



# Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

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

**April 2021**



## **Marine Chemist Association Newsletter**

**The Marine Chemist Association held an Executive Board meeting via Zoom on March 28, 2021**

**A summary of the meeting and a general discussion follows**

On March 28, 2021 the first virtual sectional seminar was held. Seventy chemists, two trainees and three GFEs attended. This number of attendees was a record and the popularity of the virtual meetings has caused the board to take notice. A poll was sent out about the meetings and the information will be provided later in this newsletter.

The seminar theme was back to basics.

A video presentation on cleaning a tank for hot work by Josh Marshall 721, Matt Gillespie 737, David Miller 663, and Patrick Beringer 740, was very well received and a first for the Association. Many thanks for the hard work and effort that went into it.

Next was a presentation by life member Lamar LaBauve 576 (Retired) on inspecting a tank for hot work.

Finally, Don Raffo led a discussion on what is required on a Safe for Hot Work.

### **2021 Sectional Seminar Agenda, March 27, 2021 0900 EST via Zoom**

**Cleaning a tank to meet the Safe for Hot Work Standard Safety Designation (SSD) Joshua Marshall CMC 721**

- What cleaning is required to meet the Safe for Hot Work Requirement?
- How are pipelines handled?
- How are adjacent spaces handled?
- Cleaning perspectives from a cleaning company.

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**Inspection of a Tank to meet the Safe for Hot Work SSD.** Lamar Labauve CMC 576, Retired.

- What does a chemist look for?
- What does a chemist look for in pipelines?
- How do you test pipelines?
- What do you look for in adjacent spaces
- What do you test for (hot work only)

**Issuing a Safe for Hot Work Certificate.** Don Raffo CMC 668.

- What is required on a certificate?
- How do you list the test result?
- Best practices?
- How do you write a good SFHW certificate?

Approximately 20 comments, including a letter were received by the board expressing disappointment on the way the seminar was moderated and the conduct of some members. In the future, the virtual meetings will be better controlled and individuals not following the protocol, will be removed from the seminar.

The next sectional seminar will start at 0900 EST on October 23, 2021. There is no charge for MCA members or affiliates to attend. Non-members will be charged a \$78.00 fee payable on the website, [www.marinechemistpaysite.com](http://www.marinechemistpaysite.com) once payment is made please send an email to [dvraff@comcast.net](mailto:dvraff@comcast.net) and the information to join will be sent.

While the MCA had hoped to have an in-person annual seminar this year the level of uncertainty involved in scheduling in person group meetings created too many obstacles. Currently, the MCA is exploring the option of holding a virtual annual seminar. More details will be announced once a schedule firms up. It is expected that the meeting will involve two four hour days. (This is only a guess at this point) The Excom decided to hold the seminar on a Friday afternoon and a Saturday morning. A business meeting will be held at a separate time.

## **NFPA 306**

The standard is currently in its revision cycle with a closing date of 6/1/21. Suggested changes to the standard must be submitted via the NFPA website.

<https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=306>

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The standard undergoes revision every five years. If you are submitting a comment for consideration now is the time to do it. After June 1<sup>st</sup> the comments will become public.

During the annual seminar the proposals will be reviewed so feedback may be provided to your 306 representatives. Your representatives are;

John Bell, voting alternate

Greg Grondin, Principal

Jim Bruff, alternate

This is your standard and while it takes effort to submit a change proposal, it makes the standard better.

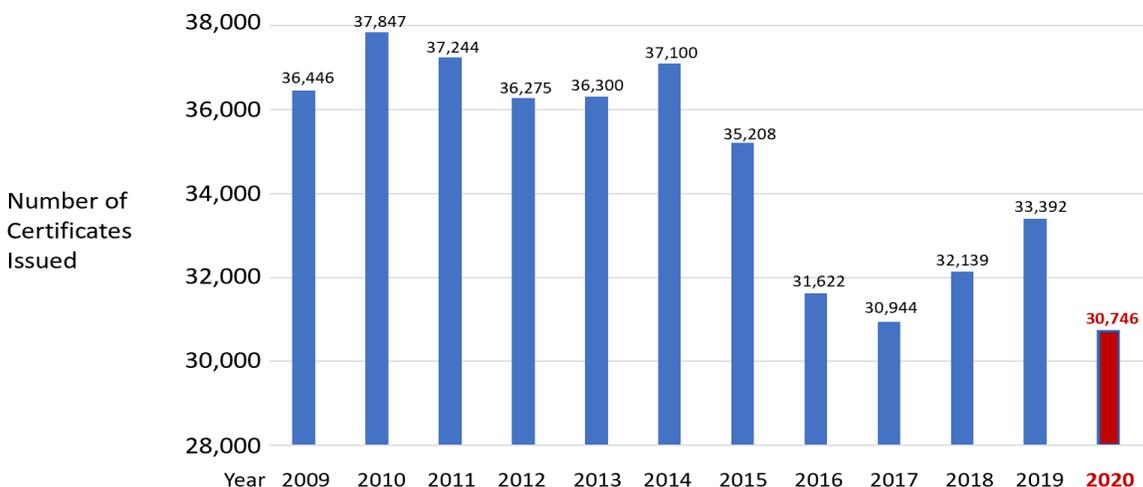
## **NFPA**

The NFPA Annual report is complete and will be distributed to the MGHCP soon.

Currently there are 93 chemists and with the recent addition of Pat Beringer the number has risen to 94. Mr. Beringer works with David Miller in South Carolina. There are 28 trainees in the program.

Last year had the lowest number of certificates issued in 18 years. 2017 was second lowest year. Mr. Russell stressed the importance of submitting monthly reports. The information helps the MGHCP predict budgets based on the activity. There is hope that the number of certificates will increase due to the increase in oil production and offshore wind farms. Mr. Russell, through NFPA, presented only one confined space seminar in 2020 but hopes for more in 2021.

**Marine Chemist's Certificates Written by Year 2009 to 2020**



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## **MCQB Report**

The Board met 5 times in 2020. The membership of the board has changed. Tom Binner has retired. A Conrad shipyard representative has entered the board, Mr. Mike Bellow. He participated at the March board meeting.

There was a significant amount of activity in 2020, resulting in one revocation and one suspension along with other oversight activity.

Mr. Lamar Labauve has retired after 47 years, although he still remains the Chair of the Marine Field Service Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of industry members.

Normally, those chemists recertifying are provided an ID card from NFPA. Due to the pandemic, NFPA is using a letter to ensure that recertification information is provided on a timely basis. NFPA will not reopen for in-person work before September 2021.

As part of the industry outreach the board met with the Navy and USCG representatives in Jacksonville. The USCG representatives in Jacksonville stated that they were happy with the local chemists.

The board met this past Wednesday and went over some incident reports. None of the incidents had any Marine Chemist involvement. During the meeting the board also met with Don Raffo and he spoke about increasing communication between the MCA and the MCQB. He also issued an invitation to present at a virtual seminar this summer.

The MCQB currently has a task group working to submit revisions to NFPA 306 prior to the deadline.

Mr. Russell stated that anyone can request an audience with the board to clarify any questions they may have in their certificate review.

All application fees for re-certification will now be online, information on this is available on the Marine Chemist website or the NFPA Marine Chemist web page.



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## Executive Board

The current makeup of your executive board is as follows.

As of April 1, 2020		Term Ends
Brian Axelrad	Past Chair	July 2022
Michael Schmidt	Chair	July 2022
Philip Giles	Chair Elect	July 2022
Bryan Berna	Pacific	April 2023
Vince Pempeit	Pacific	April 2022
Tom Govey	Gulf	April 2022
Toby Turcotte	Gulf	April 2023
Peter Raffo	Atlantic	April 2022
Austin Montanti	Atlantic	April 2023

Each section will be electing a new delegate along with an alternate before the end of the year. The senior sectional representative will set up a meeting and voting to accomplish this.

As of this newsletter the Pacific has completed this and Lucas Kuebler 728 will replace Vince Pempeit 719. Jeff Hanson 726 will be the alternate.

During the early part of 2022 a new Chairman Elect will be voted in. In our tradition this person will come from the Gulf/Inland section. (This is tradition and not mandatory) Brian Axelrad 691 the current Past Chair is head of the nominating committee. If you are interested in running for this position please contact Brian.

**MACOSH** – MACOSH's (OSHA's Marine Advisory Committee on Occupational Health and Safety) current charter ended and has been re-chartered. Amy Liu was selected by the MCA to represent us on the board. The first meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2021. Amy Liu 706 will be the Chair of the Shipyard Group and Larry Russell is on the shipyard committee. Donald Raffo 668 will be overall chairman of MACOSH overseeing both the Shipyard work group and the Long Shoring work group. During the last charter the following were submitted to OSHA.

Document	Status
Hydrogen Sulfide Document	Under Development – Outline (Liu)
Heat Stress in Confined Spaces Document	Under Development – Outline (Liu)
Shipyard Competent Person Document	Submitted to OSHA for publication
Confined Space Hazards	Submitted to OSHA for publication
Accountability for Safety in the Workplace	Submitted to OSHA for publication

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Hazards Associated with Preservative Coatings during Hot Work	Complete – Agency Recommendation
Fire Watch Document	Complete – Agency Recommendation

**Certificate Reporting** - Please take the time to do your monthly on-line reporting. Monthly reporting is done through the following website and is crucial in determining budgets and funding. <https://groups.nfpa.org/MC/SitePages/Home.aspx>

**EMCC and Certificates** – The EMCC program is in the process of being updated. The new version will offer some new enhancements to the existing program.

Some ideas being considered are;

- Digital signature (Permitting your pre written signature to automatically show up on the certificate)
- Requestor signature showing up at the top can be changed.
- Fixing where the readings not showing up correctly
- Ability to select PPM, PPB, % or other values for Instrument readings
- Ability to select multiple requirements from drop down menus
- New look and feel

Brian Axelrad 691, Josh Marshall 721, John Lopprino 722 and Don Raffo 668 are testing the new program. There is no ETA as to when it will be completed. Any questions on the EMCC program or computer and printer problems should be addressed to Rick Sterling. ([sterling.mca@gmail.com](mailto:sterling.mca@gmail.com))

**Website** - The MCA website ([www.marinechemistassociation.com](http://www.marinechemistassociation.com)) has been updated. There is a members-only section which requires a log-in. In the members-only section you can view seminar attendance for the past several years. This is one of the most popular areas for chemists. If you have an issue with your log-in you should contact the administrator at [support@marinechemistassociation.com](mailto:support@marinechemistassociation.com)

There is a Forum section which only chemists can view. It is an area where news and technical discussions can be posted. If you are registered, you will get a text message whenever there is a new post. This has turned out to be a popular feature on the website. If you have not registered you will not get notifications and must manually enter the site to obtain the latest news and posts. We encourage all chemists to join the forum and obtain notifications as the current allcmc email is being deactivated as mentioned a year ago. Newsletters, information and contact information will be located on the site. If you have any

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suggestions on the site please contact Don Raffo. This is the primary way communication with members will occur.

**Scholarship** - The 2021 MCA scholarship application form has been placed on the website. If you have a child or grandchild who meets the criteria please consider having them apply. Applications must be received by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

<b>SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>			
<b>APPOINTMENT DATE</b>	<b>SECTION</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>TERM ENDS</b>
7/15/2019	PAST CHAIR	PHIL GILES (AXELRAD REPLACEMENT)	8/1/2022
7/15/2019	ATLANTIC	PETER RAFFO	3/1/2022
7/15/2017	GULF	TOM GOVEY	3/1/2022
7/15/2017	PACIFIC	VINCE PEMPIET	3/1/2022
7/15/2017	MGHCP	JOE COX	Indefinite
7/15/2017	ADMINISTRATOR	DON RAFFO	NON VOTING

## **Seminars**

As previously discussed, 2021 seminars will all be virtual.

### **Draft Schedule for Seminars**

<b>Current</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>March</b>	Atlantic (Canceled)	Pacific (Virtual)	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>Annual</b>	Pacific (Canceled)	Gulf/Inland (Possible Virtual)	San Antonio	San Francisco	TBD
<b>October</b>	Gulf/Inland (Canceled)	Atlantic (Virtual)	Chicago	TBD	TBD

Due to the popularity of virtual seminars a poll was sent out asking about how the future of seminars should look. 68% of chemists responded to the poll and the results are as follows.

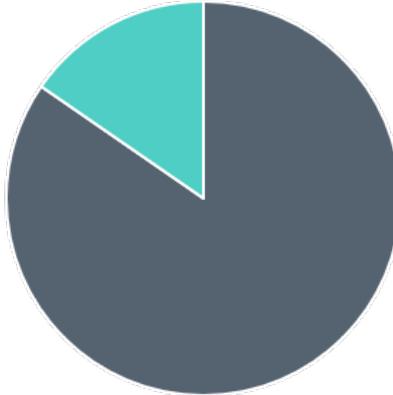


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■ Yes - I have attended one of the virtual seminars  
■ No - I have not attended one of the virtual seminars



**Yes - I have attended one of the virtual seminars wins with 84.6% of the vote.**

## **Comments for Virtual Seminar**

Comment 1

I like physical attendance to seminars and conversions. The interactions and fellowship is a positive influence to our profession.

Comment 2

I appreciated the ability to do this remotely. I know it has saved time and money for Marine Chemists and would hope that it has for the MCA as well.

Comment 3

I enjoy the virtual seminars. The content is equally as good if not better. More control needs to be taken by the meeting coordinator to mute "hot" mics (there were a lot of people in the last one who just left their mics on, which was intrusive).

Comment 4

Would like more breaks on the webinar sessions. Would like established time for chemist closed session to be a part of future webinars.

Comment 5

I attended the March 2021 VS. It was well done, I thought. I appreciated the technical presentations and would like to see more like that. The side chats were interesting. Took a bit of getting used to. Overall. Impressed

Comment 6

I somehow did not get any notifications about the first one in the fall. Wish I had because I would have definitely attended both. The March seminar was a good one. Thanks for making it happen!

Comment 7

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I support having the option to attend sectional and/or annual seminars virtually. Not only does it help financially, but as stated, it helps our customer base a great deal since there are often not enough Chemists available to cover those of us attending seminars.

Comment 8

While they have certainly proven effective during the necessary time, there's no replacement for in-person conversation. The zoom sessions do not allow for any side-bar type discussions regarding business/recent experiences/etc. This is especially true since our in-person conferences are the only opportunity for interaction, as we're such a small group, and in my opinion are just as important as the conference material itself.

Comment 9

I think that it went real well and was very informative. Saved time and money in not having to personally attend

Comment 10

The seminar was to provide education to the members, however, the last presentation was hijacked because 4-5 members wished to make a point. This served no one and was a huge waste of everyone else's time. Future presentations should insure that the discussion is at the end, and should not interfere with the presentation. No one learned anything during the last presentation, because the presenter was unable to limit the interruptions.

Comment 11

The virtual seminars are a very good option for me. The virtual seminar not only saves money, time and the cost of securing coverage for missing time, but the virtual seminars have essentially a zero carbon foot print due to zero travel.

Comment 12

Easier, quicker, saves money for both us and the association. More show up

Comment 13

Attended the first zoom seminar and it was excellent

Comment 14

I thought it was very well put together and liked all the interaction. I liked seeing comments in chat while things moving along. Miss the seeing people and places though. I think interacting in person (on the side or after wards) is very important. Oh well.

Comment 15

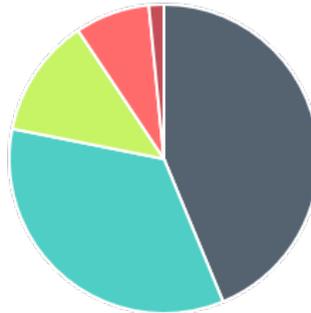
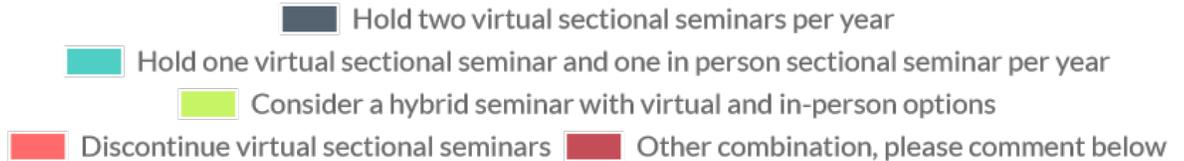
Although they save time and money I have never been a proponent of on line training versus in person



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**Hold two virtual sectional seminars per year wins with 43.8% of the vote.**

## Comments for Future Sectional Seminars

### Comment 1

I do believe there is some benefit in getting together. I considered voting for both the option to have two virtual seminars or one virtual seminar and one in person.

### Comment 2

I enjoy the in person seminars too much to give up.

### Comment 3

The virtual seminars are popular, so the numbers seem to suggest that the format continue. If in-person seminars are offered it will make the virtual seminars less useful because of the ability to hold closed sessions, and hold the sectional meetings... right now these two items are not being done.

### Comment 4

How About two virtual seminars and make the annual "in person"

### Comment 5

Extremely less of a burden on myself to attend virtually. Not talking financially, but efficiency. No travel, no worries about other MC's covering my work, no headaches about flights, hotels, etc. Can be back at work around lunchtime or right after and everyone understands. Hopefully this alternative method can become permanent.

### Comment 7

Hold two virtual mini seminar and one in person annually

### Comment 8

The in person seminars that require travel and lost revenue are simply not as good as the virtual seminar. Even weighting the benefits of in person communication, the virtual



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seminar provides access to the information at a significantly lower cost to me, MCA, NFPA and guest. I believe all seminars including the annual seminar should be virtual.

Comment 9

Prefer to make all sectional seminars virtual

Comment 10

I would never want to give in to just virtual. Personal interaction too important

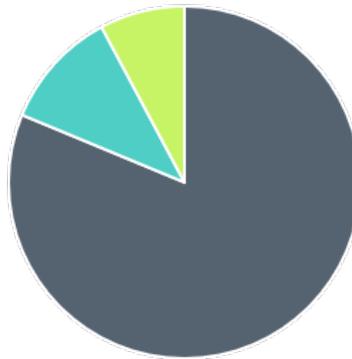
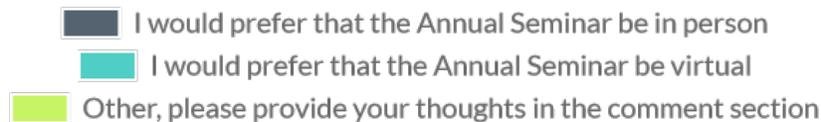
Comment 11

There is an advantage to being able to be face to face with a trainer.

Comment 12

We could try one in person seminar and note attendance. However, in today's computer world, I can see more MC's gravitating toward 'Zoom' seminars.

Or industry types, it adds a little 'flavor' to the seminars.



**I would prefer that the Annual Seminar be in person wins with 81.3% of the vote.**

## **Comments for Annual Seminars**

Comment 1

Virtual and in person, I would like to be able to attend every annual seminar virtually, but still have one attendance required for recertification.

Comment 2

To clarify this year should be virtual due to COVID concerns and the age of our population.

Comment 3

I do like the benefits of virtual. There may be a balance of doing virtual and in person in alternating years.

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## Comment 4

I enjoy the in person seminars too much to give up.

## Comment 5

I think that the annual seminar should be in person and broadcast via zoom for those of us who would like to see the meeting but not necessarily travel to the place where the meeting is held.

## Comment 6

I think it's too early to make this decision because no one knows how a "virtual annual seminar" will go. Could this question be re-visited after a virtual annual seminar has been held?

## Comment 7

I don't fancy zooming for 3 days!

## Comment 8

Maybe the "in person" seminar can be recorded, condensed and made available as a virtual seminar for those who could not attend?

## Comment 9

Alternate between virtual and in person Annual Seminars every other year

## Comment 10

I will be getting the Covid vaccine, as needed. I feel that as a safety professional, I am capable of proper usage of PPE (Masks, hand sanitation, distancing, etc.) and keeping myself safe. I attend ship inspections in person, travel through airports, and test often for Covid, etc. Since we have a relative small group, we should be able to maintain distance. Extracurricular activities can be canceled or limited, based on number of people, venue, vaccination etc. The world will be much different in the next 15 months. Decision would be based on summer of 2022 conditions.

## Comment 11

Rotating virtual and in person annuals every other year may provide value if we are able to provide quality instruction virtually. There may also be some value in the amount of money saved by doing it this way.

## Comment 12

The in person annual seminars that require travel and lost revenue are simply not as good as the virtual seminar. I believe all seminars including the annual seminar should be virtual.

## Comment 13

Depends on location

## Comment 14

There is value in continuing the annual seminars as they are

## Comment 15

I do not like the potential to sit in front of a computer for three days.

## Comment 16

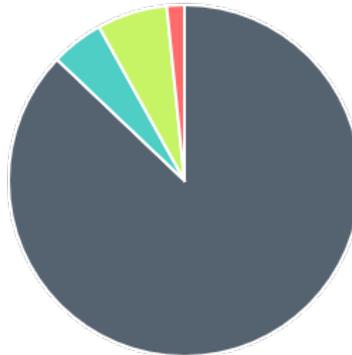
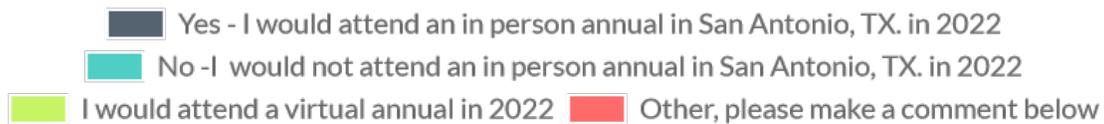


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I enjoy exploring host city. Guest speakers/presenters from different areas are always a plus. Whether vendors, gov't, academic or industry types, it adds a little 'flavor' to the seminars.



**Yes - I would attend an in person annual in San Antonio, TX. In 2022 wins with 87.1% of the vote.**

## **Comments for Annual Seminar Attendance in 2022**

### Comment 1

Uncertain at, at this time. I lean toward not going to San Antonio in 2022.

### Comment 2

Nothing against San Antonio, I've just spent a lot of time there already and am not interested in visiting again. Hence my thinking that it should be virtual as well.

### Comment 3

What about the annual seminar for 2021? I thought it was in San Antonio.

### Comment 4

This is another question that I can't answer until after the virtual seminar has been held. Please re-visit this... At this point seems like the determining factors will be how many Chemists attend the virtual to receive their credit and how many Chemists will need to attend the seminar in 2022 for recertification.

### Comment 5

I would attend if I had to

### Comment 6

Since I am a Texas Chemist, it is not a huge inconvenience to attend the San Antonio annual seminar. However, if it were in San Francisco, CA as it was originally planned, I would vote for a virtual seminar attendance option.

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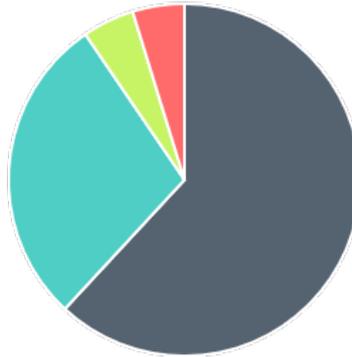
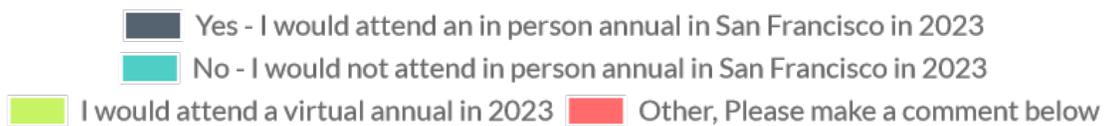
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## Comment 8

Don't believe I will make San Antonio

## Comment 9

'In person' Seminars just seem more hands on. Also, I like the mini vacation & activities presented. I actually like to interact with MC's from different sections.



**Yes - I would attend an in person annual in San Francisco in 2023 wins with 61.9% of the vote.**

## Comment 1

I will not be attending the annual seminar in San Francisco. It is just too far away.

## Comment 2

I am much more likely to go to San Francisco.

## Comment 3

This is too far in the future to be able to answer. It is possible that I would attend. The location is not the most important thing.

## Comment 4

This is another question that I can't answer until after the virtual seminar has been held. Please re-visit this... At this point seems like the determining factors will be how many Chemists attend the virtual to receive their credit and how many Chemists will need to attend the seminar in 2023 for recertification. At some point I believe there needs to be some in-person meetings. There is more opportunity to communicate at in-person sessions. Also, I think civility is a bit more in check when people are face-to-face. I think an important aspect of meetings moving forward will be the topics and structure of the sessions. We've seen how virtual meetings are changing things and I believe that on the

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other end of the pandemic it's important to take the time update things, rather than just switch back to the default. I believe it may be worthwhile for the chairman-elect or someone (in charge of the educational program) to put together a plan after the annual seminar to poll the membership on things. I have thoughts on questions... but for the future

Comment 5

I would attend if I had to

Comment 6

Mandates in California don't look they will change any time soon. I wouldn't travel to California unless forced to.

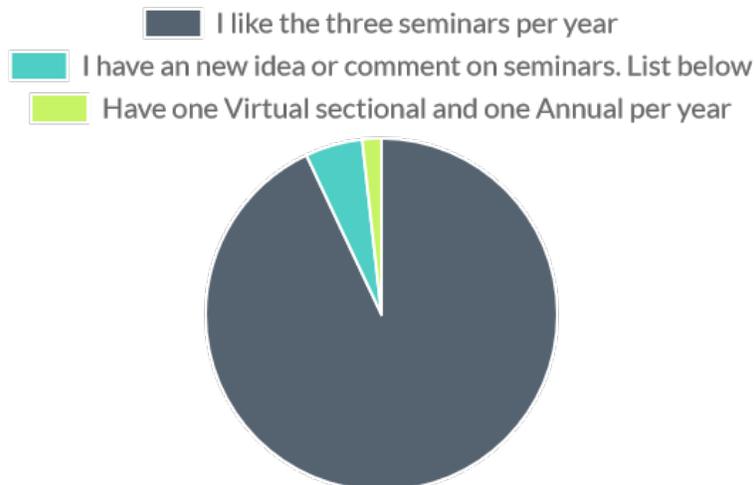
Comment 7

I would but I usually just attend 1 per 5 years. As I get older, I will more than likely (if work slows down) attend more annual in 5 year period. I think they are fun and informative, entertaining.

Comment 8

Great city, great port. Beautiful Bay, Shipyards, Coast Guard, Alcatraz. What else could you ask for?

**Note; San Francisco annual was initially scheduled for 2020 but postponed. The property would not release the deposit the MCA put down and the Association would lose \$20,000 if we canceled. The board decided not to lose 20k and scheduled the 2023 seminar there.**



**I like the three seminars per year wins with 93.0% of the vote.**

## Comments for Seminar Ideas

Comment 1

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2 one day and 1 three day seminar

Comment 2

Thank you for your service!

Comment 3

I would like to be able to get a copy of virtual seminars for education only but no credit

Comment 4

The three year is a schedule that has worked for many years and allows the most options.

Comment 5

I think that the MCA should encourage more original presentations by marine chemists like Joshua Marshalls at the last seminar. Outstanding.

Comment 6

I'm sure I'm not saying anything original, but thank you for the opportunity to respond. I like the schedule of 2 sectional seminars and 1 annual. The sectionals online seemed to work since they are only a one day session. I hope that if they continue, with a bit more structure. I'm very torn about the annual seminar. Of course the convenience of the online format is too good to pass up. However, I do believe that we're seriously missing connection and the chance to exchange information and ideas freely by only meeting virtually. The virtual format does not seem to be fostering the general welfare of its members by promoting closer relationships... I believe the online-only format will create more distance and more disagreements in the future. Hopefully we have a chance to re-visit this topic after the virtual annual seminar.

Comment 7

It's nice to have options whether to go to one or 2 seminars, and to get current information, interact with other Chemists and ship repair / marine people - whether online or in person.

Comment 8

Webinar or Cisco System also affordable and session

Comment 9

Alternate the virtual versus in person seminars to give everyone their preference

Comment 10

Personally, I like sectionals virtually, too much travel for a one day meeting and it is on Saturday which takes always from family time that CMC already don't have enough of. I would think it would be easy to have virtual sectional seminars during the week if you take the travel out of it. I think annual seminar is worth the travel and much of what I have learned from attending the annual were in the social events, which we should still have. If people don't want to attend then they don't have to. Many of us have are vaccinated and should not be held prisoner any longer. Fear Not.



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**BY-LAWS** - The By-Laws that the MCA follows are outdated and almost unworkable. A new draft of the By-Laws has been submitted to an attorney who specializes in non-profit organizations for review. While there is no change to the mission statements or overall operation of the organization the big change is that there is much more definition in the running of the organization. The quorum and voting majority is defined for all committees and appointments. It also clearly defines how the organization is run. Once complete these will be provided to all members for review and eventual voting. Drafts have been provided to all members of the Excom. The draft was created by the secretary and was in line with other non-profit organizations. However, since none of the members on the board has the expertise to ensure all legal requirements are met the decision was made to turn it over to an attorney.

Some suggested changes submitted to the attorney for review;

1. Board of Directors. This term will replace the ExCom. This is in line with non-profit by-laws who use the term Board of Directors instead of Executive Committee.
2. Executive Committee. This will be composed of the officers who are empowered to act between meetings only if necessary. They still report to the Board of Directors for final approval.
3. Formalize the meeting process of Committees and Sections. This brings us in line with other non-profits
4. Define a vote, majority and a quorum for the Board of Directors, other boards and committees.
5. Make the structure of the by-laws in line with other non-profits.
6. Formalize a Board of Directors Policies and Procedures Manual.

## **Code of Conduct for Meetings**

During any official MCA meeting 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.

## **Facebook Page**

For those of you who are on Facebook, visit Friends of Marine Chemist Association. It is a closed group and only chemists, spouses and friends may view and post on the page. If you'd like to see the page, send a friend request to the group. We encourage all to post information, photos, comments or anything else related to our profession, seminars, and events. Please check it out.

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It proved very popular when posting information about our annual seminar. Please consider sharing some on the job photos.

## **Opinion**

Recently there have been many emails circulating on various issues. This Association is made up of many individuals with different opinions. This is what an Association is about. You must also remember that everyone elected to be on the Excom is a volunteer trying to do their best for the Association. Individuals have different ideas on the way forward for the Association. Everyone has a passion for our profession and different ideas on how we should proceed. This passion to improve the Association is appreciated and respectful discussion is always welcome.

There have been allegations that statements made by the MCQB are being misconstrued. Your executive board listened to all parties, reviewed various statements and in the end communicated to the MCQB areas where the board felt that different wording may prevent confusion. The MCQB board disagreed with the statement from the MCA but said going forward they would ensure any correspondence sent to chemists would be as clear as possible. This action may not have happened as quick as some may have wanted but in the end the board listened and took action.

There have also been comments made about the NFPA and formal interpretations. The board along with the MFSAC examined the allegations and believe that the NFPA was and is following its own rules and regulations and no action was taken.

This has led to discussion of the mission of the MCA. According to our by-laws our mission is to educate as follows.

## **1. NAME AND PURPOSE**

1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Marine Chemist Association, Inc., and may be commonly known as the Marine Chemist Association (MCA).

1.2 The purpose of the Association shall be:

(a) To promote the science and improve the methods of evaluation that serve the purpose of eliminating health, fire and explosion hazards in marine and associated industries.

(b) To obtain and circulate information relative to these hazards and other information regarding the professional and ethical activities of its members.

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(c) To enhance the general welfare of its members by promoting a closer relationship between marine chemists certificated by the National Fire Protection Association, and the various other industry and regulatory bodies involved with the marine industry.

The MCA is not a union and the purpose of the Association is not to defend or protect members as a union would. Some have stated that questioning our associated boards, committees and Associations falls within the education scope, others have expressed the opposite thought.

Along with all of this the MCA has to avoid becoming entangled in lawsuits. There are several potential lawsuits on the horizon and the board trying to keep away from these. As most of you know we got sued by a member in the recent past and although nothing legally came of it, an unexpected outcome was a 10% rise in our insurance rates.

As in any Association, Board, Town or even this country there may be disagreements over who was elected and the policies and procedures that are being followed or imposed. Respectful disagreement is what makes our country and I would say our Association function and hopefully flourish.

I believe the board appreciates everyone's thoughts and passion. In the end compromise means that everyone gets something and everyone does not get something.

If you feel you have time to devote to the MCA, each section will be electing representatives along with a new chairman elect. If you have the time and passion consider running for a position. The MCA has many committees, not just the Excom. The list follows;

**Control of Gas Hazards - NFPA 306.** (Appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Excom)

Greg Grondin, Principal.

Jim Bruff alternate.

John Bell voting alternate.

**Hot Work Operations – NFPA 51B.** (Appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Excom)

Greg Grondin, Principal.

Robbie Walker, alternate.

**Tank Leakage and Repair Safeguards - NFPA 326 & NFPA 329.** (Appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Excom)

Brian Axelrad, Principal.

Vince Pempeit, alternate.

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**NFPA 350 Guide for Safe Work in Industry Confined Spaces** (Appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Excom)

Robbie Walker, Principal

Vince Pempeit, alternate.

**MCQB** (Voted in by membership)

John Ward, Principal

Brian Axelrad, alternate

**SSRAC** (Volunteers)

John Ward, Principal

Robbie Walker, alternate

**MACOSH** ((Appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Excom)

Amy Sly

## **EMAIL POLICY**

In light of the recent emails the following MCA email policy is as follows.

### **Adopted by MCA Executive Committee**

July 14, 2013

Email Policy for use of the AllCMC email list and Website

#### **Conditions of use policy:**

The purpose of the Association (Our Web site & E-mail list) shall be:

(a) To promote the science and improve the methods of evaluation that serve the purpose of eliminating health, fire and explosion hazards in marine and associated industries.

(b) To obtain and circulate information relative to these hazards and other information regarding the professional and ethical activities of its members.

(c) To enhance the general welfare of its members by promoting a closer relationship between marine chemists certificated by the National Fire Protection Association, and the various other industry and regulatory bodies involved with the marine industry.

To this end the Web site and E-mail list strives to obtain and circulate information regarding professional interests and activities of its members. It also exists to enhance the general welfare

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among its members and by promoting a closer relationships among members, clients, industry and regulatory bodies. Posting which could reflect off color topics and humor, profanity, derogatory or inflammatory opinions which cast the Association or members in poor light, personally sensitive information or criticism which do not promote the professional interests of our organization shall be avoided (shall not be permitted).

In accordance with the MCA by-laws, the purpose of the Association shall be:

- (a) To promote the science and improve the methods of evaluation that serve the purpose of eliminating health, fire and explosion hazards in marine and associated industries.
- (b) To obtain and circulate information relative to these hazards and other information regarding the professional and ethical activities of its members.
- (c) To enhance the general welfare of its members by promoting a closer relationship between marine chemists certificated by the National Fire Protection Association, and the various other industry and regulatory bodies involved with the marine industry.

To this end the MCA web-site and marine chemist email list strives to obtain and circulate information regarding professional interests and professional activities of our members, and to promote the general welfare and enhance relationships among our members by providing information in a timely manner. Postings which could reflect off-color topics, such as, but not limited to profanity, inflammatory comments, political, religious, racial or derogatory statements which do not promote the profession interests of our organization or which could cast the Association or any member in poor light, shall not be permitted. Any correspondence of a personal or adversarial nature shall be directed through personal email, and is not permitted on the marine chemist email list ([allcmcs@marinechemist.org](mailto:allcmcs@marinechemist.org)).

Marine chemist shall protect the privacy of the MCA email list. This list is for use for the exchange of professionally related information among member chemists and to occasionally stakeholders. It should not be included or distributed with general e-mail sent to individuals outside of our organization and oversight.

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 or policy of the MCA.**

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