



Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

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

October 26, 2013



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The MCA Executive Committee met in Chicago on October 20, 2013. Some of the topics which were discussed are outlined in the sections below. If you wish more detail on these issues contact either your sectional representative or the MCA secretary.

NFPA UPDATE

The Electronic Marine Chemist Certificate (EMCC) program has about 50 users and the requests for computers and printers has dropped off. It appears all chemists who wish to use the program have the computers and printers in their possession. The program appears to be going well and the main issues are with the printers. A problem with the monthly syncing to the server has been reported and a presentation at the sectional seminars will cover this and other issues with the program. In all it has been a great success.

Copies of NFPA 306, 2014 edition have been mailed to all chemists and trainees. Also, the latest edition of NFPA 51B (Standard for the Prevention of Fire during Welding, Cutting and Hot Work) will also be mailed to all chemist's this year. Electronic copies will be placed on the Marine Chemist web portal on the NFPA website. You can download them to your own desktop. There is a wealth of information for the chemist here. You can access it through the link in our MCA website (www.marinechemist.org) or through the NFPA site (<https://portal.nfpa.org/MC/default.aspx>). Remember, you must use your password previously provided to you by NFPA to access these documents.

Our monthly reports can now be done electronically and paper reports no longer have to be submitted. You can access the electronic file two ways. It is located on the MCA website under the Forms tab or on the NFPA Marine Chemist portal. Access to both of these locations are listed above. If you use the form on the MCA site a link to automatically submit the form to NFPA does not work. If you use the NFPA site you must configure the link to your email provider to automatically submit it. If you use the form on the MCA site you can save it to your desktop and send it as an email attachment. You must also attach a copy of either a paper

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certificate or a PDF of an electronic certificate. You will need to print out a copy and submit it with the quarterly payment you send in the Gas Hazards Control Program. Hopefully, this will be a time saver for the chemists, especially those using the EMCC program.

MCQB

The MCQB is scheduled to meet October 22. Reports from the meeting included two items of note. First, the board certified Brent Campbell CMC 724. Brent was trained by Dave Bennett CMC 681 and will work in the Jacksonville, FL. area.

Secondly the USCG reported to the MCQB that there were seriously considering implementing a policy which would allow their inspectors to enter spaces without having a Marine Chemist certify the space first. Your executive board is looking into this issue and will attempt to provide information on the merits of using a certified chemist prior to any entry. John Edgar CMC 686 has been especially helpful in providing the board with information to rebut this decision.

Finally, there was a discussion on the time required to conduct a quality competent person course. While the board has no jurisdiction on this issue, the general consensus was a minimum was between 16 to 32 hours.

SECTIONAL SEMINARS

The board set the dates and topics for the 2014 sectional seminars. The dates are as follows;

Gulf-Inland Section

Houston International Airport – March 8th

Executive Board Meeting – March 9th

Atlantic Section

Atlanta, GA – March 15th

Pacific Section

Portland, OR. March 16th

Hotels are currently being negotiated. Once the hotels are finalized a notice will be sent out on the allcmc email. Also, a registration form will be posted on the website.

Topics

306 Updates

Certificate Critique Exercise

The Maintenance of Conditions on a Certificate and when a SCP can Allow Entry

Accidents and Investigations

EMCC Program update, Tips and Tricks, Please bring your computer

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DOES ANYONE KNOW WHEN AND WHERE THIS WAS TAKEN?

MARINE CHEMIST DIRECTORY

Tom Littlepage CMC 629 has made a draft copy of a new version of the Marine Chemist Directory. This is the one which contains our history, by-laws and wives names. Tom is working on a final copy which will be distributed at the seminars.

BY-LAWS

Voting on the changes in our by-laws is complete and all changes were passed by wide margins. The updated by-laws will soon be posted on our website. There was discussion at the recent Excom meeting to place this in a pass word protected area. This will soon be accomplished and all chemists will be provided the password.

SECRETARY REPORT

A financial audit for the past year was recently completed with no issues uncovered. The accounting firm also sent in our 2013 tax return. The MCA is in the process of converting to a calendar year from a fiscal year tax format. We are also in the process of re-incorporating and the accountant is determining the best location to re-incorporate.

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The MCA budget is on track for a close to break-even year. We incurred some extra expenses this year related to the transition of secretaries and that will return to normal next year.

Just a quick reminder that starting in January you will receive one bill for both the sectional dues and the annual dues. Once all sectional dues are paid a check will be mailed to each section's treasurer.

All of our historical files have been retrieved from Ed Willwerth's house and transferred to my house (much to my wife's dismay) I have about four, four drawer filing cabinets full of history.

PHOTOS

Ed Willwerth's wife Maria, graciously offered us the use of Ed's photos. He had about 15,000 photos which she will transfer to us for use in training. The photos will become the property of the MCA and cannot be copyrighted. They will be uploaded to a password protected area of the website. For all of us who knew Ed, you will know that he loved to take pictures and whenever he went on an inspection he carried a camera. These should be a great training aid for those who teach courses.

SCHOLARSHIP

Our scholarship has undergone some changes. The first change is that it will be called the Edward J. Willwerth Marine Chemist Memorial Scholarship.

The second change is that we have opened it up to high school freshman entering college, and to college freshman, sophomores and juniors. We have placed a maximum yearly limit of \$5000.00 per person and maximum of \$20,000 for an individual over their years of eligibility. The application criteria remain the same.

The scholarship form and criteria for eligibility criteria can be found on our website, so if you have a son or daughter or grandson or grand-daughter and they meet the criteria, I encourage you to have them apply. The application deadline is May 1, 2014.

NAVSEA WAIVER

A letter has been sent to NAVSEA requesting that all certified Marine Chemists be exempt from taking the OSHA 10 hour course to work on naval vessels. After several requests for additional information, NAVSEA seems satisfied and has stated that they will write a letter giving an exemption to chemists.



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ANNUAL SEMINAR

The 2014 annual seminar is scheduled for Las Vegas from July 21-23 at the Aria Hotel and Casino. It is a newer hotel and the rooms and rates are good. Please plan on attending. I will send out more information as it becomes available.

WEBSITE

Please take a look at our website. I continue to update and change it and place more information on it. Any suggestions for improvement are always welcome. Be sure your contact information is up to date. I get many calls for chemists and I refer everyone to the site.

RETIRING

Roy Lutz CMC 657 has sent in a letter announcing his last inspection and retirement. Join me in wishing Roy a good retirement.

Respectfully submitted
Don Raffo
Secretary/Treasurer MCA