



Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378
P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ dvrcaff@comcast.net

April 2018



Marine Chemist Association Newsletter

The Marine Chemist Association held an Executive Board meeting and along with two sectional seminars 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.



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2018 National Seminar

Our 60th annual seminar will be held from July 29th to August 1st at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center. (A Marriott property) This year we will have a departure from the regular schedule due to some scheduling conflicts. **If you are bringing a spouse or significant other please notify them of the schedule change.**

On Monday, the starting day of the seminar, we will have our normal welcome breakfast. Following the breakfast we will **not** have the spouse's tour as in the past. On Monday evening we will have our MCQB/MCA reception on the General Jackson Riverboat which is a short walk from the hotel. (Transportation is available) This will include a cocktail hour, dinner and a show and will start at 6:15 (the boat will leave so please be prompt)

On Tuesday morning, we will have the spouse's tour. It will leave the hotel at 9:30 and include a stop at the Country Music Hall of Fame followed by lunch at the Crazy Horse Saloon a Nashville landmark and will return to the hotel at about 2:00 pm. On Tuesday evening we will have the Chairman's reception in the hospitality suite.

The rate for a standard room is \$211 per night plus taxes etc. We were able to secure the same room rate for 3 days prior and after our event. This is based on room availability, so if you wish to take advantage of this, make your reservations early.

The Gaylord property is massive and it is easy to get lost. There is an app available on-line that will guide you through the property and especially important, it will get you back to your room. Using an Apple device, if you go to the App Store and search for *Navigate Gaylord Hotels*, the app will come up. It was useful during the planning visit. I would guess it would be similar to find on an Android device.

The hotel has about 3000 rooms, 19 restaurants of various price points, a spa, indoor and outdoor pools, gym and golf. In short, it has it all. It is less than 10 miles from the Nashville Airport and about a 20 minute taxi to downtown, the Grand Old Opry is next door. The entire property is about 9 acres and totally enclosed by a dome. If you want to book a show at the Grand Old Opry, it is suggested that you do it early, as it fills up quickly.

Nashville has many great restaurants, bars and places to listen to music. The MCA hopes to see you there and we look forward to a great meeting and social events along with a chance to catch up with old friends. A form to register for the seminar is available on-line along with hotel information for the room block. If you plan to attend please submit the form early and make your reservations with the hotel. **Note:** If you do not stay within the MCA room block there is an additional charge for the seminar as the MCA must fill the block to get the rate.



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25 Restaurants That Are Actually Worth Waiting in Line For



The Pancake Pantry is a Nashville legend, going strong since 1961. Batters for their legendary pancakes and waffles are made fresh daily from specialty flours and old family recipes, and the results are truly spectacular. If you want to experience it your going have to wait in line. **1796 21st Ave South Nashville, TN 37212 phone 615-383-9333**

Another Well Known Nashville Restaurant Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint



410 4th Avenue South Nashville, or
3108 Belmont Blvd. Nashville

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NFPA Report

306 Revision

A presentation on the changes to the latest revision of NFPA 306 was presented at the sectional seminars. The revision will go into effect on April 29th. However, it will take a while for copies to be made and sent out to chemists. A copy for viewing will be available on the NFPA website prior to publishing.

The presentation on the changes to 306 is available on the MCA website. There are a significant number of changes, many are editorial and grammar corrections. The following changes are of note; (For details please see the new standard)

- New style paper certificates will be issued and the old certificates will become void once that happens. All chemists will have to order new certificates when available. More to come on this.
- A new definition has been added to 306. The inclusion of the term Waterfront Facility has been added. This now allows a chemist to do storage tank inspections and use a Marine Chemist Certificate in locations which meet that definition.
 - **3.3.35 Waterfront Facility.**
 - All piers, wharves, docks, or similar structures to which vessels might be secured and all naval yards, stations, and installations, including ranges; areas of land, water, or land and water under and in immediate proximity to them; buildings on them or contiguous to them; and equipment and materials on or in them. (The Technical Committee added a definition for this terminology which is taken from US Coast Guard regulation 33 CFR 6.01-4).
- There have been many editorial changes to the LNG requirements. The high level change is that the standard now requires a Marine Chemist to have the special Cryogenic Liquid (LNG) endorsement to certify hot work (anywhere) on a vessel which carries a Cryogenic Liquid as either cargo or fuel. (Previously a vessel carrying LNG as fuel did not require the special endorsement)

Ethics

No ethics complaints have been submitted to the committee chair. The Executive Committee debated the need for ethics training for the association members. It was decided that the MCA has a policy and practice in place. The secretary was directed to send the ethics policy/procedures and cannons to all members. This was completed in an email sent out in March. All members are reminded that ethics policies and procedures are available on the MCA website.



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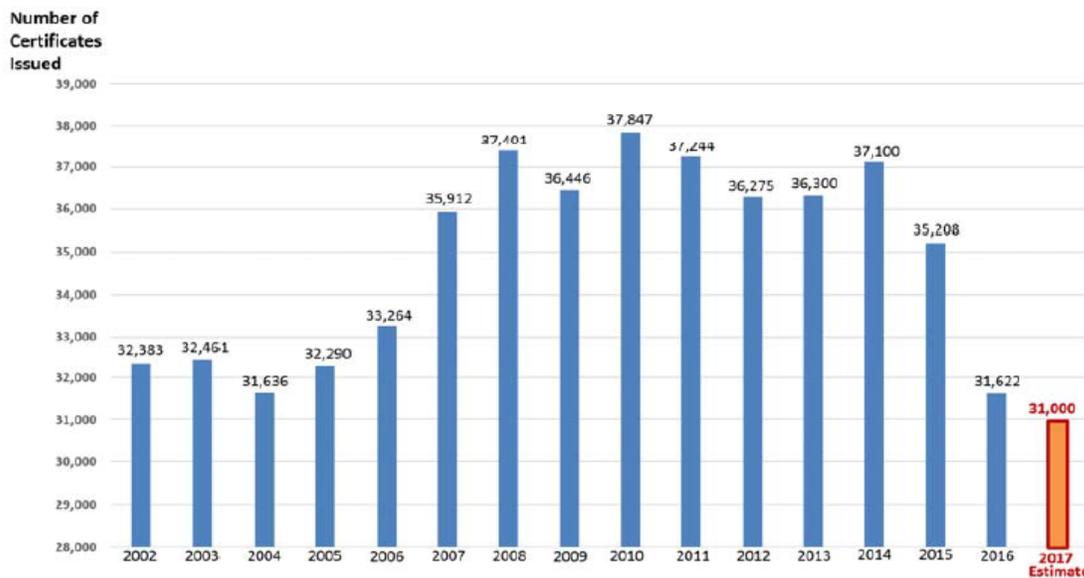
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By-Laws

The Executive Committee directed the Secretary-Treasurer to review the By-Laws to ensure they are up to date and align with the actions of the committee and the membership. The Secretary has submitted a draft to these changes to the board and they will be reviewed at the next meeting. All changes require an affirmative vote of the membership.

Marine Chemist Budget Information and Changes

Certificates Written by Year 2002 to 2017



At the end of June of 2017 it appears that about 31,000 certificates were issued. This is a decrease from last year and has financial implications for the MCA. As everyone knows, the certificate surcharge has gone up from \$15 to \$25 beginning on 1/1/18. This will generate income to make up for the past years shortfalls. As a consequence the Marine Gas Hazards Control Program/Fund and the MCA are making changes to save money. Some of these changes are significant and are outlined here.

- A new method of certificate payment will be implemented in the fall. While an exact date has not been determined the fund is aiming for an October 1st implementation. The changes are as follows;
 - The Fund is setting up a website where you will order paper certificates online. You will no longer order them from NFPA. Additionally, you will be required to pre-pay for paper certificates using a credit card. Orders can be made in quantities of 10 or 25. If you void a certificate you can return the entire certificate for credit. (More details will follow as things firm up) This will be devoted to the development and dissemination of methods for evaluating and eliminating health, explosion, and fire hazards in marine industries.



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save a significant amount of money as the need for a person to track payments and cross check accuracy will no longer be needed. Also, it will free up NFPA staff from the ordering process reducing the need to charge the fund for this service.

- The second change is to those using the EMCC certificates. For those using the EMCC certificates, you will be required to provide a credit card number which will be linked to your computer. At the end of the quarter your credit card will automatically be charged for the number of certificates you have issued and the amount charged to your card. (Voided certificates will not count)
- Once implemented, quarterly reporting and submission of the forms will no longer be required. Currently, you will still be required to submit a monthly report.
- The Executive Committee implemented the following change to the sectional seminar schedule.
 - A sectional seminar will be held in the spring typically at the end of March. This seminar will be held in conjunction with an Excom meeting. Depending where this is held, a sectional representative and alternate will be elected to the board.
 - At the annual meeting a sectional meeting will be held (in the section where the annual is held) and a sectional representative and alternate will be elected to the board.
 - During the fall (most likely October) a second sectional meeting will be held. This seminar will be held in conjunction with an Excom meeting. Depending where this is held, a sectional representative and alternate will be elected to the board.
 - This change will eliminate a separate Excom board meeting each year (about a 10k savings) while still allowing the board to meet three times per year. It will also allow the board to meet more frequently with the MCQB, its MCQB representatives and keep sectional presentations up to date.
 - This change will allow the sectional to rotate to each section without sharing a sectional with another section. It will make it easier to meet in locations with a high concentration of chemists.
 - Each sections alternate will move onto the Excom during the annual meeting, even though they will be elected at different times throughout the year.

The Schedule for Seminars

	2019	2020	2021
March	Gulf/Inland	Atlantic	Pacific
Annual	Atlantic	Pacific	Gulf/Inland
October	Pacific	Gulf/Inland	Atlantic

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Seminar Fees

The Executive Board reviewed the costs for annual and sectional seminars. It costs about \$450 per person for the sectional seminar and about \$950 per person for an annual seminar. (This includes spouses and children under 12). Both these events are heavily subsidized by the surcharges. (For a spouse or child, they currently pay \$150 to attend and for this they get 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches and the local tour, are able to attend both the reception and our dinner event, a great deal) The board voted to raise the fees for the annual by \$25 for chemists and \$50 for guests. Sectional seminar fees will increase by \$50.

Sectional Seminars 2018

Sectional seminars were held in Denver and Atlanta this year. In Denver 15 chemists and four trainers attended, in Atlanta 24 chemists, four trainees and four trainers were in attendance. Attendance at the 2018 seminars was significantly higher than the 2017 attendance numbers.

During these seminars each section met and a short summary of each sections meeting follows;

Atlantic

The Atlantic section elected Pat Hickey the current alternate to rotate into the delegate position. Peter Raffo was nominated as the next alternate. The Atlantic section also voted to take the current funds held by the section and pay for the annual dues for all current members for 2019, with any remainder going into the hospitality fund. (Does not include affiliate members, associate members or chemists who join the MCA after the date of the 2018 sectional seminar) Chemists will still be responsible for the hospitality assessment (\$50).

Pacific

The Pacific section elected current alternate Vince Pempiet to succeed Greg Gadbois as the next sectional representative. John Flynn was elected as an alternate. The section voted to hold its current funds and revisit the use of them next year.

Gulf Inland

The Gulf Inland section voted current alternate Ryan Ball as the next sectional representative and Tom Govey as the alternate. They voted hold the current funds and revisit the use of them next year.

Quarterly Surcharges

The quarterly surcharge increased to \$25 starting in January. New forms are on the website. **Please note** that you no longer need to attach the three monthly forms or report the number of certificates on hand.

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Current Members and Terms

As of April 1, 2018		
Robbie Walker	Past Chair	July 2019
Brian Axelrad	Chair	July 2019
Michael Schmidt	Chair Elect	July 2019
Joe Trettevik	Pacific	April. 2019
Vince Pempeit	Pacific	April 2020
Chris Scott	Gulf	April. 2019
Ryan Ball	Gulf	April 2020
Josh Marshall	Atlantic	April. 2019
Pat Hickey	Atlantic	April. 2020
Peter Raffo	Atlantic Alt	voted 3/18
Tom Govey	Gulf Alt	voted 3/18
John Flynn	Pacific Alt	voted 3/18

Outreach

Both the Executive Board and the Fund are concerned about the drop in the number of certificates issued and the impact it has on funding. As a consequence the Board has begun to focus on outreach to industry extolling the benefits of using a Marine Chemist. Several initiatives have begun.

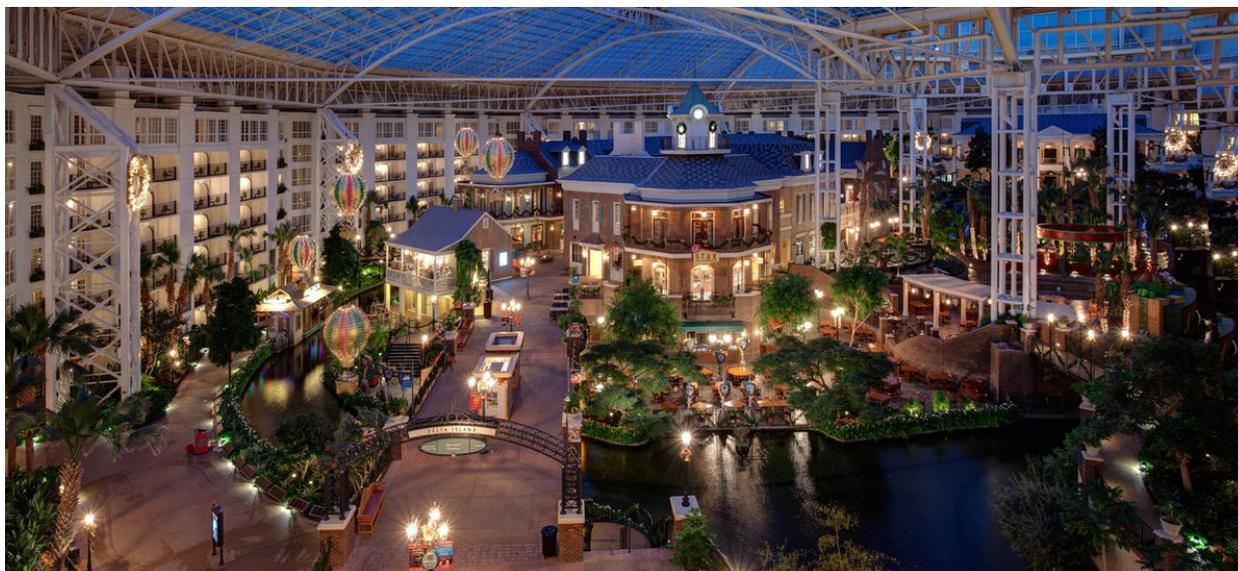
- The Board is developing a flyer which could be distributed at various events outlining the benefits of using a chemist. It is envisioned as a color tri fold document. A draft was developed by the Secretary and presented to the board. The board is reviewing the draft and making changes.
- The MCA website is in the process of undergoing a total makeover. While still containing much of the same information, the focus will shift to marketing our services and having a member only section. It is expected that this process will take about a year.
- The MCA has begun attending industry events. A booth was set up at the annual workboat show in New Orleans with NFPA. We sent a representative to a LNG seminar in Houston. We have joined the Shipyard Council of America and will be attending a Tug and Barge show in Philadelphia. The MCA continues to look for events to get information on our services out to industry. If you have an idea please send it to the secretary.
- Larry Russell has developed two documents for distribution. They were passed out at the workboat show and promote confined space safety and the use of Marine Chemists.

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

MCQB

The MCQB has completed an initial draft for the rules for initial and recertification for chemists. This draft was circulated to all chemists and six chemists responded with comments. The MCQB reviewed these comments and made changes based on feedback. The second revision was then sent to all chemists for review. Comments on the second review are due by April 30th. After that the board will meet and finalize the rules. Please take the time to review these and comment if you feel it is necessary

Scholarship

The Edward Willwerth Memorial Scholarship awarded a total of \$15,000 in grants during 2017. The 2018 application form is now available on the website. If you have someone in your family who meets the requirements, please consider having them apply.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
APPOINTMENT DATE	SECTION	MEMBER	TERM ENDS
7/15/2017	PAST CHAIR	ROBBIE WALKER	8/1/2019
7/15/2017	ATLANTIC	JOSHUA MARSHALL	3/1/2019
7/15/2017	GULF	CHRIS SCOTT	3/1/2019
7/15/2017	PACIFIC	VINCE PEMPEIT	3/1/2020
7/15/2017	MGHCP	JOE COX	Indefinite
7/15/2017	ADMINISTRATOR	DON RAFFO	NON VOTING

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Website

The MCA website address has been changed to 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 eight 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. As mentioned, the website will be undergoing a needed upgrade during the next year with a change in focus. The board will periodically review the work in progress.

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

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. An effort to maintain visibility in the industry is part of the function of the MCA and a line item has been 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.

Some examples of why outreach is needed;

- Ending a more than 180 year history, Jeffboat LLC expects to close its Jeffersonville, IN, shipyard on or about May 14, 2017, according to a letter sent by the company to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development pursuant to the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN). News of the shipyard's closure was first made in a statement posted by Teamsters Local 89 on its Facebook page this past Saturday. Approximately 207 employees will be affected in total.
- MARCH 27, 2018 — Vessels Value reports that operators of offshore service vessels are beginning to scrap an increasing number of older vessels, with year-to-date scrapping rates increasing by 153 percent on the same period of last year.

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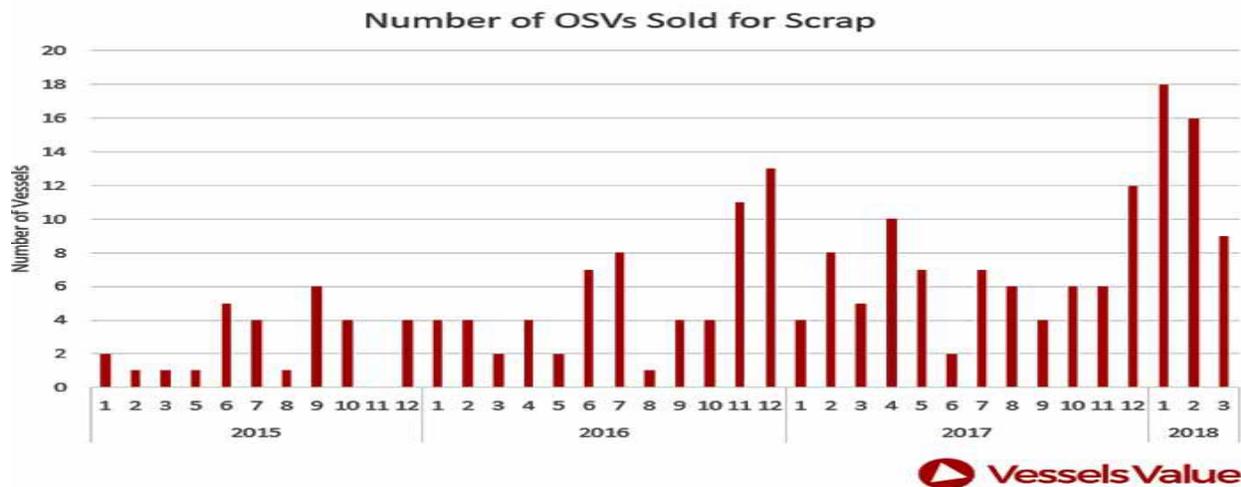


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Vessels Value's Head of Offshore, Charlie Hockless, says that owners' reluctance to scrap is that, prior to the 2015 market downturn, these debt free older vessels were able to get work on a fairly regular basis, and were a cash flow generator for owners. "The abrupt way in which the offshore party ended in 2014/15 meant that due to their aforementioned earning power, owners have many now idle old OSVs on their books," says Hockless. "No one knew the downturn would be so severe, but analysts and market commenters were quick to point to the high number of these older vessels as one of the principle problems with the overall market."



- MOBILE, Ala. (WKRK) - Employees were told Wednesday that the BAE Systems shipyard in Mobile will lay off more than 150 employees by end of June. According to Karl Johnson, Director of Communications with BAE, ship repair operations will end effective immediately. Johnson says ship construction will continue through spring. 155 out of 170 employees were told Wednesday of the layoffs. There is no word from BAE Systems as to what will happen beyond June. Back in August 2016, the company laid off 200 of their employees, roughly half their workforce at the time. The company said the cuts were a result of less available work at the shipyard. BAE's primary business is to repair and maintain ships to support oil and gas operation in the Gulf of Mexico, but there has been a prolonged downturn for several years.

2019 Annual Seminar

The 2019 annual seminar will be held in Orlando, FL. from July 15 – 19th. The event will be held at the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel. This is a nice upscale property and we got a great rate for rooms at the hotel. The hotel has three pools, two golf courses and is about 20 minutes from the airport and 30 minutes from Disney. As in the past the hotel has offered us the same rate for three days prior and post of the seminar. We have also booked a unique special event for our evening social and we are in the process of finalizing the spouse's tour. More to come on this.

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

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. This remains an open liability.

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

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.

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.

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