



# Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378  
P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net)

**NOVEMBER 2017**

**HILTON CHICAGO AIRPORT  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 15, 2017**

The Marine Chemist Association held an Executive Board meeting and annual seminar in Chicago at the Hilton Airport Hotel. A summary of the meeting and general news follows.



**Annual Seminar 2018  
Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center  
Nashville, TN.  
July 29 – Aug. 1**

Devoted to the development and dissemination of methods for evaluating  
And eliminating health, explosion, and fire hazards in marine industries.



# Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net)

## **NFPA**

### *306 Revision*

The Technical committee met 9/28 on a web conference to review the six public comments. Two were rejected and five second revisions accepted. Committee also added one comment. The revisions will go out to technical committee for a final vote. Tom Govey representing Marathon Oil is now on the committee. There is room for 15 additional members on committee and Larry is looking for industry representatives. The committee it will not meet for another five years until the next revision cycle.

### *Committees*

Standard 59A on LNG. Larry is now staff liaison. A second meeting on the standard will be held in January.

NFPA 350, the confined space document for 1910 and 1926. The committee will meet in April.

NFPA 302 document titled Fire Protection Standard for Pleasure and Commercial Motor Craft (including towing vessels). Had 62 revisions to the document including items relating to Subpart M.

Larry is on the CETAC committee. He has been asked to review regulatory regulations which may no longer be useful. Vapor control in 33 CFR 154.2113 deals with Alkene oxide special requirements, it requires Marine Chemists to test the vapor control system after gas freeing. Larry sent out an email asking if anyone does this. He did not get any responses and will recommend that the requirement be removed.

Dow Chemical is looking at using drones for AGST tanks inspections by 2025. Interesting as this week in Connecticut the local Dow Chemical facility had a fire in a tank containing polypropylene which was being dismantled. No chemist inspection was done.

### *Certificates*

At the end of June of 2017 it appears that we will be on track to issue 33,000 certificates. This is a slight increase from last year. However, the last time we have been at this low level is 2006.

### *Marine Chemists*

Currently there are 101 chemists. 100 are MCA members.



# Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net)



**The Gaylord Hotel features a large indoor area with many restaurants and shops**

## **MGHCP**

Chairman Joe Cox gave presentations at all 2017 sectional seminars and at the annual seminar. He showed the finances of the board and how the current income would not support the program. This was due to two main reasons, a drop off in the number of certificates issued yearly and a drop off in NFPA SCP training classes (in 2016 to zero). Due to this significant drop off in revenue, the MGHCP program will be increasing the per certificate surcharge from the current \$15 (where it has been for the past 30 years) to \$25 beginning January 1, 2018. NFPA through Jill will be issuing new forms at the start of the year when the increase will take place. This increase will be reflected in the first 2018 quarterly payment. Once the new forms are available they will also be placed on the MCA website.

## **MCQB**

The MCQB board met the week prior the Excom meeting. The new chairman is Patrick Maguire.

Larry sent a memo to all chemists on a report of a chemist who was in poor physical condition and could not enter the spaces and had a trainee do it. 306 requires a physical inspection by the chemist. There is no substitution for a physical inspection by the chemist.

In another incident a chemist was starting to take pictures with a cell phone on a tank ship in an area not approved for non-explosion proof devices. The cell phone was not explosion proof. Larry reminded us that taking pictures without permission should not be done.

Devoted to the development and dissemination of methods for evaluating  
And eliminating health, explosion, and fire hazards in marine industries.



## Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net)

The MCQB has completed a draft for the rules for certification for chemists. There are significant changes to initially qualify as a chemist. Larry provided the board with a draft copy of the document for comment. Each sectional representative will be sending out the draft for comment. They will compile the comments and send them to the Chair and Don Raffo for consolidation and submittal to the MCQB. These comments are due to the MCQB by January 1, 2018 and each sectional representative will submit them prior to Christmas. Please take the time to review and comment on the changes.

### **New Chemists**

Congratulations to The following new chemists who were approved by the MCQB during its July meeting.

**Max Chou, CMC 733**

**Tyler Bennett, CMC 734**

**Peter Raffo, CMC 735 (The first individual to receive the Edward Willwerth Scholarship and become certified as a chemist)**

**Jonathan Van Huis, CMC 736**

This brings to total number of NFPA certified Marine Chemists to 101.

### **Scholarship**

The Edward Willwerth Memorial Scholarship awarded a total of \$15,000 in grants to the following applicants during 2017.

Katelyn Rioux, granddaughter of Ed Willwerth (fourth award)

Ashley Dean, daughter of Robert Dean 687 (fourth award)

Benjamin Gadbois son of Gregg Gadbois, 718 and Grandson of John Flynn 623 (third award)

Sarah Jones, granddaughter of Alan Bonds 680 (second award)

Tracy Jonassen, grandson of George Blair 637 (second award)

Edward Philpott, grandson of Rick Wellons 662 (first award)

Luke Herbert, son of Troy Herbert 638 (first award)

Sean Carr, son of Jeff Carr 664 (first award)

The 2018 application form is now up and posted on the website. If you have someone in your family who meets the requirements, please consider having them apply.



# Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net)

<b>SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>			
<b>APPOINTMENT DATE</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>TERM ENDS</b>
7/15/2017	PAST CHAIR	ROBBIE WALKER	8/1/2019
7/15/2017	ATLANTIC	STEPHEN GRONDA	3/1/2018
7/15/2017	GULF	CHRIS SCOTT	3/1/2019
7/15/2017	PACIFIC	VINCE PEMPEIT	3/1/2019
7/15/2017	MGHCP	JOE COX	Indefinite
7/15/2017	ADMINISTRATOR	DON RAFFO	NON VOTING

## **Seminar Evaluations**

The evaluations from the annual seminar were reviewed by the board. The seminar got high marks in all areas including the social events. The annual seminar will continue to be centered on a theme. Next year's theme will be shipyard safety. Topics and speakers are currently being considered. If you have an idea or speaker please contact Don Raffo. If you know an individual who you think would be a good speaker please provide their name and they will be contacted. Also, any chemist who may have an idea or topic to present, please let Don Raffo know. All help in getting quality speakers is appreciated.

## **Website**

The MCA website address has been changed to [www.marinechemistassociation.com](http://www.marinechemistassociation.com). Please periodically review the website to ensure that your information remains accurate and up to date. This is especially important if you have changed jobs, phone numbers, email addresses or street addresses. Seminar attendance for the last five years is also posted on the site along with seminar presentations and relevant news. (Attendance records can be found under the certification/Recertification tab) All communications and billing comes from your email address on the site. If you need a change, there is a form on the website under the Forms tab, fill it out and send it to Don Raffo. Suggestions for improvement are always welcome

## **Code of Conduct for Meetings**

During any official MCA sessions there should be no discussion of personal matters, private disputes or business pricing. Discussion should be limited to technical matters and the business of running the MCA.

## **Outreach**

Devoted to the development and dissemination of methods for evaluating  
And eliminating health, explosion, and fire hazards in marine industries.



## Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net)

As times change the MCA must adapt and continue to educate the industry on the benefits of using a chemist. Since the number of competent person classes has declined, knowledge of our use in the industry has waned. One current effort to increase the visibility of the MCA is that we will fund a booth at the Annual Workboat Show in New Orleans. The booth will be staffed by our Chairman Brian Axelrad along with Chris Scott and some other chemists in their group. Geoff Jenny has made a significant effort in the design and setup of the booth, many thanks to him. Larry Russell is also planning on attending. An effort to maintain visibility in the industry is part of the function of the MCA and a line item will be placed in the budget to continue this process. If you have any ideas on outreach, please contact Don Raffo. Everyone should be involved in this effort to keep our profession viable.

During the October meeting the board decided to join the American Shipbuilding Association (SCA). The SCA represents 83 shipyards and other maritime groups. The board felt that having a presence at the meetings will increase our visibility within the industry.



**The MCA is now a member of the SCA**

### **2018 Sectional Seminars**

This year the MCA will again offer two sectional seminars, having two instead of three seminars significantly reduces the costs associated running the association. The seminars will be held in central locations with easy airport access.

The 2018 sectional seminars are scheduled for Atlanta (March 24) and Denver (March 10, Excom March 11). The registration form with detailed information is posted on the website. This year's schedule will be as follows:

Devoted to the development and dissemination of methods for evaluating  
And eliminating health, explosion, and fire hazards in marine industries.



# Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net)

## 0730 Breakfast

1. Welcome, Chairman Brian Axelrad CMC 691 0800 -0815
2. MCA Business – Don Raffo CMC 668 0815 – 0900
  - i. Evaluations – B. Axelrad CMC 691/M. Schmidt CMC 642
3. NFPA Report – Larry Russell 0900- 1000
4. Occurrence Report – Larry Russell 1015-1045
5. 306 – The Next Edition/Changes – Raffo 1050-1200
6. Lunch 1200-1300
7. Certificate Writing Review – Axelrad 1300-1430
8. Roundtable on Current Issues, Problems and Practices in the Industry – Blaize 1430 to end.

## **2018 Annual Seminar**

The 2018 annual training seminar will be held in Nashville at the Gaylord Hotel from July 30 to August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, has stylish rooms, modern meeting spaces and a location less than 10 miles from Nashville International Airport. While you can find shopping and dining right under the roof, you'll also want to explore nearby attractions including the Grand Ole Opry, Opry Mills, the Country Music Hall of Fame and the General Jackson Showboat. During your stay you can make an appointment at Relâche Spa & Salon, or gather your group for an outing at Gaylord Springs.

Please note that this year we will be changing up the schedule. On Monday we will be having the MCA/MGHCP Social Event aboard the General Jackson Showboat, featuring cocktails, dinner and dancing. On Tuesday we will have the Chairman's reception in the hospitality suite. The time for the spouse's tour has not been set yet. *If you are planning on attending please tell your spouse of these changes.*



# Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net)



**Gaylord Hotel Features a Large Enclosed Area with 18 Restaurants and Bars**

## **Retirement**

Jim Chandler 679 announced his retirement and has become an affiliate member of the MCA.

## **Legal Action**

The MCA has been notified of potential legal action against it by one of its members. The MCA has insurance for this and an attorney has been hired and costs are being incurred. The policy contains a \$6000 deductible which the MCA is responsible for.

Devoted to the development and dissemination of methods for evaluating  
And eliminating health, explosion, and fire hazards in marine industries.





# Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net)

## **The Officers of the MCA**

- a. Officers
  - i. Brian Axelrad, Chairman, Term expires 8/19
  - ii. Robbie Walker, Past Chairman, Term expires 8/19
  - iii. Michael Schmidt, Chariman Elect, Term begins 8/19
  - iv. Donald Raffo, Secretary/Treasurer
  - v. Les Blaize, Asst. Secretary
- b. Representatives
  - i. Joshua Marshall, Atlantic, Term expires 4/19
  - ii. Stephen Gronda, Atlantic, Term expires 4/18
  - iii. Joe Tretttevik, Pacific, Term expires 4/19
  - iv. Greg Gadbois, Pacific, Term expires 4/18
  - v. Chris Scott, Gulf, Term expires 4/19
  - vi. John Lee Bell, Gulf, Term expires 4/18

Respectfully submitted  
Don Raffo  
Secretary/Treasurer MCA

**Any opinions, policies or statements expressed in this newsletter are the personal opinion of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the MCA.**