



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
February 2009

Hello, and welcome to the 2009 edition of "NEFDOA Alert". At the risk of repeating others, I would like to thank Pattie Kaczynski for organizing the newsletter and also all of our 'authors' for their contributions in making this an informative and entertaining read.

I would also like to take this opportunity to personally invite you all to our upcoming Conference in **Burlington, Vermont, May 5-8, 2009**. Al Bugenhagen, our Conference Program Coordinator, has once again outdone himself and put together an outstanding program. NEFDOA is committed to providing new training opportunities and will once again be offering CEUs. It is programs such as this that show what a relevant and vital organization NEFDOA is.

I recall my first NEFDOA conference clearly and how a friend told me, "Steve, this association is special; I think you'll enjoy it". He was right from the start. While the Conferences I have attended have provided excellent training; it is the members who have made all of them a special experience. I have done my share of traveling the country on business this past year and have run into NEFDOA members at nearly every stop. Each time it has put a smile on my face knowing I have a friend in the crowd.

I look forward to seeing you all in Burlington. Not only will the conference provide an excellent training opportunity, but you will be able to personally congratulate Gene Blake on his retirement (this time it counts) and Terry Macaig on his new career.

See you there!

Steve Stich
NEFDOA President

NEFDOA Board Meeting Minutes
Stoneham, MA
October 7, 2008

Present: Steve Stitch, Gene Blake, Lisa Brown, Tracey Weeks, Ernest Julian, Hal Prince, Domenic Veneziano, Darby Greco, David Small, Mike Kravchuk, Joyce Welch, Terry Macaig, Al Bugenhagen, Priscilla Neves, Cas Tryba, Patty Kaczynski, Mary Heslin, Mary Yebba. Annette Daley, Health Canada, Doug Steadman, CFIA by phone.

- 1.) **President's Report: Steve Stitch**, President, opened meeting and introduced his officers
- 2.) **Gene Blake gave Executive Directors report** – See Financial Report from Gene.
- 3.) **Al Bugenhagen** gave AFDO report Charlene Bruce is on FDA Food advisory committee, Denise Rooney scholarship established. Go to AFDO website regarding AFDO news.
- 4.) **Joyce Welch** gave 50 State Meeting Report: 2 ½ day meeting with federal, state and locals.
 - ALERT Phase II, Employees First is out
 - “Fast cat” tool is out
 - Council call and monthly meetings as follow-up to meeting
- 5.) **Northeast Region Food Defense Committee Contact list** updated: Jason Bashura has accepted a position with FDA in Rockville, MD. Ernie suggested we need 2 lists, government and industry. Dave Small suggested 1 list. Get in touch with Ernie Julian or Kim Langelo to update list. AFDO received a \$250K grant to keep a National Food Defense Contact list.
- 6.) **Food Shield Emergency Contact List Al Bugenhagen**, “We need everyone on Food Shield.” New York Health, Connecticut and Maine not on.
- 7.) **Seafood Alliance Report Priscilla Neves**: Highlights - Seafood HACCP Alliance needs funding. Training will be updated when new Seafood Hazard Guide is published. See Priscilla's report.
- 8.) **Committee Reports**
 - Membership*: We must advertise benefits of joining NEFDOA, need trade associations, industry members and consumer representation. Committee members are Ernie Julian, Terry Macaig, Ron Finlayson, Dennis Kwider and Mary Heslin.
 - By-laws*: suggestions for changes please submit to Terry Macaig
 - Newsletter*: We need newsletter members to work with Patty Kaczynski on the NEFDOA Newsletter.

- 9.) **Planning for NEFDOA 2009 Annual Conf** - May 5-8, 2009 at the Doubletree Inn, Burlington, Vermont, \$105/night plus 10% tax. **Al Bugenhagen** lead discussion on proposed agenda topics and conference planning: Rated topics. See list. Pre-conference workshop will be on recalls and food safety technology.
- 10.) **Planning for NEFDOA 2010 Annual Conf – Annette Daly and Doug Steadman:** will be held in Halifax, Canada. Location to be determined hopefully before the 2009 conference. There was discussion as to whether the States and FDA will be able to attend an out of country conference, this will be determined as soon as possible so planning can continue.*Will need a passport or an encrypted license to enter Canada. Conference call will be held.
- 11.) **Planning for NEFDOA 2011 Annual Conf in Connecticut location TBA 100th year anniversary for NEFDOA.** **Gene Blake** suggested Eaton Smith should be acknowledged and it be held in Mystic, CT. Tour of American Distilling plant. We need a list of former members to invite. Also recognition of Industry leaders who have helped NEFDOA over the years.
- 12.) **June 2012 AFDO Conference** to be held in MA, RI , or VT to be determined.
- 13.) **Miscellaneous:** Send nominations for AFDO Wiley to Marion Aller, FL Dept Agriculture, AFDO Achievement Award and Associate Member Awards to Joyce Welch, Terry Macaig NEFDOA's Eaton E Smith and Associate Member Award nominations to Gene Blake.
LSU is developing a food safety defense course should be ready next year.

Newsworthy Notes from the Desk of the Executive Director
by Gene Blake

I would first like to say welcome to our newly revised “NEFDOA ALERT”
With many thanks to Pattie Kaczynski our newsletter editor.

There is nothing like the financial section to start things off. NEFDOA is in pretty good shape financially

All figures are as of Sept 1, 2009 as reported at the Board of Directors Meeting Oct 7, 2008

Checking Account	\$4,979.69
Maximizer Savings account	\$1,456.03
Money Market Savings	\$5,493.81
Certificate of deposit	\$5,883.73
Total in our account	\$17,813.26

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Our last conference was held in Portland Maine at the Holiday Inn by the Bay May 12-16 2008. For the first time in a long time we offered CEUS's to attendees for both the Training /Workshop and the entire Conference Package. Al Bugenhagen our Program Chair again turned in one tremendous agenda headlined by Richard Barnes from FDA Director Federal/States Relations, Gary German from FDA Director Human Resource Development ,and Steve Steingart President of AFDO. The highlighted sessions included Foodborne Illness Liability and Litigation, Food Recalls, Monitoring Imported Foods, State and Canadian reports and banning Transfats in Restaurants.

At the Awards Banquet on Thursday night we had a talk on Wild Blueberry Production in the State of Maine. As part of the awards night two very special awards were presented. The Associate Member Award and the Eaton E Smith Award

The Associate Member Award went to **Richard Oban** who retired prematurely from Hannaford Bros Supermarkets due to health reasons and was presented to him for his outstanding contribution, service and support of the Association.

The Prestigious Eaton E Smith Award was presented to **Dr Dan Smyly** of the Coca Cola Company for his outstanding and longtime service, support, and dedication to the Association.

Speaking of Awards, although this is old news to some but also new to many. Two longtime members and supporters of both **NEFDAO** and **AFDO** were the proud recipients of the most prestigious and most highly regarded award that is presented by AFDO, the Harvey W. Wiley Award. **Terry Macaig** was the recipient of the award at the AFDO Conference in Albany, New York, June 2006 and **Gene Blake** was the recipient of the award at the AFDO Conference in San Antonio, Texas, June 2007. **How about that?** Back to back awards for two members from NEFDOA. This is quite an accomplishment!

NEWSWORTHY NOTES

Rebecca Vigue Director of the Health Inspection Program from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services has accepted a job with FDA in Rockville, Maryland. Rebecca was our 2006-2008 President-Elect. We wish Rebecca the best – She will be missed.

Jason Bashura, Director of the Naugatuck Valley Health District in Connecticut, has also left us to join the Food and Drug Administration in Rockville, Maryland. We wish Jason the best.

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED

It is with great sadness of the passing in November 2007 of John Cacciola and in May 2008 Lou Gershman. Both gentlemen were long time member's of NEFDOA and will truly be missed.

Also, Leigh Ann Stambaugh's father passed away very suddenly in October 2008. Leigh Ann is the Operations Manager for AFDO in York, PA.

In December 2008 Don Heaton passed away. He was a very active member of AFDO and attended all of the educational conferences. He was a past winner of the Wiley Award and, even though sick, he attended the AFDO meeting in Anaheim, CA. Don was a wonderful gentleman and public servant. Al Bugenhagen will remember that Don looked like a bee keeper as he wore a hat with side pieces.

For the passing of the above individuals NEFDOA expressed their sympathy by sending letters of condolences to their families.

NEFDOA Affiliate Representative to AFDO Report

This year has been a very busy and productive year for AFDO. There have been several major personnel changes at the AFDO office starting with the retirement of Denise Rooney as Executive Director, returning part time as Financial Manager, the promotion of Leigh Ann Stambaugh to Operations Manager and the promotion of Joe Corby from Director of Public Policy to Executive Director. You may have not noticed these changes because the transition has gone so smoothly.

The 113th AFDO Annual Educational Conference will be held June 6-10, 2009 at the Double Tree Hotel, Chicago-Oak Brook, Illinois. The theme for the 2009 Conference is "*Education is the Foundation of Tomorrow*." and includes numerous high caliber speakers addressing very high profile issues. George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services Professor, Michael R. Taylor, JD, will commence the conference with The Glenn W. Kilpatrick Memorial Address. The complete conference agenda will be posted on the AFDO website early in 2009.

2008 has been an extremely active year for AFDO with press releases, position papers and commenting on proposed new Federal food safety regulations. Details of AFDO's activities with each of these important issues can be found at the AFDO website, <http://www.afdo.org> and will provide much more details than can be presented here.

During the last week of October the AFDO Board met in Washington, DC with representatives from FDA and USDA to discuss current issues. Some of the topics discussed included melamine in milk/milk products, FDA's expanded global presence with new offices in China, India, Central America, Europe, and the Middle East, USDA's FSIS new procedure to release distribution records for class I recalls and Country Of Origin Labeling (COOL).

AFDO is also in the early stages of negotiations with a major foundation to develop, manage and maintain an "International Food Safety Training Center" in Battle Creek, Michigan.

2009-2010 AFDO Membership Renewals are being sent out to all current members. If you have not received your membership renewal notification or would like to join AFDO please visit the AFDO website www.afdo.org for an application.

Respectfully Submitted
Al Bugenhagen

Hello from the Great White North aka Canada, 2009 is off to a busy start with many food safety issues occupying the Government of Canada. As in the US, import safety is a concern and the Government has taken steps to improve the safety of consumer goods with the introduction of the Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan. This action plan was developed with the desire to improve the safety of products available in Canada after an increase in recalls involving imported products. Elements of the plan to address safer food include greater powers for inspectors, increasing fines for offenses, greater scrutiny of imported products and strengthening of policies and standards to keep pace with a rapidly evolving marketplace.

We are also changing the standards for country of origin labelling ie. Product of Canada, under the new system only products where "all or virtually all" of the product ingredients are Canadian will be allowed. Previously, products that contained only 51 per cent Canadian "value-added" could be labelled as Canadian product. This measure will ensure less confusion for consumers wishing to purchase products produced under Canadian standards.

Another measure underway is the use of improved allergen labelling to ensure that consumers with allergies can make healthy choices. Under the improved labelling, all products that contain priority allergens must clearly be identified. This measure could help avoid severe allergic reactions that may occur as the result of incomplete declaration of ingredients.

Another large initiative of the Canadian Government impacting the food industry is the Chemical Management Plan. Under the plan, all chemicals in the Canadian marketplace will be evaluated using the most current science to ensure the chemicals do not negatively impact the environment. The review has progressed to the point where food additives are now being evaluated. If chemicals are found that impact the environment negatively, a plan must be developed to mitigate those harms or find suitable replacements and phase out the use of the hazardous chemical. At this point, no food additives have been identified which pose an undue risk to the environment.

As you can see, we have many ongoing issues in common with the United States and by sharing our progress as we proceed forward, hopefully our exchange will improve safety for consumers on both sides of the border.

Darren Leyte
Regional Food Liaison Officer
Halifax, NS

CANADA

Outside opinions will help the CFIA build trust

It could be new science, or new technology or regulations. Or different kinds of relationships with industry, other agencies or various levels of government. The CFIA's new Academic Advisory Panel is being encouraged to cast its net as wide as it can in its efforts to stir discussion and make recommendations that will help the Agency continue to improve.

There are no imposed horizons; the broader the thinking the better. Like it has following other watershed events, the Agency is responding to the recent *Listeria* outbreak with a strong resolve to examine every facet of its food safety mandate and its doing so with the help of a blue ribbon panel of experts who bring decades of food safety and public health perspective to the table. The members are:

- Dr. Bonnie Buntain: former Chief Public Health Veterinarian of the Food Safety and Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture and now Professor, Public Health, Faculties of Veterinary Medicine and Medicine, University of Calgary
- Dr. Carleton Gyles: founding member of the Canadian Research Institute for Food Safety at the University of Guelph
- Dr. Rick Holley: professor of food safety and food microbiology with the University of Manitoba
- Dr. Ron Osborne: former Chair of the Department of Food Science, University of Guelph, and former Vice President, Food Safety, Caravelle Foods

The Panel had its first meeting in December 2008 and discussed a range of topics including proposed enhancements to control programs for microbial contamination of foods and the collection, sharing and analysis of food borne illnesses data across jurisdictions. In the end, the real benefit of an advisory body is in its objectivity, and being part of a network.

Doug Steadman, CFIA
Moncton, NB
Canada

Connecticut

Connecticut's Department of Consumer Protection and Lieutenant Governor Michael Fedele jointly announced first-in-the-nation regulations on olive oil. Up to now, manufacturers and distributors of olive oil have not maintained standards of the actual content and quality in olive oil. Some olive oil brands have added peanut oil, hazelnut and soybean oil – as a staple in cooking and with an increase in allergies, Norwalk businessman and olive oil distributor Lucien Sclafani of the famous Sclafani family brought his concerns to Consumer Protection.

As a result of this, new regulations were adopted that all olive oil companies must label their products appropriately: if their product is 100% olive oil, it must say that. If other oils are mixed in, that must be noted. Consumers need to be informed and knowledgeable to be able to keep their families safe and healthy.

Connecticut's regulations are the first ever in the country – California will be following suit when their labeling regulations go into effect on January 1, 2009.

New York

Greetings from the “Empire State”! 2008 was indeed an eventful year for the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Besides the obvious budgetary constraints all state and local agencies are facing, we find ourselves as busy as ever with other challenges.

To begin, our Director Joe Corby and Assistant Director Curt Vincent both took well deserved retirements in early summer of '08. Joe is busy as ever in his new role as Executive Director of AFDO. Curt is also keeping busy traveling and creating job security for greens keepers throughout the Hudson Valley. Joe Ferrara has returned to the Department from retirement to fill in as Interim Director and Steve Stich has filled the Assistant Director position.

The final phase of our joint project on Listeria with Cornell University wrapped up in the fall of '08. The first phase involved sampling of cold cuts, salads and environmental samples from large supermarkets, phase 2 focused on smaller stores and phase 3 focused on stores with poor sanitary histories. We are busy compiling data on the final phase and comparing all three. I'm sure we will be sharing this information at some point in 2009.

The Department is also participating as a pilot state in the FDA Manufactured Foods Regulatory Program Standards. We completed our initial assessment in 2008 and continue to strive toward eventually meeting all 10 of the standards. This project has resulted in a considerable amount of effort, but we feel the standards are an important step toward further establishing equivalency for regulatory agencies.

Finally, we are honored that one of our inspectors, Sam Lee, was the recipient of AFDO's Achievement Award at the 2008 AFDO Conference. Sam is an outstanding inspector whose work with imported foods investigations, surveillance sampling, recalls and joint investigations with FDA, USDA and USDA SITC was especially recognized.

Rhode Island Report

The budget has been the major focus for the last year. RI became number 1 with the highest unemployment in the country at 9.3%. A reduction in benefits for retirees caused a mass exodus of employees, and state employment dropped by 12% in the last 1 1/2 years. Elimination of cost of living increases for retirees will likely cause another mass exodus in the next few months. At present, there are 7 food inspectors for approximately 7,500 food establishments.

With the shortage of inspectors, the industry is being required to assume greater responsibility for providing safe food. In addition to having a certified manager, a written food safety plan is being required for all new and problem establishments. Training of additional managers and workers will also be required for establishments with serious repeat hazards.

Reality TV Series Concerning Food Inspectors

Two television crews from TruTV accompanied two Office of Food Protection inspectors for two weeks for a national new series (Health Inspectors, Making the Grade) concerning a day in the life of a food inspector. Two half hour shows are targeted for broadcast in the near future based on RI food inspections. If the shows are successful, 6 additional shows will be shot around the country. During production, staff emphasized manager certification, thorough cooking of all foods of animal origin, proper cooling, excluding ill personnel from food preparation, and no hand contact of ready-to-eat foods to prevent illness. Food was discarded in over 44% of the facilities inspected. Eighteen facilities (2/3) allowed the TV production crew to enter. There were 9 rejections. All of the five facilities reinspected with the production company showed dramatic improvements

In 2008, the 2005 Food Code was adopted.

At present, a hearing has been requested to revoke the license of a market that was buying infant formula from shoplifters.

In April, the Conference for Food Protection Board will meet in Providence to plan for the CFP Meeting here in 2010. Anyone who wishes to participate in local arrangements, please contact Tom Nerney at 401-222-7717.

SILENT ACUTION

Annual NEFDOA Auction to be held at the Spring Conference in Burlington, Vermont on **Wednesday, May 6, 2009**. A donation of an item old or new treasure that someone can't resist buying would be most welcomed ... Besides the auction is a lot of fun with a competitive spirit. The proceeds benefit **the NEFDOA Scholarship Fund**. Thank you so much for your help!!



Personal News Items

Michael R. Kravchuk, FDA's New England District Office, Director of Investigations Branch, 2007 Eaton E. Smith Award winner and longtime NEFDOA member has been formally selected as FDA's Deputy Country Director for FDA's new office in Beijing, China. On January 4, 2009, Mike transferred to the Office of International Programs and is tentatively scheduled to transfer to the Beijing Office sometime in February or March where he will work for a least two years. Before Mike actually Reports to China, he will be traveling between the New England District Office, China and Washington to work with the State Department.

Mike has worked at FDA's New England District Office for thirty six years and leaves us with mixed feelings. "...I am leaving my FDA home (Boston and now the New England District) of the past 36 years with a lot of reservations. I realize I am leaving a lot of my friends, co-workers..." Mike also shares with us that he is very excited about his challenging new position and honored to be part of FDA's Import Safety Action plan efforts overseas. We will miss you Mike and only be an e-mail message away.

Gail Costello, Director of FDA's New England District Office since April of 2000, Eaton E. Smith Award winner in 2006 and longtime NEFDOA board member has been promoted to FDA's Northeast Regional Food and Drug Director which became effective in August of 2008. Gail has been detailed to the position of Regional Food and Drug Director since November of 2007. Gail brings a wealth of

experience to her new position. Prior to her 2000 appointment as District Director, Gail was the Director of compliance Branch for 9 years, a Compliance Officer for fourteen years, and an Investigator for five years, specializing in drug work. Gail is a member of the American Bar Association. NEFDOA wishes Gail all the best in her new position!



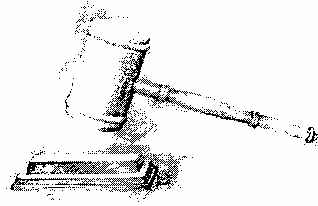
NEWS FROM FLORIDA

Once again March is the gathering time in Florida for good friends and former members, officers of AFDO, NEFDOA, and CPSC on March 10th of this year. Irving and Joyce Bell, Mary Heslin, Ross and Jane Koeser, and Edsel and Kathryn Moore will be meeting in West Palm, Florida. Every year it has been a great social time on the West Coast where Kathryn and Edsel Moore hosted an opening party prior to dinner where good and funny memories were shared. Mary Logan and Bubba who have joined the group in the past cannot schedule the occasion this year. They will be missed by the band of merrymakers

This little annual get together has become one of the great gifts resulting from membership in good organizations where work and a little bit of social life was remembered. Good friends fill out the fabric of life.

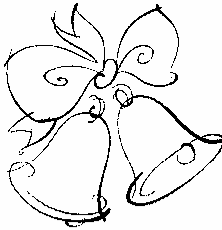
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

There was seldom a time when Ross Koeser from CPSC failed to attend either an AFDO or NEFDOA meeting. Those who were golfers will not forget the skill with which he won many a tournament. His operation on a severely broken wrist will be done this week. We wish our friend of many years a successful operation and a quick return to his winning golf days. By the way he attempted at Christmas time to leap into the air to fix an ornament on a Christmas tree. Thus the fall, thus the break. Needless to say, he has been kidded along the way about the circumstances surrounding the accident. We wish you well....Recover soon. Spring is on the way....



KUDOS TO OUR FELLOW NEFDOA MEMBER

In November 2008, Terry Macaig threw his hat into the ring for running for a legislative position in the Vermont Legislature. Terry won and he's off to Montpelier, Vermont. On January 7, 2009 Terry will be sworn into the Vermont State Legislative Body where he will be given his seat and committee assignments. The Vermont Legislature is a part time legislature with no offices nor staff – Terry will be facing many challenges. We have no doubt that Terry will do a super job and all NEFDOA members wish him well in his new role.

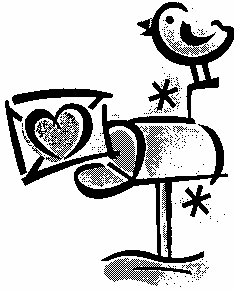


CONGRATULATIONS

On November 16, 2008 George Burditt and Mary Jayne Mallery tied the knot. Congratulatory cards can be sent to: 315 North La Grange, La Grange Park, Illinois 60526.

George still maintains his beautiful office at Bell, Boyd & Lloyd and does work for several long-time and new clients. George's extracurricular activities keep him busy – the Society of Colonial Wars, the SAR, the Geographic Society of Chicago and several Harvard College and Law School activities. In addition to this, George has three speeches scheduled over the next couple of months. AWESOME GEORGE!!

The entire NEFDOA membership wishes you and Mary Jayne much happiness and good health for many years!



PLACE YOUR CARDS IN THE MAIL

GET WELL

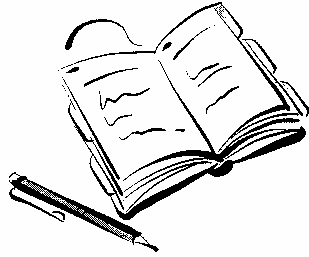
On January 14, 2009 Ray Duffill from the Food and Drug Administration had open heart surgery, including inserting a mechanical valve and had a hole in his heart repaired. The good news is Ray is doing just fine, he will be out of work for two months and he would love to hear from fellow NEFDOA members.
His address is: 6 Linwood Road, Danvers, Massachusetts 01923

WELCOME BACK

Michael Chappell, Acting Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs, ORA and Gail Costello, Northeast Regional Food and Drug Director, are very pleased to announce the welcoming back of John Marzilli as the Director of the New England District. John is currently detailed to that position so he will assume the duties immediately, while he continues to work on some of the projects he started as ORA's Senior Science Advisor. John brings back to the District his unique qualifications and the wealth of experience gained as the Assistant Commissioner for Science and Coordination, Office of the Commissioner and the Deputy Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs, ORA.

CONGRATULATIONS

Bill Boivin will be filling in as Director of Investigations for Mike Kravchuk from February 1 through May 31, 2009 while Mike gets read for his China odyssey.



**UPCOMING AND FUTURE CONFERENCES TO
BE NOTED ON YOUR CALENDARS**

June 6-10, 2009 – AFDO Annual Educational Conference
Doubletree Hotel Chicago/Oakbrook, Oakbrook, Illinois
Please visit www.afdo.org to view the conference program.

April 9-14, 2010 Conference for Food Protection will be held in
Providence, Rhode Island. Please visit <http://www.foodprotect.org/>

May 2010 NEFDOA Conference to be held in Halifax NS Canada. Dates
not confirmed as of this writing – details to follow regarding conference.

May 2011 is the 100th Anniversary of NEFDOA and what could be more
fitting then to hold the conference in **Mr. NEFDOA's (Eaton E. Smith)**
home State of Connecticut. This will be a very special conference with lots
of surprises and happenings – dates to be announced. **This is one conference**
you won't want to miss.

In the year 2012, it will be NEFDOA's turn to once again host the
National AFDO Conference and at this time three locations are being looked
at: Massachusetts (around the Boston area), Rhode Island (around the Providence
area) or possibly Vermont (around the Burlington area). **Watch for more details**
and information on this conference – It will be a big one!