

Network Connections

A Quarterly Newsletter
of the FPSA Networks

Fall 2020

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Matt Hartman



A Message from Networks Leadership Chairperson, Matt Hartman

As the leaves have started to fall off the trees and the holiday season is just around the corner, I have taken a moment to reflect on this unprecedented year and how we have all changed the way we do business in light of COVID. I now know the resiliency of this industry to meet the challenges that we faced this past year. I'm impressed with how we have responded, and I'm looking forward to where we, as an industry, must go for 2021.

As the FPSA Networks write their closing chapters to 2020, it reminds me of a quote, "Motivation is what gets you started. Habit is what keeps you going." I've been impressed with the habits of the Networks in 2020. Just like this industry, the Networks are working hard to finish the year with the same motivation, energy, and commitment to their mission as they started it. I hope that the Networks' time and efforts have not gone unnoticed by the FPSA membership, where we will continue to be a cornerstone of what makes FPSA proactive to the ever-changing needs and challenges that we all face as an industry.

One challenge that the Councils and Networks have worked to address this year is better integrating the groups to ensure the relationship between them is a dynamic one, not one-directional. As you may or may not know, the Councils are vertical structures, while the Networks are horizontal structures that intersect with each Council. The Councils' Vice-Chair has been tasked with fostering this change in how the groups relate to each other. At the end of each Network report during Council meetings, a new habit was developed called the "Crickets Rule," if Vice-Chairs hear crickets, they jump in to engage and facilitate discussion. This rule ensures more fuller engagement with the Networks and each Council. Vice-versa, Network Representatives, have been tasked with engaging Council members during these reports to spur more dialogue on these important topics. Over time, I know that these new habits in both groups will inspire and motivate new ideas and projects to come to this industry.



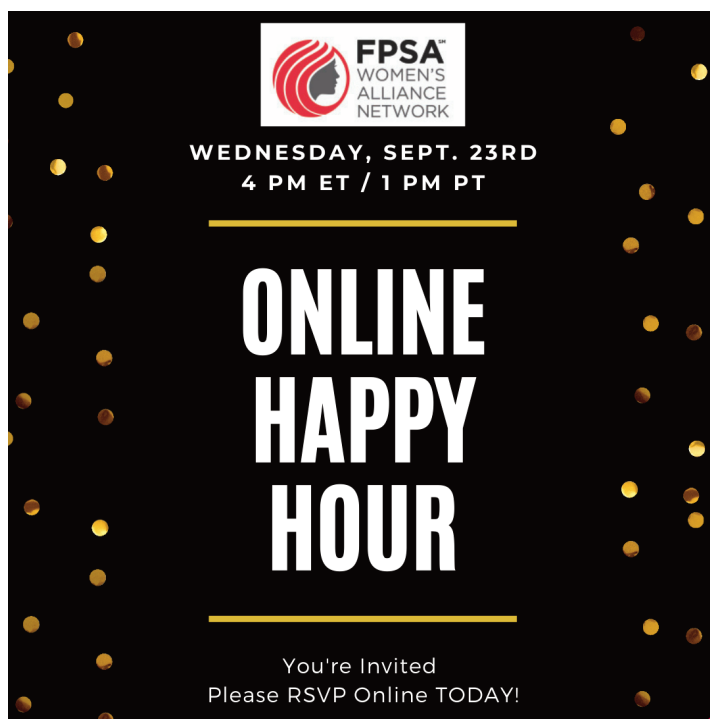
A Fall of Networks Networking

Many professional networking opportunities have been lost in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. To meet this new need for distant professional networking, the Women's Alliance Network and the Young Professionals Network decided to hold two Online Happy Hours.

The Young Professionals Network held the first online happy hour on August 28th, with various young professionals and students attending the event. The Women's Alliance Network had the second online happy hour on September 23rd, including valuable networking and fun rounds of food trivia for the group.

Both events utilized Zoom Breakout Rooms. The groups gathered for introductions to the happy hour or group trivia; then, participants were broken into random rooms of 3 - 4 people to discuss professional and fun topics of interest. The groups then circled back for breaks and were put back into rooms with new people to continue the networking.

Moving into the New Year, the Young Professionals Network hopes to hold these online happy hours **on a regular basis** to allow all members of FPSA and students to network and share ideas.



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

On September 2nd, the Network held a webinar on [Food Safety, COVID-19, and Pet Food](#). The webinar speakers included Mitch Felderhoff, Owner and President of Sales & Marketing for Muenster Milling; Billie Johnson, Ph.D., Food Safety/Regulatory Compliance Manager for BJ North America; and Robert Long, Pet Food Safety Expert. The webinar addressed changes in Pet Food processing plants due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how the crisis has redefined the future of food and operator safety for the broader food processing world. The webinar has been seen by nearly fifty members and received [press coverage](#) of the event. 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. **The Events Subcommittee is looking for speakers for the Annual Conference. If you have any speaker recommendations, please reach out to Elena Sierra at esierra@fpsa.org.**

On September 25th, in order to facilitate member access to the vast array of food safety resources available online, the Network added over forty items to their [Food Safety Resource Library](#). You can find these resources in the FPSA library under four categories: *Equipment Design, Facilities Design, Sanitation Best Practices, and News and Publications*. The Professional Development Subcommittee created this list of resources. Some resources listed 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 as the Network continues to solicit and develop more food safety resources for the Association and the public. The Professional Development Subcommittee is co-chaired by Steven Bain (Festo) and Tim Rugh (3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc.)

Heading into the Holiday season, the Network is busy developing additional resources to continue addressing topics currently underrepresented in their Food Safety Resource Library. Based on feedback from our recent Council meetings, they are also preparing a series of 2021 webinars to address the recommended topics. The Content Creation Subcommittee is led by Chuck Sena (Axis Automation), with support from Veronica Gonzalez (Anritsu) and Dylan Lozier (Whiting-Turner).



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

Packaging Network Update

In August, the Network wrapped up its survey of members on the priority topics of interest regarding 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.

This Fall, the Network is busy working on the topic of [Traceability](#) and is meeting in a tiger team format on a bi-weekly basis to plan several presentations around the subject in various forms (i.e., webinar panel, in-person "hot topic" presentation, etc.).

The Network conducts monthly calls on the third Tuesday of the month. Every call starts with a "get to know your fellow member," which allows each member to share a little about themselves and their company. So far, Christine Hines (WestRock), John Fletcher (Mettler Toledo), and Andrew Atchison (Miller Resource Group), Glen Gudino (BNP Media), and Troy Manley (Festo) have presented.

Networks Updates



Chair: Tim Barthel, *Cybertrol Engineering*

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

Technology Network Update

In September, the Network published a white paper titled, "[Automated Service Auditing via Mobile Maintenance Application](#)." This white paper covers how blockchain technology and a peer-to-peer network are leveraged to create tamper-proof and redundant records. This recently released white paper's full background: Jacobi Eloxal is a renowned company for 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 time-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 a vital source of inspiration for new features such as an upcoming prototype for automated audit approval ([Learn More Online](#)). The Network is holding a [webinar](#) on Tuesday, November 17th, covering this published white paper in more detail. It will be hosted by Matt Hartman (Blentech) with guest speaker Eduard Grün (FESTO).



The Network continues to search for topics at the forefront of technology that they believe the members of FPSA need to be aware of, and the group hopes to be the forum in which the discussions on these prominent technologies occurs.



Chair: Kate Rome, *Rome Grinding Solutions*

Vice-Chair: Jennifer Fenimore, *Rubber Fab*

Women's Alliance Network Update

The Women's Alliance Network has the [Mentor Circle](#) up and running this Fall season. The **Mentor Circle** provides ALL FPSA members the opportunity to become a mentor or work with a mentor to nurture personal and professional growth. If you are interested in participating in the Mentor Circle and would like more information, contact Elena Sierra at esierra@fpsa.org.

In addition to the group's Mentor Circle efforts, the Alliance held its third webinar of 2020 on November 5th - "[The Keys to Envisioning 'Your Next!'](#)" Moderated by WAN Member Diane Wolf (Diane Wolf Consulting) and hosted by Tyra James (Phenomenally Becoming Coaching & Consulting). This webinar addresses the world in a daily state of change, uncertainty, new territories, and yet unlimited possibilities; it's essential to have a vision both professionally and personally, to serve and giving you life. Living your best life and the more fantastic version of yourself must always be, unapologetically, plan A! Are you ready for a paradigm shift? Are you ready for your next? Have you considered it?



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Networks Updates

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Envisioning “Your Next” is an exciting, illuminating, and powerful webinar designed to equip you with concrete skills that will ensure your success in envisioning and manifesting your biggest dream yet! If you missed the webinar, you can watch the [online recording](#).

Looking to the Holiday Season, the last webinar for this Network in 2020 is **“Be the Inspired You’ - Identifying & Owning Personal Skills for Professional Success in these Unique Times.”** The webinar is slated for **Thursday, December 3rd**, and it will be hosted by Author/Speaker/ Workplace Peace Advocate Rahkal Shelton. On December 10th, the WAN Book Club will be **holding a meeting** to discuss *The Motive* by Patrick M. Lencioni. If you’re interested in joining the WAN Book Club’s meeting, please register [online here](#).



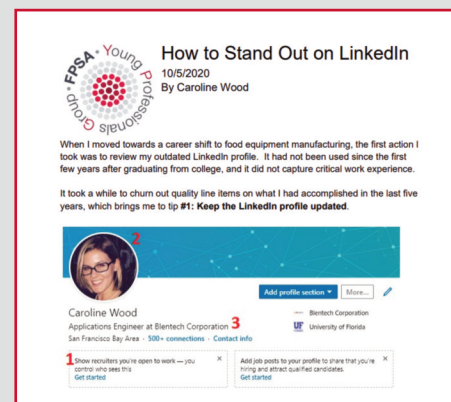
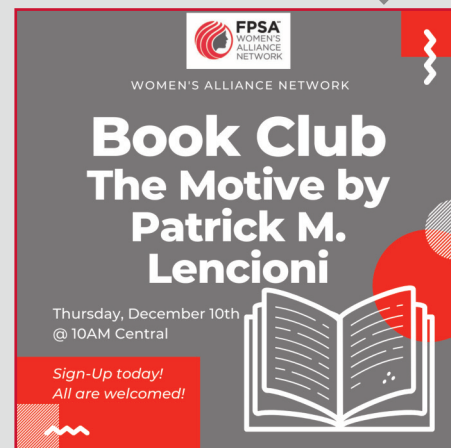
Chair: Alicia Shoulders, *Harpak-ULMA*
Vice-Chair: Len Roche, *Seiberling, a Haskell Company*

Young Professionals Group Update

The Young Professionals Group has three sub-committees - Events, Mentorship, and Professional Development. These subcommittees are led by Events - Jonathan Buettner (Deville Technologies) and Maasa Motomaya (Anritsu); Mentorship - Carrie Zillman (Whiting-Turner) and David DeVaux (Whiting-Turner); and Professional Development - Caroline Wood (Blentech) and Andrew Merkins (Kiewit). All subcommittees have a common mission: engaging with students and onboarding new professionals to the food and beverage industry. The groups have had a busy 2020 developing resources to attract students into the Food and Beverage Industry.

The Mentorship Subcommittee held online [mock interviews](#) on September 22nd with students at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Coinciding with the mock interviews, the group released its **“Interview Strategy Guide.”** The group has also partnered with the Women’s Network Alliance in their efforts around a Mentor Circle by providing co-mentors to help give the mentors context for newly graduated professionals and students alike.

In October, the Professional Development Subcommittee put together a [showcase booklet of careers](#) in the food processing industry to attract future young talent and help them understand the wide range of careers available in our industry. The showcase booklet was sent out to students, professors, and career centers. It also led to the development of the **“Day in the Life”** series over social media, which ran from October 16th through October 30th. Back on October 5th, the Subcommittee also released its first LinkedIn Article, **“How to Stand Out on LinkedIn,”** where they hope to get aspiring students to update their profiles and get active in the industry when searching for their first career steps.



SAVE THE DATE!

FPSA 2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



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



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