

## **Beverage PDG**

**Members Present:** Frank R. Burns, Isabel Walls, Julie Castro, Mangesh Palekar, James D. Schuman and Joe Shebuski.

**New Members:** Sean Leighton, Melissa Gwinn, L. Jason Richardson, Gordon Hayburn, Emilia Rico, Shawn Johnson, Gregory Phillips, Jena Roberts, Eelco Heintz and Gregory Phillips.

**Visitors/Guests:** None.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 9:10 a.m., Sunday, August 1, 2010.

**Recording Secretary of Minutes:** Frank R. Burns.

**Business:** Jay Schuman reported to the committee that Vice Chair Kathy Lawlor was ill and would not be able to attend this morning's PDG meeting. The Association antitrust guidelines were reviewed.

Board Liaison Isabel Walls presented input from the board. The Board encourages the use of Webinars during the year. The IAFP contact for setting up Webinars is David Tharp. There was a request for ideas regarding social media to increase the visibility of IAFP. One proposal is for IAFP to collect a comprehensive list of training courses relevant to the food industry. Also, next year is the 100th anniversary of IAFP and the IAFP is interested in putting together a list of the top 100 safety tips.

Next, the committee reviewed the pre-meeting wet workshop and fungal identification. Mangesh Palekar and Julie Castro were the organizers and reported that the workshop had been well received and had 14 enrolled, with most being from outside the US.

A discussion of problems facing the beverage industry was used to generate potential symposia topics for IAFP 2011.

The impact that California Prop 65 is having on the beverage industry was raised by Jena Roberts. The discussion then broadened and it was recognized that hodgepodge of varying local laws would be a very burdensome. It was proposed that we develop a symposium, perhaps in conjunction with the Food Law PDG, dealing with national vs. local regulations and how industry should respond/deal with this issue.

This was led also to a discussion of laws directed to leaching of substances from packaging which then blossomed into a more general interest in beverage packaging. It was decided to pursue a beverage packaging sustainability symposia with the Packaging PDG.

Sean Leighton proposed a symposium on dispensed drink microbiology. This may be approached with the Retail Food Safety PDG.

Jay Schuman and Sean Leighton noted the concern with the greater potential for microbiological issues with lower-acid chilled beverages. This is even more concerning given the push for greater operational efficiency, and the goal of reducing water utilization, both of which result in less down time for cleaning of production facilities. This coupled with changing consumer preference for more microbiologically at risk beverages could be brewing a perfect storm. A symposium to address knowledge gaps in safety regarding non aseptic low acid beverage production was proposed.

Emilia Rico proposed a symposium on black yeast contamination in beverages.

Due to the early departure of the previous committee Chair and the current Chair moving into the position early there was some uncertainty if it was appropriate to change leadership and the Vice Chair move into the Chairman position and elect a new Vice Chair, or if the current Chair and Vice Chair should continue in position till 2011. If a new Vice Chair were needed Emilia Rico was the committee's choice to fill the position.

### **Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. The committee commends the board for the change to October submission of symposia proposals, this enabled very positive discussion of issues at the PDG meeting that would not have been possible if the symposia proposals were due at the IAFP meeting as had been the case.
2. Approve Emilia Rico as Vice Chair to begin at IAFP 2011.

**Next Meeting Date:** Sunday, July 31 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:50 a.m.

**Chairperson:** Frank R. Burns.