

Message from the President

As we begin a new year, let's take a moment and reflect on the year 2010. This past year was one of many challenges in our States and Provinces. The economy is still recovering from one of its greatest challenges in many years. This economic challenge has affected all of us in a similar manner as evident from the State reports given in the administrative meeting at the 2010 NCAFD0 Education Conference in Chicago. I ran across a quote the other day that I see fitting for these challenges. **“Change is inevitable, adaptation and survival are optional.”** We need to ask this question of ourselves. Have we as an organization done the proper things to adapt to the changes and still be effective in our cause? There are many things we can do as an individual or as an Association that affects the cause of the North Central Association of Food and Drug Officials.

As professionals it is important for us to remain active in our organization. One way of staying active is by continuing our professional and personal development. It is important for all of us to keep up with the developments in our professions. This can be done in many ways, including reading trade magazines, newsletters, professional journals, and the newspaper. Another way is by attending professional conferences. Attendance at meetings is an excellent way to gain information and meet other people in the profession.

I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year in addressing the challenges laid out before us. As we move ahead, working together as an Association may be of a benefit to making positive changes in the North Central region of FDA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alexis Grolla past president for her leadership and all the committees for their work during the past year. In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year, and I look forward to working with you in 2011.



Clark Hepper

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NCAFDO 2010 Annual Conference: “Emergency Preparedness Continued?”

Our annual conference was held in Chicago, October 19-21, 2010. Additionally a workshop was given and was called “Ready Business” and was given by Rick Atterbury of the University of Illinois.

Rick gave us great advice in developing or improving our plans and he stressed the importance of keeping preparedness in our planning processes. Many of the topics following built on Rick’s presentation, and others engaged us in thinking of different risks or in updating us on the latest information.

Although our attendance was small, the group was lively and the topics were engaging. Thanks to Elizabeth for her efforts in hosting all of us and pulling together a great conference.



Rick Atterbury presenting a workshop during the annual conference in Chicago.



Bill Weissinger provided an update from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Chicago District.



Inspection Section Report breakout session.

NCAFDO Annual Education Conference: Committee Updates October 2010

For minutes of the proceeding, please visit www.ncafd.org

Inspection Section Report

There were approximately 20 attendees representing 11 Federal, State, and Local agencies. There were lively discussions around many hot topics, including:

- Food safety bill in Congress
- Dietary supplement manufacturers
- Honey licensing and inspection of producers/processors
- Training sources and opportunities
- Raw milk - Several agencies have had outbreaks or other regulatory cases.
- Internet sales of food
- Outbreak or other foodborne incidents
- The use the of Incident Command System (ICS) during an outbreak and trigger points for activation of an ICS-structured response
- Concern about full understanding of 'recalls' and appropriate response, especially in ethnic markets

Submitted by Jan Kelly, Section President

Administration Section Report

There were approximately 10 attendees representing Federal, State, and Local agencies. The discussions provided updates on recent changes or emerging trends, and included:

- New food code revisions
- Raw milk
- Farmers market (Pickle Bill)
- RV park issues
- Budget deficits
- Lack of trained personnel in fields do to attrition
- Apple cider
- Counterfeit medicines
- New legislation/election

Submitted by: Clark Hepper, Section President



Associate Section

A group of four industry representatives provided good feedback about the conference at the NCAFDO business meeting. While the topics were relevant and important to industry there was a low level of participation. They indicated that they hope to help promote the educational conference to support NCAFDO as the value of the information provided is of great interest and provides good value and important contacts for industry. They also supported expanding the web site so that there is more information available to industry about regulations and updates.

Submitted by Alexis Grolla

Lab Section

Unfortunately there were not enough lab representatives to have a section meeting.

Great Lakes cGMP & Regulatory Science Forum, October 12-13, 2010

NCAFDO sponsored along with FDA and the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Pharmacy a drug workshop in Chicago entitled Great Lakes cGMP & Regulatory Science Forum 2010. There was a variety of topics and speakers from industry, academia and government.

The keynote address was "The Mind of the Buyer: The Nature of Value, Risk and Choice" by Gregory S. Carpenter of the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University. Other topics included: human factor considerations in pharmaceutical systems, quality risk management, risk evaluation, pharmaceutical inspection cooperation scheme, FDA foreign inspection overview, quality control of APIs. Approximately 170 people attended and the workshop received favourable reviews!

For more information, please contact Alexis Grolla (Alexis.Grolla@hc-sc.gc.ca) or visit: <https://www.regonline.com/builder/site/tab1.aspx?EventID=864146>

Upcoming Training/Events

International Food Protection Training

Please visit the International Training web site for an up-to-date list of training available: www.ifpti.org.

35th Annual International Good Manufacturing Practices Conference

March 14-17, 2011

Georgia Center, Athens Georgia

<http://www.internationalgmp.com>

AFDO 2011 Annual Conference

The 115th Annual NCAFD0 Educational Conference will take place June 18-22, 2011 in Plano, Texas.

Chicago Drug Workshop Fall 2011

Plans are underway to develop a Drug Workshop from Oct 11-12, 2011. Details will be sent out to all members and they will be posted on the website www.ncafd0.org as they become available.

NCAFD0 2011 Annual Conference

Plan ahead to attend the NCAFD0 Annual Conference from October 25-27, 2011 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Details will be sent out to all members and they will be posted on the website www.ncafd0.org as they become available.

Watch for our next newsletter in 2011! If you have any comments or suggestions on the newsletter, please contact Alexis.Grolla@hc-sc.gc.ca

NCAFD0 People

Long time members and contributors for NCAFD0, Suzanne Kidder and Susan Brace, will be retiring from Michigan in January. We wish them all the best in their new endeavors and hope that they will continue to work with NCAFD0!



Update from North Dakota

Submitted by Kenan Bullinger, North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Food and Lodging

North Dakota's state government continues to be operating with a budget surplus and the good economic times are generally the result of increased oil drilling and pumping activity in the northwestern part of the state. This oil activity is creating jobs and resulting in increased sales tax collections and oil extraction tax revenue. But the increased activity also comes with some drawbacks. Infrastructure problems are surfacing such as highways getting beat up with increased heavy truck traffic. There is a large problem with inadequate housing for oil field workers, so a number of RV parks, man camps, and lodging facilities are popping up all over the place. Our division licenses and inspects these types of housing. Not only has this dramatically increased our workload with conducting plan reviews and onsite inspections, but other infrastructure problems, such as inadequate sewage treatment and wastewater lagoon capacity, are starting to create problems for many of these smaller, rural communities. Our state legislature will convene after the first of the year to address some of these issues.

Our division is in the process of amending several sets of administrative rules. We recently conducted a quarterly videoconference with all of our local health units and other stakeholders to discuss a draft of amended changes to our state food code regulations. Our current food code is modeled after the 2005 FDA Model Code and we are proposing to adopt the majority of FDA's 2009 Model Food Code changes. Other proposed administrative rules will address some housekeeping changes to our bed and breakfast regulations, assisted living regulations, and environmental health practitioner and certified professional in food safety licensure regulations. We are also attempting to address some differences in how state and local health jurisdictions deal with the foods sold at farmers markets. We are not uniform across the state and we hope to address this through adoption of some administrative rules. Our hopes are to avoid any possible "pickle bill" legislation that could result in state laws or mandates we would not be supportive of.

North Dakota will be hosting a FDA State Training Branch Course called Special Processes at Retail, FD312. The course will be held March 29-30, 2011 in Bismarck. We will be developing a registration form soon for any state or local food inspection staff from other states that would like attend.

Key points to remember when buying drugs over the Internet

If you buy drugs online, you may be putting your health at serious risk. This is especially true if you order prescription drugs without being examined in person by a health care practitioner.

A simple Internet search will turn up hundreds of web sites that sell drugs. Some Internet pharmacies are legitimate, but many offer products and services that are dangerous.

Minimize Your Risk

Do not take any prescription drug that has not been prescribed for you by a health care practitioner who has examined you in person.

Do tell your doctor and pharmacist about all the health products you take, including vitamin and natural health products, as well as prescription and over-the-counter drugs. They need this information to assess and advise you about potential side effects and drug interactions.

If you decide to order drugs online:

Do not do business with a web site that:

- refuses to give you a street address, telephone number, and a way of contacting a pharmacist;
- offers prescription drugs without a prescription, or offers to issue a prescription based on answers to an online questionnaire;
- claims to have a "miracle cure" for any serious condition; or
- sells products that do not have approval by Health Canada or the Food and Drug Administration.

Do make sure that you are dealing with a web site that is linked to a "bricks and mortar" pharmacy that meets the regulatory requirements in your province/state.

Excerpt from the Health Canada web site: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hl-vs/iyh-vsv/med/internet-eng.php>

Introducing our new Board of Directors

2011 NCAFDO Board of Directors

President

Clark Hepper, South Dakota Department of Public Health

Vice President

Jan Kelly, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Secretary

Jill Ball

Treasurer

Arlyn Baumgarten, Retired - Chicago District Director, Food and Drug Administration

AFDO Representative

David Read, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Immediate Past President/Canadian Representative

Alexis Grolla, Health Canada

Past President

Susan Brace, Michigan Department of Agriculture

At-Large Member

David Read, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Indiana Representative

George Jones, Indiana State Department of Health

North Dakota Representative

Kenan Bullinger, North Dakota Department of Health

Ohio Representative

Terri Gerhardt, Ohio Department of Agriculture

South Dakota Representative

Clark Hepper, South Dakota Department of Public Health

Illinois Representative

Shelley Watkins, Illinois Depart. of Health

Associate Section President

Sarah Geisert, General Mills Corp.

Inspection Section President

Vacant

Administrative Section President

Clark Hepper, South Dakota Department of Public Health

Laboratory Section President

Mark Stenske

Committee Chairs

Awards

Vacant

Conference Planning

Clark Hepper, South Dakota Department of Public Health

Constitution/Bylaws

Kenan Bullinger, North Dakota Department of Health

Drugs & Medical Products

Vacant

Media & Public Affairs

Adele Novak, Health Canada

Membership

Sue Brace, Michigan Department of Agriculture

Nominations

Vacant

Resolutions

Jasmine Linicome, Michigan Department of Agriculture

Training and Education

Shelley Watkins, Illinois Department of Health & Tyra Wisecup, FDA, Minneapolis District



NCAFDO members enjoying lunch at the annual conference.

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