



Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

P (860) 599-3079 ■ F (860) 599-3079 ■ dvraff@comcast.net

August 2021



Marine Chemist Association Newsletter

The Marine Chemist Association held an Executive Board meeting via Zoom on August 17, 2021

A summary of the meeting and general information follows

On July 19, 2021 a virtual annual meeting was held. An overview of the Association activities and upcoming seminars was presented along with a budget review. During the budget review a motion to eliminate the 2022 sectional dues was passed. This was a result of the lack of in person seminars during 2020/2021 where the funds were not expended.

One of the major items discussed during the meeting was the change to the MCA By-Laws. The Board had the By-Laws reviewed by an attorney who specializes in non-profits in Connecticut where our Association has its legal headquarters. The attorney made several comments and pointed out several areas where the Association did not meet either federal or state regulations. Through a lengthy process the By-Laws were revised and presented to members. Several members made comments prior to presenting them to the membership for approval. These comments were provided to the attorney and changes were made and the By-Laws altered.

At the annual meeting the revision to the By-Laws were accepted by a 2/3 membership vote. The new By-Laws are posted in the Members Only section of the website.

Also, during the annual meeting new sectional delegates and alternates were elected. (The Pacific section had already completed this) The Board of Directors (BOD) is as follows;

a. Executive Committee (BOD)

Michael Schmidt, Chairman, Term expires 7/22 (Late)

Brian Axelrad, Past Chairman, Term expires 7/22

Philip Giles, Chairman Elect, Term expires 7/22

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Donald Raffo, Secretary/Treasurer (Serves at pleasure of Board)

b. Board of Directors (BOD)

Peter Raffo, Atlantic, Term expires 4/22

Austin Montanti, Atlantic, Term expires 4/23

Bryan Berna, Pacific, Term expires 4/23

Vince Pempeit, Pacific, Term expires 4/22 (Absent)

Tom Govey, Gulf, Term expires 4/22

Toby Turcotte, Gulf, Term expires 4/23

c. Sectional Alternate Directors

i. Lucas Kuebler, term starts 7/22

ii. Brent Campbell, term starts 7/22

iii. Brian Axelrad, term starts 7/22

iv. Pacific alternate Jeff Hanson

v. Atlantic alternate Robert Albert

vi. Gulf/Inland alternate Gary Snell

MCA Annual Virtual Seminar 2021

The MCA Annual Seminar will be virtual this year. It will be held on September 17th from 1200 to 1600 EST and on September 18th from 0800-1200 EST. You must attend both sessions via video to obtain credit. Calling in only by audio will not receive credit. The agenda is as follows;

Introduction. Don Raffo/Mike Schmidt 9/17 1200

Overview of Recent MGHCP Activities. Joe Cox, 9/17 1210

Overview of Recent OSHA Activities. Amy Wangdahl, 9/17 1245-1315

MCQB, Their Role in the Marine Chemist Program. Larry Russell, 9/17 1330-1500.

Update on the use of the New EMCC Program. Brian Axelrad 9/17 1500- End

Incidents and Occurrences. Larry Russell 9/18 0800-0900

LEL Sensors update, Bob Henderson, GFG 9/18 0900-1000

Considerations in Cleaning and Over Pressurization. Josh Marshall/Franklin Li, 9/18 1000-1030

Next Edition of NFPA 306 Draft Proposals. Don Raffo 9/18 1030-End

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Connection information is on the website. There is no charge for members to attend. Non-members will be charged a \$78.00 fee payable on the website, www.marinechemistpaysite.com once payment is made please send an email to dvrcaff@comcast.net and the information to join will be sent.

The Second 2021 Sectional Seminar

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

Log on information for members can be found on the forum site. If you attended the spring sectional seminar you are welcome to attend this seminar but, you will not get credit for this seminar.

Topics and presenters are as follows.

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.

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?

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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.

NFPA 306

The standard is currently in its revision cycle .

During the annual seminar the proposals submitted 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

The NFPA and MCQB Report from the Recent BOD meeting follows.

2. NFPA/MCQB report, Russell

a. NFPA Staff

- i. Eliana Paniagua will be returning from maternity leave on 13 September 2021.

b. Active CMCs and Recerts

- i. There are presently 93 active Certificated Marine Chemists as of today 17 August 2021. As of the date of this meeting there have been 12 re-certifications processed. There are eight more recertification applications that are yet to be returned and processed this calendar year. In 2022 there will be 24 Marine Chemists who will be due for recertification.

c. Seminar Attendance for Recertification

- i. About a year ago (on 10 August 2020) all CMC got a memo from the MCQB that provided Instructions for Marine Chemists Affected by the Postponing of 2020 MCA Sponsored Training Seminars to 2021 Calendar-Year. The memo provided instructions to those Marine Chemists who were due for recertification in 2020 and 2021 and due to the postponement of MCA Training seminars as a result of COVID-19 did not attend the minimum required number of MCA seminars to be eligible to be re-certificated in 2020 and 2021. This memo affected 17 Marine Chemists.
As a reminder to those CMC who have not yet attended one or more MCA training seminars to make up for the one or more seminars that were not attended in 2020 or 2021 (depending on recertification date) - the deadlines for completing this requirement (make-up missed seminars) are:
 - 31 December 2022 – for persons who were re-certificated in 2020
 - 31 December 2023 – for persons who were re-certificated in 2021.

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It is up to the individual CMC to notify the MCQB that the seminar attendance deficiency has been met. Provide the date and location of the seminar that was attended – for which attendance credit was awarded based on MCA Rules.

The alternative to complete one or two online courses has expired.

Failure to meet the attendance requirement for certification may result in action by the Board and may make the affected Marine Chemist ineligible for the next renewal. Don't fall asleep on this. If you missed two seminars during the certification period, you need to attend five seminars during this current period of certification. There is time to do this.

d. **Relocation Inquiry.**

- i. NFPA through the Marine Field Service Specialist was recently contacted by a CMC who asked any chemist is interested relocating to a port on the east coast. Please contact NFPA Marine Field Service if you would like to be put in contact with the inquirer.

e. **Marine Chemist Trainees**

- i. The number of trainees is 23 persons. This is a reduction from 28 at the beginning of the 2021.
 1. 3 trainees were removed when their six-year registration period expired in June. The individuals had no reported activity during that period.
 2. One trainee initially completed much of the work toward becoming eligible for an initial certification interview but has had no communication with NFPA in more than a year. Attempts to contact him have gone unanswered.
 3. A Marine Chemist notified NFPA that a trainee he was working with has found other employment with a laboratory and has decided to not pursue certification as a Marine Chemist.
 4. Trainees are required to provide updates of their progress through the Program at least annually. A form to do so can be obtained from the NFPA Marine Field Service. There is one application we have received but it needs to be re-done since the form used is obsolete and doesn't address the requirements in the current Rules. Please use the current forms.
 5. There may be as many as five initial certification interviews within the next 18 months. Two individuals may be ready to meet the MCQB as soon as the Board's October 2021 meeting.

f. **NFPA 306 Report**

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- i. There are seven new members who have been appointed to the Technical Committee on Gas Hazards. Those applications are in the final stage of processing. Once completed the full committee will be asked to select two dates for the First Draft Meeting for NFPA 306. The closing date for a First Draft Meeting is 09 November 2021. There are 73 Public Input Items for the Technical Committee to review at the First Draft Meeting. These can be reviewed on the NFPA 306 Document Information Page. The link for that page is: <https://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/all-codes-and-standards/list-of-codes-and-standards/detail?code=306&tab=nextedition>

g. MCQB Report

i. Membership

At their meeting on 13 August 2021 the NFPA Board of Directors made the following appointments to the MCQB:

- ii. Mr. Bernard Diaz will replace Mr. Michael Bellow as the shipbuilding and repair industry representative. Mr. Diaz is currently the Vice President, HSEQ Operations at Southwest Shipyard, L. P. in Channelview, TX. For more than 11 years he has managed the health and safety operations at the vessel repair and construction facility and barge cleaning plant at the shipyard. Mr. Diaz runs the confined space entry program and competent person program at the shipyard and cleaning plant. Southwest Shipyard, L.P. was one of six shipyards to receive the Shipbuilders Council of America's 2021 "Excellence in Safety" Award. Mr. Diaz will begin serving immediately. His first three-year term will expire in June 2024.
- iii. Ms. Wangdahl is the Director of the Office of Maritime and Agriculture at OSHA. She is responsible for developing and promulgating standards applicable to the maritime industry (shipyard employment, marine terminal facilities, longshoring, and gear certification) and worker safety and health in the agricultural industry. She determines the need for new safety and health standards dealing with all aspects of the maritime and agriculture industries, as well as directs the development of modified and updated regulations in the maritime and agriculture industries. Ms. Wangdahl is the Designated Federal Official for the Maritime Advisory Committee for Occupational Safety and Health (MACOSH). Ms. Amy Wangdahl has been the OSHA representative on the Board since March 2012 when she first became Director of the Office of Maritime and Agriculture. At that time, she had a larger staff, and fewer projects. However, today with personnel reductions at OSHA and the addition of new assignments, Ms. Wangdahl is unable to devote time to the MCQB. Mr. Jeremy Fuchs will replace Ms. Amy Wangdahl as the principal representative for OSHA on the MCQB.
- iv. Mr. Fuchs has been employed at OSHA since 2015 where he is a Safety Engineer for the Directorate of Enforcement Programs, at the Office of Maritime Enforcement. His primary area of focus includes the enforcement of OSHA regulations in shipyards and marine terminals. He also investigates serious,

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catastrophic, and fatal accidents that attract national attention in the maritime industry, particularly those involving long shoring, marine terminals, and shipyard employment. Mr. Fuchs works closely with Ms. Wangdahl on many projects within the OSHA Maritime Directorate and he has a good understanding of both NFPA 306 and the MCQB.

Upon appointment Mr. Fuchs will begin serving immediately on the MCQB with Ms. Wangdahl as his alternate. Consistent with the *Regulations for the Organization & Function of the Marine Chemist Qualification Board* there is no expiration date for the term of representatives of the Federal Government on the MCQB. Representatives of the Federal Government (OSHA, US Coast Guard, US Navy) serve at the discretion of the parent agency, unless terminated by the NFPA Board of Directors.

g. MCQB Meeting

- i. The MCQB met on 23 July 2021 to conduct general business. Among those items were 6 Occurrence Reports that occurred since the March 2021 MCQB meeting. A discussion of those incidents and others that have occurred during the previous year will be presented during the next MCA training seminar.

h. Marine Chemist Emeritus Status

- i. The MCQB discussed the creation of the emeritus status for Marine Chemists who may not be physically able to perform the duties of a Marine Chemist in accordance with Section II.A of the *Rules for the Certification and Recertification of Marine Chemists* but wish to be recognized as a Marine Chemist for the purpose of consulting and/or training.
- ii. A task group developed a draft. That draft was shared with the MCA Executive Committee of the MCA for input. That input was reviewed and questions from the MCA Executive Committee were answered. A second draft was created which is presently being reviewed by NFPA staff. Once that is done the draft will be presented to the MCQB. If approved by the MCQB the draft requirement will be presented to the NFPA Board of Directors for approval and inclusion in the *Rules for Certification and Recertification of Marine Chemists*.
- iii. The BOD discussed how to handle this category of membership if MCQB passes it. It is anticipated that a Marine Chemist Emeritus will become an associate member with the entitled rights and privileges. To become a full member it will require a by-law change.

Chairman Elect - 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

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position please contact Brian. Additionally, letters of recommendation are required as outlined in the By-Laws.

MACOSH – MACOSH's (OSHA's Marine Advisory Committee on Occupational Health and Safety) recently published a Quick Card on Competent Persons Duties. It can be found on the following link. <https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/OSHA4138.pdf>

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 has been updated. The new program will be rolled out to EMCC users throughout the next six months or so. The new program has the option of continuing to use the older EMCC program or the newer revised version. Brian Axelrad will present an overview of the new program at the annual seminar.

Any questions on the EMCC program or computer and printer problems should be addressed to Rick Sterling. (sterling.mca@gmail.com)

Website - The MCA website (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

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. Newsletters, information and contact information will be located on the site. If you have any suggestions on the site please contact Don Raffo. This is the primary way communication with members will occur. In our recent By-Law change failure to register for the Forum constitutes an agreement not to receive notices.

Scholarship - The 2022 MCA scholarship is undergoing a change. During our recent review of our By-Laws by the attorney, the administration of this by the MCA did not follow state or federal regulations. Due to this the scholarship will now be offered by the Marine Gas Hazard Control Program. The program is currently reviewing the application and may make changes to the scholarship. It is anticipated that chemists on the BOD will still be part of the



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committee one item of note is that if you are on the committee no relation to you is eligible to receive a scholarship.

Seminars - All 2021 seminars will be virtual. At the recent BOD meeting the board voted to have one virtual sectional and one in person sectional in 2022. The seminar schedule follows.

Schedule for Seminars

Current	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
March	Atlantic (Canceled)	Pacific (Virtual)	Virtual	TBD	TBD
Annual	Pacific (Canceled)	Gulf/Inland (Virtual)	In Person San Antonio	In Person San Francisco	TBD
October	Gulf/Inland (Canceled)	Atlantic (Virtual)	In Person Chicago	TBD	TBD

By-Laws - As mentioned earlier in this newsletter the MCA approved a new set of By-Laws which are available on the website. Along with this the BOD approved a Policies and Procedures Operating Manual. While this document is not part of the By-Laws it does form the operating manual for the MCA. This manual can be changed by a majority vote of the BOD and does not require a By-Law change. This is the manner in which most non-profits operate. The manual is posted in the member's only section of the website.

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

Ethics – The BOD is having the MCA attorney conduct an independent review of our current Ethics Policies and Procedures rules. Any suggestions will be provided to the BOD.

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Committees - If you feel you have time to devote to the MCA, consider running for a position. The MCA has many committees, not just the Board of Directors. The list follows;

Currently, the BOD is seeking an individual who is interested in being an alternate on the NFPA 306 Committee. If you are interested please send an email to dvrcaff@comcast.net and state your willingness to serve and a short list of qualifications. The committee meets every five years to make and consider changes to NFPA 306. During the review period there are several meetings either in person or virtual. Once the BOD appoints someone to this position they must then apply to NFPA and be accepted to become a 306 Board member.

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

Greg Grondin, Principal.

Jim Bruff alternate.

John Bell Principal.

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

Greg Grondin, Principal.

Robbie Walker, alternate.

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

Brian Axelrad, Principal.

Vince Pempeit, alternate.

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

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 BOD)

Amy Liu

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During its recent meeting the BOD requested that all MCA appointed Board members provide an activity report back to the board prior to each meeting. This information can then be disseminated by your sectional representatives.

If you have any comments, thoughts or ideas please submit them to me and I will work with the BOD to present them. Be safe all.

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 office al position or policy of the MCA.