

IAFP Report

The International Association for Food Protection's (IAFP) 2007 Annual Educational Conference was attended by 2,126 government, academic and industry food professionals at the Contemporary Resort in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The meeting featured over 550 presentations, all in the area of food protection and food science. Representatives from 114 companies exhibited equipment.

The Opening Session was attended by approximately 2000 people. The keynote speaker was Carl Custer, Food Microbiologist, Bethesda, Maryland. His session was entitled "It's the Science, Stupid". He shared his perspective on his 41 years as a food microbiologist.

The Affiliate Council of Delegates Meeting was held on July 8, 2007. Forty-two (42) of the 50 delegates were present at the meeting. The Michigan Environmental Health Association (MEHA) is the official delegate for Michigan with voting privileges.

Action by MEHA President: I created a MEHA Newsletter for the Affiliate Council Meeting and I shared it with other affiliates. It contained information on our upcoming conferences, etc. (see attached). I prepared a similar newsletter in 2006 when I attended IAFP-AEC as MEHA's President-elect in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. In addition, I agreed to Chair Affiliate Educational Session with a focus on leadership development.

Only 18 of all the affiliates submitted an annual report on time (Michigan was one of the few that submitted on time – thanks to Kristen Schweighoefer, MEHA Secretary). Our report was on display with the others in the concourse area adjacent to the Exhibitor Hall.

Recommendation: It is recommended for 2008, our report be placed in a binder with the MEHA logo on it as many of the other reports were.

IAFP President Frank Yiannis reported that the affiliates are to continue sending pictures from their annual meetings to be included with the composite. **Recommendation: It is recommended that the pictures Doug Christensen took at MEHA's 2007 AEC be screened and submitted to the IAFP for inclusion in the composite, specifically of award recipients and officers.**

IAFP Membership has risen from 1704 (in 2006) to over 2000 members in 2007. It is the consensus of the IAFP Executive Board that IAFP membership has increased because of the dues restructuring that occurred this past year.

Some of the countries represented were: US, Canada, Mexico, UK, NZ, Finland, Norway, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Australia, India, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, and Switzerland.

Although many of the sessions were more directed at laboratory personnel, I was able to extract and forward some speaker ideas to MEHA's conference committees and potential exhibitors and obtained an Ethnic Food CD-ROM. **MEHA Board Action: The MEHA Board voted unanimously to have said CD-ROM duplicated (no copyright infringement per the author) which will be distributed at the 2007 Food Protection Conference.**

The 2008 IAFP Annual Educational Conference will be in Columbus, Ohio. **MEHA Board Action: Information will be provided at the MEHA Food/Groundwater Conference in October 2007 and also at the MEHA AEC in March 2008.**