

Network Connections

A Quarterly Newsletter
of the FPSA Networks

End of Summer 2020

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Matt Hartman



JOIN. CONNECT. GROW.
Visit www.fpsa.org/networks to join and volunteer for a Network.



A Message from Networks Leadership Chairperson, Matt Hartman

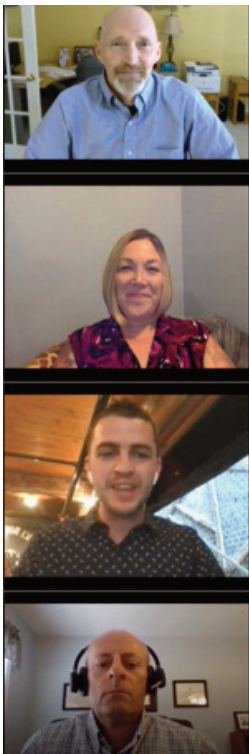


It has been a busy summer for all of us, changing the way we do business in light of COVID. It might seem like a lifetime ago, but remember back in January when you intentionally set your 2020 goals? Now that we're officially in the second half of this unprecedented year, it's a great time to review those goals and get back on track.


The FPSA Networks are also undertaking this effort to reflect where we have been in 2020, and where we would like to go now that everything has changed. As I reflect on where we are for our Network goals, it reminds me of a quote from Ryan Holiday, *"The obstacle in the path becomes the path. Never forget, within every obstacle is an opportunity to improve our condition."* Keeping this in mind, I am looking forward to the Networks projects for 2020, and us collaborating even more closely with Councils. I hope that we finish 2020 stronger than ever before, and not let COVID sidetrack us from our Networks' missions.

A Summer of Networks Webinar & Learning


Many of our day-to-day activities changed for all companies dealing with the new realities that the COVID pandemic brought forth in 2020. To meet these new realities head-on, the Networks worked together to produce two new webinars this summer.



PANELISTS




Howard Deskin
Director of Strategic Accounts
for
 **WebStrategies**



Jennifer Fenimore
Women's Alliance Network
Vice-Chair
Marketing & Creative Manager
for
 **Rubber Fab**
a Garlock Hygienic Technologies company



Matt Hartman
Network Leadership Team
Chairperson
Senior Account Manager for
 **Blentech**
CORPORATION

The first webinar held on May 20th was ***“Transformational Digital Sales & Marketing.”*** Moderated by Nehemiah White (Deville Technologies), panelists included Howard Deskin (Webstrategies, Inc.), Women’s Alliance Network Vice-Chair Jennifer Fenimore (Rubber Fab), and Networks Chairman and Co-Vice Chair of the Technology Network Matt Hartman (Blentech). This webinar covered during this challenging time – when our traditional sales and marketing routes are on hold – learning and understanding new avenues to do our jobs is essential. Your industry peers discussed how companies are shifting to digital marketing and sales, what the value is in doing so, and who this all benefits. You can replay the [webinar online](#) here.

The second Networks webinar held on June 24th was ***“Virtual Selling Playbook,”*** where attendees learn how the panelists are shifting gears and adjusting their sales “plays” remotely and effectively. Back for a second time, this webinar moderated by Nehemiah White (Deville Technologies), panelists included Howard Deskin (Webstrategies, Inc.), Women’s Alliance Network Vice-Chair Jennifer Fenimore (Rubber Fab), and Networks Chairman and Co-Vice Chair of the Technology Network Matt Hartman (Blentech). You can replay the [webinar online](#) here.



Join FPSA Networks Today!

Are you looking for professional and personal growth? Are you looking for a way to contribute to the food and beverage industry? Are you looking to connect with like-minded peers? Then join FPSA’s Networks. The Networks allows for cross-collaboration on crucial topics critical to FPSA’s Councils (Bakery, Beverage, Dairy, Meat, Prepared Foods, and Pet Food) that are technically (food safety, packaging, technology) and socially (gender balance, future workforce) based issues.

[Click here to sign up for one of the FPSA Networks.](#)



Chair: Darin Zehr, *Commercial Food Sanitation*
Vice-Chair: Nehemiah White, *Deville Technologies, Inc.*

Food Safety Network Update

The Food Safety Network's Professional Development Subcommittee, co-chaired by Steven Bain (Festo) and Tim Rugh (3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc.), continues to collect existing resources that FPSA members can use for promoting and incorporating food safety design. The Professional Development Committee started a list of resources organized by categories and topics. Some resources include 3-A Standards (which FPSA members already enjoy a 50% discount!) and training events hosted by Commercial Food Sanitation (an Intralox company). This list will continue to grow.

By reviewing this resource list, the Content Creation Subcommittee, led by Chuck Sena (Axis Automation), will be the source to identify what topics of concern are lacking in the way of resources. The Subcommittee will determine what to develop and in what media (i.e., webinar, white paper, etc.). Veronica Gonzalez (Anritsu) and Dylan Lozier (Whiting-Turner) are working with Chuck to manage the development of these new resources.

The Events Subcommittee held its first webinar on September 2nd titled, **"Food Safety, Covid-19, and Pet Food."** The webinar was moderated by Food Safety Network Vice-Chair Nehemiah White (Deville Technologies), and Food Safety Network Chair Darin Zehr (Commercial Food Sanitation). The full line-up of panelists included Robert Long (formerly with MARS Pet Food), Billie Johnson, Ph.D. (BHJ North America), and Mitch Felderhoff (Muenster Milling). You can replay the [webinar online here](#). The Events Subcommittee is led by Nicole Cammarata (Commercial Food Sanitation), David DeVaun (Whiting-Turner), and John Miller (AM King), with guidance from Food Safety Network Vice-Chair Nehemiah White.



Chair: Christine Hines, *WestRock*
Vice-Chair: Denise Klaren, *Glen Dimplex Thermal Solutions*

Packaging Network Update

The Packing Network started the summer with its first webinar, **"Overcoming Reliability Challenges,"** that was moderated by Kristin Joker (BNP Media). During the webinar, speakers Robert Champion (InnoFlex Solutions), and Frank Latino (Festo), discussed proactive ways to increase reliability – and extend the life – of your plant's central equipment. You can replay the webinar [online here](#).

Next up, the Network wrapped up its survey on the priority topics of interest when it comes to packaging for the food and beverage industry. The survey asked, "What are topics important to you and the industry you serve?" After a review of the survey results, the top three issues emerged:

1) Automation/Industry 4.0; 2) Sanitary Design; and 3) Traceability (following very closely by Sustainability). The Network will complement the initiatives already in play with both the Food Safety Network for sanitary design and the Technology Network for Automation 4.0. The Packaging Network will take the lead on Traceability as its primary topic for the year. Thank you for your support of the survey to ensure they are working through issues that are relevant to the membership!

FPSA Packaging Network - Topics of Interest

To best determine member needs are being addressed, the Food Processing Suppliers Association's (FPSA) Packaging Network is requesting your input on priority topics of interest when it comes to packaging for the food and beverage industry. What are topics important to you and the industry you serve?

This survey should take no more than five (5) minutes of your time. Thank you in advance for providing your input!

Christine Hines, WestRock - Packaging Network Chair
Denise Klaren, Glen Dimplex Thermal Solutions - Packaging Network Vice-Chair

Networks Updates

Article continued from page 3



Chair: Tim Barthel, *Cybertrol Engineering*

Vice-Chair: Matt Hartman, *Blentech*, and John Tertin, *Cybertrol Engineering*

Technology Network Update

Since meeting at the Annual Conference, the Network held a webinar titled, ***“Innovation & Inspiration: High-Pressure Processing”*** moderated by Matt Hartman (Blentech) with panelist Carole Tonello-Samson (Hiperbaric). In 2015, Hiperbaric won the Edison Award in the Applied Technologies category for its leadership in manufacturing high-pressure processing (HPP) machines for the food industry. HPP allows its customers to bring safe products to the market with a much longer life without changing nutritional characteristics. This technology has proven useful in meat products, seafood, juices, and avocado products. The Women’s Alliance Network’s Red Circle Honor recipient for Innovation & Inspiration spoke regarding this innovative technology. You can replay the [webinar online](#) here.

The Network has just newly released a white paper titled, ***“Automated Service Auditing via Mobile Maintenance Application.”*** This white paper covers how blockchain technology and a peer-to-peer network is leveraged to create records that are tamper-proof and redundant. Included is the full background of this recently released white paper: Jacobi Eloxa is a renowned company when it comes to anodized Aluminum parts. They handle highly sensitive chemical tanks to treat surfaces and thus must prove security and maintenance auditing. The company must prepare maintenance and service checklists for plant management and local authorities to receive approval twice a year. Besides being times consuming, the approval process is quite frustrating, as it means traveling and time to read through racks full of paper for everyone involved. Jacobi has been one of Festo’s first customers to use its fully digital mobile maintenance app Smartenance and has been a vital source of inspiration for new features such as an upcoming prototype for automated audit approval. ([Learn More Online](#))

Moving into the fall, the Technology Network will continue its work on emerging technologies and hopes to be a forum to push the industry in thinking about how these new technologies will impact the industry.



Technology Network Case Study – Automated Service Auditing via Mobile Maintenance Application

SOLUTION

One primary trait of Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology, data is saved as tamperproof. For this, data is stored in a ledger and distributed over a peer-to-peer network. This network is then maintained by a game-theoretical algorithm and secured through cryptography. With the peer-to-peer network, there is no need for central administration. A copy of the data replicates on every participating computer. The replicated data leads to a network that can only be manipulated if more than 50% of nodes become corrupt. Another useful feature of blockchain and DLT, in general, is the ability to execute so-called smart contracts. These are software programs that run on the blockchain-infrastructure. Smart contracts provide the possibility to implement agreements between parties on the blockchain. The transactions may be simple things like automated cash transfers or complicated policies applied to IoT-data. Keeping this in mind, Festo’s approach to securing maintenance data consists of combining our digital logging tool, Smartenance, with Distributed Ledger Technology. By doing so, in Smartenance, written logs get stored to the blockchain and are now immutable. This process helps the certifiers to rely on digital data at hand without the need to print records out and sign them by hand. For our customers, this means they can use an overall digital solution, which boosts their productivity, and reduce the needed time and employers for audits.



RESULT

Currently, Festo is working together with a German certification authority to further automate the auditing and certification process. With Smart Contracts, automated audits can be programmed. These programs may check the stored logs for regular maintenance of machines or if for example, approved lubrication greases were used. For the certifier and their customers, this means they save even more time by not having to do manual auditing.



Networks Updates



Chair: Kate Rome, *Rome Grinding Solutions*
Vice-Chair: Jennifer Fenimore, *Rubber Fab*

Women's Alliance Network Update



The Women's Alliance Network has had a busy summer of getting its Mentor Circle up and running in time for the fall season. To date, the group has ten mentors, and sixty-five mentees signed up to participate. The Mentor Circle provides ALL FPWA members the opportunity to become a mentor, or to work with a mentor, with the goal of nurturing personal and professional growth. If you are interested in volunteering to be a mentor, or if you are looking for a mentor, and would like more information, contact Elena Sierra at esierra@fpwa.org.

In addition to the group's Mentor Circle efforts, the Alliance held its second webinar of 2020 on August 27th – ***"How to Be Your Best Self in a Male-Dominated Industry and Still Give Yourself Some TLC."*** Moderated by WAN Member Toni Fant (JBT Corporation) and hosted by Lynn Watkins-Asiyanbi (JBT Corporation), this webinar addressed women who want to be true to themselves and overcome their imposter syndrome. The webinar provided key takeaways on how to be your best self without mimicking someone else's career success. Women often have several titles they hold, all within 24 hours – friend, sister, daughter, mother, wife, mentor, caregiver – and yet they still want to be a credible leader within their organizations at work. If you missed the webinar, you can watch the [online recording](#) and learn how to self-promote without bragging, create effective and sustainable networking skills, and always finding time for YOU to enjoy YOU!



Chair: Alicia Shoulders, *Harpak-ULMA*
Vice-Chair: Len Roche, *Seiberling, a Haskell Company*

Young Professionals Group Update

The Young Professionals Group has three sub-committees - Events, Mentorship, and Professional Development. These committees are led by: Events - Jonathan Buettner (Deville Technologies) and Maasa Motomaya (Anritsu); Mentorship - Carrie Zillman (Whiting-Turner) and David DeVau (Whiting-Turner); and Professional Development - Caroline Wood (Blentech). All committees have a common niche: engaging with students and the onboarding of new professionals to the food and beverage industry. To this end, the group has been busy in 2020, developing resources to attract students into the Food and Beverage Industry.

The Events Committee hosted a happy hour on August 28th. The informal session was an opportunity for professionals in the industry to network and learn more about the activities YPG has taken on as well as discuss various topics impacting industry professionals at large.

The Mentorship Committee is hosting online mock interviews on September 22nd with students at Illinois Institute of Technology. The group has also partnered with the Women's Network Alliance in their efforts around a Mentor Circle. The group will be providing co-mentors to help give the mentors context for newly graduated professionals and students alike.

The Professional Development Committee is putting together a showcase booklet of careers (see image above) in the food processing industry in hopes of attracting future young talent. Are you interested in participating in this project yourself? Please email FPWA Director of Networks & Special Projects Elena Sierra at esierra@fpwa.org.



SAVE THE DATE!

FPSA 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



March 2 - 4, 2021
Hyatt Regency Indian Wells
Resort & Spa
Indian Wells, CA



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