA, Office of Regulatory Affairs, Human & Animal Food Division 2 East in the Wilmington, DE Resident Post. He described symptoms, associated foods, and control measures for norovirus. Norovirus, or the "winter vomiting bug", is a very common cause of gastroenteritis characterized by diarrhea, vomiting, and cramping. The virus is usually spread by the fecal-oral route (e.g. contaminated food or water or person-to-person contact). Kyle illustrated how easily norovirus can be transmitted. Insanitary food preparation is a risk factor. Kyle

stressed the importance of prevention via proper hand washing and disinfection of contaminated surfaces.

James Massey presented **“The Importance of Integrated Pest Management”**. Mr. Massey is an Independent Food Safety Inspector based in Upper Chichester, PA. He described the risks associated with pest entry and resulting food contamination in manufacturing plants and retail outlets. Mr. Massey explained how an effective pest control system can exclude the little critters and protect the food, thereby protecting the company’s business reputation as well as the public’s health.



#### FDA News

On July 26, 2018, FDA issued its first [Warning Letter](#) regarding the new Preventive Control regulations for human food in [Subpart C of 21 CFR 117](#). This advisory action was taken against a contract manufacturer of a brand name cereal. The cereal was linked to a multistate outbreak of *Salmonella* illness; it was then recalled. The incident illustrates the importance of developing and implementing a Sanitation Control Program to protect ready-to-eat food from contamination when it is potentially exposed to environmental pathogens in the facility. In this situation, environmental monitoring should be performed to verify the effectiveness of sanitation procedures.



#### 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](mailto:Matthew.Noonan@fda.hhs.gov) or [Daniel.Johnson@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Daniel.Johnson@fda.hhs.gov).

Space is available for advertising in the Bell Ringer.

We look forward to your feedback and participation.