Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378
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AUGUST 2015

ST. LOUIS RENAISSANCE HOTEL
ANNUAL SEMINAR AND BUSINESS MEETING
AUGUST 3-5, 2015

The Marine Chemist Association held an Executive Board meeting and annual seminar in St. Louis at the Renaissance Hotel. A summary of the meeting and general news follows.

Getting ready for a night of Bowling and Barbeque at the Annual Seminar in St. Louis

Our annual 2015 seminar was held in St. Louis with 28 chemists and two gas free engineer trainees from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in attendance. In total the MCA had 84 participants at the seminar. Chemist attendance was slightly below our average of 34 chemists. This average is based on numbers going back to 1966. While St. Louis was hot and steamy, the seminar was a success with the seminar evaluations getting many positive comments.

This year the seminar centered on instrumentation. On Monday we had Mary Ann Latko, the managing director of American Industrial Hygiene Association speaking on their project to define core competencies required for users of multi gas meters. Chemist John Ward CMC

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651 sat on the committee for this project. On Tuesday we had representatives from Honeywell, MSA, RKI, GFG, Industrial Scientific and Draeger providing in depth presentations on their instrumentation. Finally, due to concerns expressed on frack water or shale extraction water, Cynthia Znati, the USCG lead chemical engineer gave a presentation on the expected hazards in the water focusing on radiation. Following up on the radiation theme we had an expert, Terry Romanko give a presentation of the basics of radiation safety along with a vendor presenting an overview on portable radiation detection equipment. Finally, Amy Wangdahl, OSHA's Director of Maritime and Agriculture gave us OSHA updates. Her presentation focused on work MACOSH (Marine Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health) is doing creating checklists to be used to evaluate Shipyard Competent Person and Fire and Rescue programs. All presentations are available on our website.

Preparing for a night of competitive bowling.

Sunday night featured an open bar hosted by the hotel which was well attended. On Tuesday, in a departure from our usual dinner dance the MCA and MGHCP hosted a night of bowling and barbeque.

The event kicked off allowing everyone some warmup time on the lanes along with beverages. Then everyone got serious with the first ever MCA bowl off. While having several ringers in the group and some serious competition, our own Eric Moore CMC 626 narrowly beat out his wife in a battle to the end. He was awarded the grand prize and the runners up

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received condolence prizes. Everyone had a great time at the event and many friendships were struck up as everyone joined a team for the event.

The event was so popular that the committee will look to do similar types in the future.

Eric Moore CMC 626, the Bowl off Winner Proudly wearing his Prize

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The MCA Executive Board met on Saturday, August 2nd. The general topics covered are outlined as follows;

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NFPA Report

There are currently 94 active chemists, John Sansing CMC 539 has retired, and he was one of the last ABS certified chemist's in the association. There are four new registered trainees this year, two of them need and are seeking primary chemist support. A Japanese trainee will be in the US in August and Alan Bonds CMC 680 will be his primary trainer. Several chemists may be ready in November and the months following to go before the board. A total of 28 trainees are currently in the program.

There are currently 50 users in the electronic certificate program and through July 30 there were 9700 electronic certs issued of the 16000 total issued. Computer generated certs now represent about half of all certificates issued and are much easier to read. Feedback from customers is that they are well liked. There are currently 8 chemists who have computers but do not use them. Non-users will be asked to re-turn computers. Printers continue to be the weak link and can be replaced by calling Jill at NFPA.

The reporting and monthly surcharge payments are the best they ever been and the Gas Hazard Control Program is happy with both the timeliness of the payments and use of the electronic format. As of July only one report is missing.

NFPA has revised Modules 1-9 and electronic recertification exams are being used.
The Ship rider program is active and two trainees are ready to go on the vessels once an opportunity develops. Larry is looking for additional companies to support the program. Trainees report that program is worthwhile and very helpful. All applicants need to have a TWIC card and trainers are encouraged to ensure that their trainees have one and a passport.

The Capen Clan ready to knock some pins down

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MCQB

Philip Dovinh has moved to the principal position and John Ward to alternate. Robbie Walker has completed his term on the board after six years of outstanding service. Kevin Saylor has resigned and has been replaced by Steven Walker from Jeff Boat. The Board met Aug. 5 in conjunction with the annual seminar in St. Louis and will meet again in Seattle on November 4 and 5.

306 and the FLCC Endorsement

After the 2014 annual seminar on LNG, the Executive Board requested that the MCQB consider allowing the chemists who attended the seminar to be able to count it as LNG training, in accordance with the rules for certification for LNG. During the August 5th 2015 meeting the board voted to accept attendance as training. **What this means is that if you attended the 2014 annual seminar (and got credit for attending) and took the open book test (and passed) you become eligible for the endorsement.** You need to submit proof of attendance to Larry (listed on the web site) and request the endorsement.

Currently, according to the NFPA website, 37 chemists have the LNG endorsement, if the additional 22 chemists who attended the 2014 seminar take the test it will bring the total of chemists with the endorsement to 59. The goal of your Executive Committee is to try and get every chemist to have the LNG endorsement and to eliminate the endorsement in NFPA 306. To aid in this goal a motion was made at the Executive Board meeting as follows:

The MCA recommends that the MCQB make the requirements found in the Rules as amended 01 December 2014, Section V.A. mandatory for all marine chemists with an effective completion date of 01 June 2016.
To satisfy V.A.2.a the MCA recommends that the MCQB accept field survey training on an LNG fueled vessel as equivalent training.
To meet the requirement of V.A.2.c the MCA would like the MCQB to approve the training offered on LNG fueled vessels at the 2014 MCA Annual Meeting. Furthermore the MCA would like the Board to approve the GTI LNG Shipping and Cargo Handling Course as acceptable training.
Section V.A of the Rules is shown below.

Section V.A

1. Each Marine Chemist so applying shall show evidence of:
a. Possession of a valid Marine Chemist's Certificate issued under Section VI. B. of these Rules.
b. Thorough familiarity with construction features of all types of flammable cryogenic liquid containment and handling equipment.

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c. Knowledge of the location of gas detectors and temperature sensors aboard the vessels and familiarity with their operation.
d. Familiarity with interstitial space inerting and flammable cryogenic liquid tank cool-down procedures.
e. Familiarity with interstitial space gas freeing and flammable cryogenic liquid tank warm-up procedure.
2. Training required for obtaining the FCLC endorsement shall include at least one of the following:
a. Conduct at least one gas testing survey aboard an FCLC vessel under the direct supervision of a certificated Marine Chemist having the special endorsement for gas testing aboard such carriers. The survey shall have included vessel familiarity training concerning the vessel's cargo system. Evidence of completion of said familiarization training shall be submitted with the application for the special endorsement.

This motion was presented to the MCQB verbally on Wednesday, August 5th. The board discussed the request at length, but took no action. The general sentiment was that they were very reluctant to make the training mandatory and other avenues should be examined.
Currently, there is a disconnect in 306 which will allow a chemist to certify, for example, a tug boat using LNG as fuel, but not a LNG bunker barge that it is pushing.

NFPA, through Larry Russell, has established a task group to review the current requirements in 306 and make recommendations on updating the standard for these vessels. The task group is made up of a variety of experts from throughout the industry including shipbuilders, operators, consultants and regulators. One common thread that industry agrees on is that they do not wish to shop around for a chemist with a LNG endorsement and would like to see all chemists have the endorsement.

There has been some discussion about clarifying the LNG endorsement in 306, but any change is well over a year away.

The following is a summary of the rules change to obtain the endorsement:
Effective 01 December 2014 the NFPA Board of Directors approved the recommendation of the Marine Chemist Qualification Board to revise the *Rules for the Certification and Recertification of Marine Chemists* (Rules).
The affected Section of the amended Rules is: Section V. Qualifications -- Endorsements.

Under Subpart A of that Section the requirements for obtaining the special endorsement for flammable cryogenic liquid carriers (FCLC) were revised in Paragraph 1 (b), (d) and (e).

The revised Rules now make a generic reference to the type of material (a flammable cryogenic liquid) that is covered under the special endorsement requirements. The term, "hold space" was changed to "interstitial space".

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Also in Subpart A of that Section in Paragraph 2 (a), (b) and (c) the requirements for training to obtain the special endorsement were changed to specify the type of training required.

Subparagraph (b) allows marine chemists to attend as many as thirty (30) U. S. Coast Guard approved training classes offered by merchant marine academies, merchant mariner union schools and other facilities that utilize LNG transfer simulators.

Subparagraph (c) allows the MCQB to consider other appropriate LNG fuel system or LNG cargo system training.

Similarly, Subpart B of Section V of the Rules (requirements for the renewal of the special endorsement) were changed to specify the type of training required in Paragraph 1 (a), (b), (c) and (d)

The MCQB has established a minimum criteria for LNG training courses based upon the previously accepted LNG familiarization course designed by the Maritime Institute of technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) for the Marine Chemist Association (MCA) and will use that as a reference when considering other flammable cryogenic liquid familiarization training courses as permitted in §V.A.1.c and §V.B.1.c.

Your executive committee spent some time discussing holding an LNG training session at an institution that would meet the training requirement. Currently, the only way to obtain the endorsement is to attend a class which would be acceptable to the MCQB and take the test.

In order to aid the board about making a decision on holding a course for LNG training it would be helpful to have the chemists who do not have the endorsement to let us know if you would be interested in taking the course so the board can determine if it is cost effective.

If you wish to get the LNG endorsement and would like to have the MCA sponsor a training course, please email Don Raffo at dvraff@comcast.net and indicate your interest in attending a course. This will be discussed at the next board meeting in October. If there is not enough interest in holding this course and you wish to get the endorsement there are several locations which offer courses, however you will be required to check with MCQB to ensure that will be eligible to count it as training for the LNG endorsement.

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Chairman Elect

During the farewell luncheon the MCA changed officers. Tom Littlepage CMC 629 stepped down after six years of service including the difficult time when we transitioned from past Secretary/Treasurer Ed Willwerth. We all thank Tom for his dedicated service to the MCA and to the industry.

Our Chair, Philip Dovinh CMC 667 moved into the past chairman position also known as the easy chair. Philip was presented with a plaque and bell award for his service. We will still get another two years out of Philip and use his knowledge and insight of the industry.

Chairman, Philip Dovinh, Receiving his Award for Service to the MCA

Our Chairman Elect, Robbie Walker CMC 645 has moved into the Chairman position for the next two years and we all look forward to working with Robbie.

Finally, Brian Axelrad CMC 691 has moved into the position of Chairman Elect and will be working as the head of the education committee and in charge of seminar evaluations. Please welcome Brian to the position

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NFPA 306

NFPA 306 is now open for comment. There is a new method to submit proposals for the standard. Directions to comment are located on our website. While the process is new, once you work through one proposal it becomes easy. Now is the time to submit proposals on any issue you have with the standard. It will remain open for comment until June 29, 2016. Remember, it is our standard and your comments will only make it better.

Scholarship

The Edward Willwerth Memorial Scholarship awarded grants to six applicants. The MGHCP matched the MCA grant for a total of $15,000. The following six students were given an award.

Ashlee Dean (Daughter of Robert Dean CMC 687)
Katelyn Rioux (granddaughter of Ed Willwerth)
Michael Nunn (Son of Kerry Nunn CMC 665)
Benjamin Gadbois (Son of Greg Gadbois CMC 718 and Grandson of John Flynn CMC 623)
Benjamin Dovinh (Son of Philip Dovinh CMC 667)
Nickolas Hernandez (Son of Scott Hernandez CMC 648)

The executive board voted to request an increase of scholarship money for 2016 from $7500 to $15,000. This request will be presented at the budget meeting in January.

Credit Card Acceptance

The MCA is now able to take credit cards. While we will not be able to do on-line charging for seminars, you can either call in a credit card or use one on site to pay for an item.

Sectional Representatives

At the Executive Board meeting the Board requested that each section select an alternate to attend the meetings in the event one of the two elected representatives cannot attend. This way the alternate is an elected member and can have the voting privileges of the sectional representative who could not attend.

Marine Chemist Clothing and Lands' End

The MCA has established a website with Lands' End where you can go to their site and purchase any item of clothing they offer and have a choice of MCA logo's embroidered on it. The clothing is of high quality and they offer a wide selection from shirts to messenger bags, jackets, mugs, pants etc.
To get to the site enter:

http://ocs.landsend.com/cd/frontdoor?store_name=MARINE_CHEMIST_ASSOCIATION&store_type=3

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Once you pick an item you can select from several different logos and the location of application. Many of the items are given as gifts during seminars.

A Strike!!!

The Officers of the MCA

a. Officers
    i. Robbie Walker, Chairman, Term expires 8/17
    ii. Philip Dovinh, Past Chairman, Term expires 8/17
    iii. Brian Axelrad, Chariman Elect, Term begins 8/17
    iv. Donald Raffo, Secretary/Treasurer
    v. Les Blaize, Asst. Secretary
b. Representatives
    i. John Ward, Atlantic, Term expires 4/17
    ii. Philip Giles, Atlantic, Term expires 4/16
    iii. Robert Simpson, Pacific, Term expires 4/17
    iv. Michael Schmitt, Pacific, Term expires 4/16
    v. Gary Snell, Gulf, Term expires 4/17
    vi. David Hughes, Gulf, Term expires 4/16

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A Group of Chemists gathers at the Arch after a night of Bowling

2016 Annual Seminar

The location of the 58th annual seminar will be the Hilton DeSoto Hotel in Savannah, GA. The hotel is an updated property located in the historic district of Savannah.

The contract has been signed and you can begin to make your reservations using the link on our website. Clicking on the link will bring you directly to our room block and the special rate. As was the case with St. Louis this year, rooms sell out quickly and once our block is full they will not guarantee either rooms or the rate. The closing date for our block is July 1, 2016.

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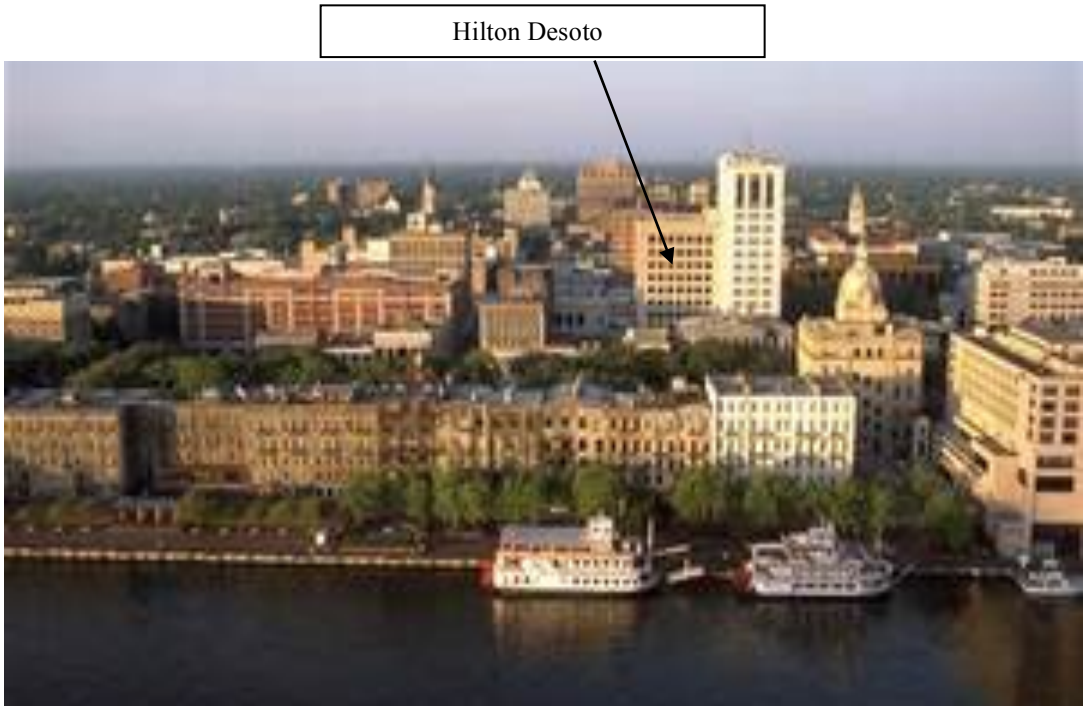

Savannah's historic district is similar to Charleston and there are many shops, markets and restaurants within walking distance of the hotel. It is a great location, please start thinking about it.

Respectfully submitted
Don Raffo
Secretary/Treasurer MCA