



# Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

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**OCTOBER 2014**



**CHICAGO AIRPORT HILTON  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 26, 2014**

The Marine Chemist Executive board met in Chicago on October 26<sup>th</sup>. An overview of the meeting topics of interest follows.

## **NFPA**

The MCQB met during the week of October 20th. Larry Russell reported that a trainee who had recently become certified rode aboard a vessel to observe a cleaning operation prior to the vessel entering port. The individual observed vessel cleaning operations during transit. Since the individual was recently certified, he was able to certify the spaces after cleaning as the vessel entered port. Larry reported that it was a positive experience for both the chemist and the vessel. Larry will continue to try to expand this opportunity for trainees to ride vessels during cleaning operations.

The board recertified 10 chemists this year and no chemist(s) retired this year. Eight new trainees entered the program which brings to total of trainees registered to 26. There are currently 95 certified chemists.

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Twenty chemists have taken the FLCC open book exam and passed. Thirty six chemists currently have the endorsement.

There are currently 47 users of the EMCC program; however several chemists are not using the computers and will be asked to return them, as there are chemists waiting for a computer. The breakdown between paper certificates and electronic certificates is: 15,900 paper and 12,800 electronic certificates issued. Larry provided a rough estimate of about 37,600 total certificates for this year although not all chemists are up to date with their monthly reports.

## **MCQB**

CMC 645, Robbie Walker's term on the MCQB will be ending in the summer of 2015. Current alternate CMC 667 Philip Dovich will move into the principal position on the committee. Nominations Chair, CMC 629 Tom Littlepage will seek volunteers and nominations to this important committee. If you are interested in volunteering for this position, please contact Tom. In accordance with our by-laws anyone volunteering will need letters of recommendation from a member of each section. This is a demanding position and requires a significant time commitment and dedication to carry out the responsibilities required.

Captain. John Mauger from the USCG gave the board a presentation on LNG as Fuel. He explained that the USCG is working on regulations and voiced his concerns on safety and repair of these vessels. The board requested that he be considered as a speaker for the annual. This presentation will be posted on the MCA website soon.

The MCQB also discussed issued of Frac water which is primarily being moved by rail car. It is expected that it will also be transported by barge in the near future if it not already. There is a concern that it contains Radium 226. The board requested the MCA to consider a presentation on radiation meters for the annual seminar.

There were 10 incident reports which will be reviewed at the mini seminars by Larry Russell.

The MCQB will meet:

March 3-4, 2015 in Atlanta

August 5-6, 2015 in St. Louis with the MCA annual

November 4-5, 2015 in Seattle

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**The Executive Board After a Hard Day at the Office**

## **306**

A brief discussion was held on the possibility of opening 306 to clarify the requirements for LNG endorsement and what type of vessels a chemist who does not have the endorsement can work on. The 306 chair will be contacted and a discussion on the hazards involved with these vessels, the vision for 306 in regard to LNG as fuel, the need to address the endorsement requirement along with the scope and Chapter 5 will be reviewed.

## **2014 Annual Seminar**

A discussion on the 2014 annual seminar was held and the evaluation conducted by CMC 645, Robbie Walker was shown. The evaluation indicated that the format and the topic received high marks along with the speakers. Many positive comments were generated. The evaluation will be shared with the Gas Hazards Control Fund during the January budget meeting and shown at the sectional training seminars.

Our Chairman, CMC 667 Philip Dovich recorded the 2014 Annual seminar. He will put the presentations on a thumb drive and send them to NFPA to be sent out in a mailing to all chemists during January.

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## 2015 Sectional Training Seminars

The board set the following dates for the 2015 sectional seminars as:

**Atlantic March 7th in Norfolk, VA.**  
**Excomm March 8th in Norfolk, VA.**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Norfolk Airport**  
**1500 N. Military Hwy., Norfolk, VA 23502**  
**Direct (757) 457 8903**

**Gulf/Inland March 28th in New Orleans, LA.**  
**HILTON New Orleans Airport**  
**901 Airline Drive**  
**Kenner, LA 70062**  
**1 504 465 1159**

**Pacific March 29th in Seattle, WA.**  
**DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport**  
**18740 International Boulevard,**  
**SeaTac, WA, 98188, US**  
**Phone 1-866-460-7456**

## Topics and Presenters

Certificate Critique, D. Raffo  
Near Misses, LNG updates L. Russell  
EMCC Use and Issues P. Dovich  
Change in Conditions, R. Walker  
CHT Standard Practices, T. Littlepage/Greg Grondin

Once contracts with the hotels are completed the registration form will be placed on the website and emailed to all members. The price structure will remain the same as last year. **Do not make reservations yet as room blocks/rates are still being worked out. Details will be emailed to you once arrangements are made.**

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## **By-Laws**

The board asked the Secretary-treasurer to do an update/review of the administrative policies of the MCA, which was completed. The review showed that the current administrative policies contradict the by-laws in several sections. The board requested that the Secretary-treasurer review the by-laws and administrative policies. While this has not been fully completed, an initial review showed that the administrative policies could be eliminated and included in the by-laws. A complete re-write of the by-laws is in progress. The goal of the rewrite is to provide a better outline of the many policies of the MCA. In the current by-laws many sections are not under the correct heading or are confusing and the goal is to provide a clear policy and delineate responsibilities in our by-laws. This will go to the membership for a vote once the full policy is endorsed by the board.

## **Budget**

The current budget is on track with the estimates. During January 2015, the next year's budget will be presented to the MGCHF for funding. It should be noted that the majority of the MCA funds go to subsidizing the members who attend the annual and sectional seminars. The cost of these seminars is not covered by the registration fees. Additionally, this is the first year that we spent our budget of \$7500 to bring speakers to the seminar. It has been increasingly difficult to obtain speakers without paying travel and hotel expenses for them. This request will be included in the 2015 budget.

Dues notices along with the sectional dues will be mailed out in January. Annual dues will remain the same at \$150.

## **Annual Seminar**

The annual will be in St. Louis on August 3-5, 2015. A brief discussion on topics was held. Some of the topics included

- Frac Water Hazards by Capt. J. Mauger
- API and Frac Water
- Jeff Carr on Lockout Tagout
- Mercury in Crude Oil
- Lead in Air Test Methods

Some 2016 annual seminar locations under consideration are New York City, Philadelphia, Orlando and Atlanta.

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## **LNG Endorsement Discussion**

The MCQB previously asked if those who attended the 2014 annual seminar could use the seminar for meeting the LNG training requirement. The MCQB looked into this request but could not make the allowance at this time as it would have to be approved by the NFPA Board of Directors.

The MCQB is currently going forward and submitting new requirements for LNG endorsement to the NFPA Board of Directors. If approved they will be implemented and sent to the MCA members.

Once a decision has been made on the training requirements a training method will be either determined or developed by the MCA and NFPA in conjunction with the MCQB.

## **CHT Tank Discussion**

A discussion was held on ABS and sewage tank entry. Several Chemists sent in their thoughts to the board via their representatives. All views were examined. It was reported that in several areas of the country, ABS inspectors will not enter a CHT tank until it has been tested by an industrial hygienist, who will normally conduct some type of biological test. The board listened to a presentation by, CMC 629 Tom Littlepage and reviewed the recommended practice that was prepared by the MCA and endorsed by the MCQB in 2005. The executive committee decided to let the past recommended practice remain in place and a letter will be sent to the ABS safety director in-forming him of our recommended practice and present a case to permit a marine chemist to permit entry. Biological testing was not endorsed. The letter and presentations will soon be placed on the website.

## **General**

The board reviewed a certificate issued by an individual from the Philippines posing as a Certified Marine Chemist and using a copy of an old certificate issued by CMC Jack Fernandez. The individual removed the writing on the certificate and made a copy. NFPA notified the USCG and ABS about the issue. ABS refused to board one vessel where the chemist issued a certificate.

## **Website**

The website was reviewed. As documents are added an email will be sent to chemists notifying them of the changes. As always and suggestions for website improvements are welcome.

## **The Officers of the MCA**

- a. Officers
  - i. Philip Dovich, Chairman
  - ii. Tom Littlepage, Past Chairman

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- iii. Robbie Walker, Chairman Elect
  - iv. Donald Raffo, Secretary/Treasurer
  - v. Les Blaize, Asst. Secretary Treasurer
- b. Representatives
- i. Gregory Grondin, Atlantic, Term expires 4/15
  - ii. Philip Giles, Atlantic, Term expires 4/16
  - iii. John Edgar, Pacific, Term expires 4/15
  - iv. Michael Schmitt, Pacific, Term expires 4/16
  - v. Geoffery Jenny, Gulf, Term expires 4/15
  - vi. David Hughes, Gulf, Term expires 4/16

Respectfully submitted  
Don Raffo  
Secretary/Treasurer MCA