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The Virginia Conference of CASA President's Message and Greetings



Greetings CASA Members,

It has been an exciting year for the Virginia Conference and we have had some really informative and fun meetings.

In case you missed any of the activities: In August we visited the Saude Creek Winery in Lenexa, VA.



This training provided an introduction into the world of alcoholic beverages and included information on microbreweries, distilleries, meaderies, and wineries which have all increased in numbers in Virginia. We were very fortunate that several industry representatives took the time to share the challenges of the startup process, explain how each type of product is made and how to develop procedures to assure quality and consistency of the finished products.

In October, CASA met at the Frito Lay plant in Lynchburg, VA, the largest manufacturer of Tostito Scoops in the world.



The management at Frito Lay gave us an overview of the plant operations including some history and a description of the various products manufactured there. The Food Safety Manager gave us an overview of the firm's quality systems which included how they certify ingredient suppliers, pest and quality controls and 3rd party audits with respect to the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The day ended with a tour of the plant including sampling of unseasoned and seasoned chip products. The meeting wrapped up with a presentation on radiological contamination of food and testing methods by the Virginia Department of Health.

Next we visited the Southeastern Virginia Food Bank and volunteered with this amazing facility to help provide food to those in need.



Our meeting included presentations on The Five Points Community Farmers Market, one of Virginia's largest farmers markets, and a review of recent investigations verified by epidemiological data from the Virginia Department of Health Norfolk District. A special thank you goes out to CASA members: Nikeya Thomas, Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards Coordinator (VDACS), Joe Fabrizio, Senior Food Safety Specialist (VDACS), Kimberly Barnes, Senior Food Safety Specialist (VDACS) and Annie McCullough, Administrative Office Specialist III (VDACS) for taking the time to plan and organize these wonderful training opportunities.



President's Message (continued)

As of December, the Virginia CASA Conference has provided over 14 contact hours to our members.

At the beginning of this month, the CASA board met to plan upcoming meetings and to identify goals for next year. The board has planned some educational training opportunities. Here's just a hint of what's in store for 2017: CASA will sponsor a Retail HACCP Training and a Seafood HACCP Course. The next CASA meeting is scheduled for April 11th in Colonial Williamsburg. More details will be coming soon!

The board also plans to address the requirements of FSMA from various perspectives (regulatory, industry and academia) during our meetings in 2017. If you have any suggestions or contacts for any of these subjects or have a venue or topic for a meeting please let me know.

CASA is a great opportunity to network with those involved with food safety who are dedicated to protecting public health. The meetings are well planned and provide a wide scope of training for a very reasonable cost. Let's focus on increasing the Virginia Conference CASA Membership this year and invite your colleagues and members of academia and industry to our next meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of CASA. Please let us know if you are interested in serving on a committee or would like to assist in planning an upcoming meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: For VDH and VDACS Personnel—CASA Trainings may count as “Contact Hours”. Please contact your district supervisor to see if this applies. Certificates will be issued at the meeting.

Happy Holidays,

Christy Brennan, President



The Cardinal Flyer

December 2016

Executive Board Report

Planning is underway for the 101st Educational Seminar. The Seminar will be held at the Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY. Please reserve the dates of May 1 through 4, 2017 to attend! For agenda, hotel and registration info please visit the website: <http://casafdo.us/annual-seminar/>. The Northeast NY Conference is putting together the local arrangement group to assure the conference is running smooth.

Site and time selection for the 2018 Seminar in Long Island NY has begun.

Funding to boost membership attendance for the upcoming seminar is limited. Current applications for funding are closed. The new 5 year grant application process starts again in April 2017.

I am pleased to announce that the CASA Virginia Conference achieved the 501(c)(3) sales tax exemption status. CASA Executive Board agreed to pay \$100 for 501(c)(3) registration fee, as required by the tax code of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Membership:

We are also trying to recruit new members from regulatory, academia and industry so please let all of your colleagues know about the great educational and networking opportunities provided by CASA. The VA Conference has shown a decrease a membership over the past 12 months. VA Conference reported 88 members in 2015 (as of 07-15-2015) and 78 members in 2016 (as of 09-12-2016).

Please remember to renew your membership for the next year; membership is good January through December.

CASA is working on website updates and an Instagram account to streamline the news and happenings in CASA Land.

In closing, I wish you all a great holiday season! Hope to see you all in Saratoga Springs next year!

Respectfully,
Sean Hejja
VA Representative to the CASA Executive Board



KEEP YOUR HOLIDAY FOOD SAFE

Food is at the center for many of our holiday celebrations.

As important as it is for your food to taste great, it's equally as important to make sure it gets there safely. Improperly prepared food can be a breeding ground for dangerous bacteria that can cause illness if it's not handled correctly. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service is offering a few important tips to make sure the food you share keeps your friends and family feeling good this holiday.

Transporting your food:

- It's all about temperature control
- If dish is hot: pack in insulated container
- If dish is cold: use a cooler with ice or freezer packs

Serving your food:

- Keep foods out of the "danger zone" (between 41°F and 135°F)
- Use chaffing dishes, warming trays or slow cookers to keep food warm
- Put cold dishes in ice or use a smaller serving tray and refill from refrigerator when necessary

Dealing with leftovers:

- Immediately refrigerate remaining leftovers
- Throw out food that's been left out for over 2 hours

For specific information on how long a certain dish will last in the refrigerator, check out FoodSafety.gov

VA Conference of CASA

Congratulates

Frank Scherra

On his retirement after 20 years with the Chesterfield Health District

Frank has been a very active and supportive member of our

VA Conference of CASA



**Now is the time to do
Everything you've always wanted to
Now is the time to enjoy
All the things which eluded you
Now is the time to catch up
With friends and family
Now is the time to show the world
That you're an amazing retiree**

HAPPY RETIREMENT, Frank!!!



CASA Members and Friends:



CASA has a newly redesigned website. The site at www.casafdo.org, has several new features that will improve customer use of the site, including the CASA News Network, a system designed to keep you informed about CASA and your local conference through e-mail notifications.

In order for the CASA News Network to work, the Executive Board is asking CASA members and friends to visit the new site and **register your name, local conference affiliation and only one e-mail address** at which you want to receive notifications. Even if you were registered with the old website, **please re-register so that CASA can update e-mail addresses and remove non-working ones.** You will receive an e-mail confirmation that will complete your registration. Once at the site, just click on the CASA News Network icon, it's that simple.



Membership Reminder

Any dues or correspondence should now be addressed to:

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www.casafdo.org

MEMBERSHIPS ARE GOOD JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER

The Virginia Conference of CASA Committee Chairs

Associate Committee:	Rupsesh Modi (Red River Foods) modir@redriverfoods.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
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