



# *A New York Minute*



## CASA Newsletter

NY Conference

Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials

Issue 3 Volume 14

September 2014

### President's Message

Greetings CASA Members:

I hope that whether you had a "staycation", or a vacation that it was a safe and an enjoyable one.

As summer sadly draws to a close, it is time for our next training meeting. I am happy to announce that Dr. Robert Powitz has agreed to make 2 presentations at our September 17th training session. I believe that they will both be eye opening & informative. "Direct from our Executive Board", Darrell Newell and Christine Testa will give you the inside inside scoop on industry's perspective on food safety & public health, and Carolina Baron will give insight into "what goes on inside the laboratories" of the FDA.

I would like to share something I recently heard on a local radio station. "Success has many parents & failure is an orphan." This certainly resonates with me regarding my tenure as

CASA President. Both my success & the success of our training meetings are due to the efforts of "many parents." So again, I would like to express my appreciation for the amazing support of the executive board, the membership; and the speakers who unselfishly travel long distances to share their time & expertise in order to enlighten & educate all of us.

Enjoy the rest of the summer & I hope to "see you in September".

Phyllis Black  
NYS Department of Agriculture

### Save the Date



The 99th Annual CASA Educational and Training Seminar will take place on April, 20-23 2015 at The Hilton Oceanfront in Virginia Beach, VA.

Did you miss the 98th Annual Educational and Training Seminar in Grantville, PA? Don't worry! Many of the presentations are now available for viewing on the CASA website. [www.casafdo.org](http://www.casafdo.org)

### Parking



As parking at the FDA facility is limited, we have been able to secure parking spaces at nearby York College. We encourage all of you to take advantage to this option. We will still need you to pre-register, so that we may give your information to York. Please see directions below:

Parking for the June CASA meeting is available at York College's South Parking Lot which is located on Guy R. Brewer Blvd. between Liberty & South Aves.

From the FDA building, attendees should proceed east on Liberty Avenue and turn right onto Guy R. Brewer Blvd. The parking lot entrance is on the left hand side.

### Upcoming Trainings

Our next quarterly training session will take place on December 9th at Fort Hamilton Community Club and Museum. We hope you can join us for several informative presentations and a special holiday luncheon.



# A RECAP OF THE JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 2014

## QUARTERLY CASA MEETING

United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Inspection Service, Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (USDA/APHIS/SITC) Officers Margaret L. Shore and John F. Gearity delivered a Power Point presentation discussing Yan Pi, dumpling wrappers made with prohibited raw pork. Yan pi is a traditional food from Fuzhou, China, and is often smuggled into the U.S. to satisfy local demand. Officers Shore and Gearity discussed recent collaborative efforts with USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, and New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets to address the distribution of the commodity. They also demonstrated various ways in which the commodity is packaged, labeled, and advertised.



SITC Officers Shore and Gearity highlight the Chinese symbol for Yan Pi shown here on the different labels they have found in commerce, on packaging.

## CASA WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBERS...



From left to right: New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene Inspectors Jose Miranda, Derek Morris, and Mohammad Sadat; Suffolk County Public Health Sanitarian Katie L. Burns, and New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene Inspector Geraldine Brevil.



# New York City Research Scientist and International Consultant to the Food Industry - Reviews the NYC DOHMH's New Rat Reservoir Initiative

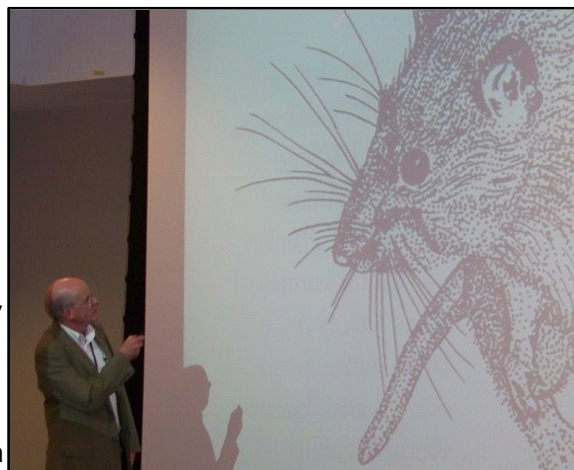
*Written by Dr. Robert (Bobby) M. Corrigan*



Dr. Corrigan takes questions from C.A.S.A. members during his Rat Reservoir Initiative presentation at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Photograph by Michael Riccardi, C.A.S.A. Board Member, NY Conference*

The primary goal of this initiative is to reduce the rat populations in NYC parks, sewers, highly-traveled streets, sidewalks, and other identified "rat reservoirs" by up to 50% in two years. This Rat Reservoir Initiative is a



Dr. Corrigan describes the sophistication of rodents' whiskers as complex sensory organs.

*Photograph by Michael Riccardi,*

vital supplement to the Rat Indexing Initiative (RII) that began in 2008. The center-piece of the RII is the inspection of all properties in entire neighborhoods in a short period of time. A significant result of the RII project is readily measured in Manhattan where to date; the number of properties with rats has declined by 36%. The DOHMH is looking forward to impactful results similar to the indexing within all five boroughs (currently on-going).

Rat reservoirs, however, do not fit into the "discover-notify-enforce-treat" model currently employed by the Department for typical private properties. Therefore, a more comprehensive and intensive neighborhood-based approach attacking the rat reservoirs is needed. This requires a dedicated workforce charged with managing rat reservoirs at the neighborhood level until improvements are realized.

Implementation of this program initiative attacks New York City's rat reservoirs at six-points: 1. Expand intensive rat surveys in selected chronic neighborhoods. 2. Improve communication and coordination with property owners and community groups relative to the causative factors associated with chronic rat issues; 3. Provide comprehensive rodent control services on public property; 4. Evaluate and analyze increases and decreases in rat populations in suspected reservoir areas; 5. Conduct field research on integrated pest management (IPM) techniques and technology; and 6. Expand public education on rat control in New York City to include residents, storekeepers, building superintendents, and infrastructural managers and refuse agencies

# **Sergeant Lester Lloyd Teaches Inspecting Officials**

## **to be Safe in the Field**

*By Michael Riccardi, CASA. Board Member, NY Conference*



C.A.S.A. members enjoy Sergeant Lester Lloyd's demonstration of how criminals work in teams of two or more to distract unsuspecting victims, and then take what they want from them (left). Wilma Arce, New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene; and Bruce Johnson, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, assist Sgt. Lloyd with the demonstration (right).

*Photographs by Michael Riccardi*

New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene Police Sergeant Lester Lloyd's theme was to be proactive as opposed to being reactive. Sgt. Lloyd explained that criminals are creatures of opportunity, and they look for opportunities with the least risk. Lloyd tells the group not to get too comfortable when traveling out in the field, and to "Stop, Look, and Listen," and added to dress properly, know where we are going, be prepared, know your safe zones, stay in areas with high visibility and potential witnesses, and keep an escape route open.

Sgt. Lloyd talked about going into basements and walk-in refrigerators and freezers, and other confined areas. He said to look for animals, and that you can smell the presence of dogs in commercial and residential basements if you take a moment to think about it. Sgt. Lloyd suggested to let the host go into these confined areas first, let them turn on the lights, and keep aware. Do not enter walk-in freezers alone, he said. Again, have them open the door wide, let them go in first and turn the lights on. Let the hosts take the first step.

Make sure you have a good working flashlight; make yourself safe; stick to specific areas you need to see; be prepared for the worst-case scenario, keep your wallet in your front pocket, were some of the other suggestions Sgt. Lloyd emphasized to the group.

After your initial contact, you may smell certain items of contraband, or there may be an unusually large amount of people around, if you feel your safety is at risk, Sgt. Lloyd suggests rescheduling the visit.

Sgt. Lloyd explained that control is a key motivator of criminals. They want to take control of your possessions; take control of the environment, and sometimes they may want to control you, so when a criminal attacks you, or tries to rob you, they want to control you. Sgt. Lloyd suggested giving them what they want, but not exactly the way they want it, to not give up complete control. One way Sgt. Lloyd demonstrated this was instead of handing the perpetrator your wallet directly, throw the wallet on the ground away from you, in the opposite direction of your escape route, giving you a chance to escape. Usually once they have their mind set on controlling that wallet they will go after the wallet first, giving you a chance to get away.

# Quarterly Training Session

Our third quarterly meeting of the 2014 calendar year will be held on September 17th, at the FDA facility at 158-15 Liberty Ave. in Jamaica. Proper ID is required to enter the building. Please be sure to pre-register so that we may give your name to the security guard at the front gate

Please join us beginning at 9am for registration and continental breakfast

9:30-10:30

"Chemical Analysis in the FDA Lab"

Carolina Baron  
Chemist  
FDA

10:30-10:45

Break

10:45-11:45

"How Clean is Clean- An Objective Look at Contamination Control"

Robert W. Powitz PhD  
Forensic Sanitarian  
Robert W Powitz and Associates

11:45-12:00

CASA Business Meeting

12:00-1:00

Lunch

1:00-2:15

"A Brief History of the Sanitarian"

Robert W. Powitz PhD  
Forensic Sanitarian  
Robert W Powitz and Associates

2:15-2:30

Break

2:30-3:30

"What We Do-An Industry Perspective"

Christine Testa  
Regional Health and Safety Coordinator  
Sodexo Campus Services

Darrell Newell  
Director of Food Safety  
The Great A&P Tea Company

3:30-4:30

Question and Answer Session

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## Registration Form September Meeting

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Agency/Firm \_\_\_\_\_

License Plate # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Registration: \$20 (member)

\$30 (non-member)

CASA Membership:

Regulatory Agency- \$15

Academic & Retired Regulatory Member- \$10

Associate Member- \$35

Please make checks payable to NY Conference CASA  
Fax Registration form to Nadine Roe (631) 852-5871

Or, mail registration form to:

Nadine Roe

Suffolk County Department of Health

360 Yaphank Ave, Suite 2A

Yaphank, New York 11980

### Directions to FDA facility :

The FDA building is easily accessible from the Van Wyck Expressway (678) from either north or south. Exit at Liberty Ave. and proceed east for approximately 1 mile. The building will be located on the north side of Liberty Ave. just beyond the Long Island Railroad trestle. Enter through the main gate, identify yourself and announce that you are attending the NY CASA meeting. You will be directed where to park. Enter through the main entrance and proceed to the main floor conference room.