

Network Connections

A Quarterly Newsletter
of the FPSA Networks

Summer 2023

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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



A Message from the Networks Leadership Chairperson, Cara Godack

Dear FPSA Networks Members,

Change is the lifeblood of progress, and we must embrace it wholeheartedly. In today's rapidly evolving world, staying ahead of the curve cannot be overstated. With that in mind, it is exciting that our Networks are spearheading some notable initiatives that will shape the future of our industry.



One of the most thrilling aspects of our Networks is the exchange of knowledge and expertise among our members. We have witnessed extraordinary collaborations where diverse perspectives converge to create solutions. We are fostering an environment that nurtures growth and pushes boundaries through engaging discussions, webinars, and interactive sessions.

In addition to the remarkable work within the Networks, we are also focused on fostering a strong sense of community. The connections forged here are invaluable, as they facilitate sharing ideas, support, and camaraderie. Through our networking events, mentorship programs, and collaborative projects, we are building lasting relationships that will propel us forward.

As we move forward, let us remember that change is not just an opportunity but a necessity. By embracing change, we unlock our true potential and drive meaningful impact. Together, we can shape a future that is not only prosperous but also sustainable and inclusive.

I invite all of you to participate in the Networks' upcoming events actively, contribute your ideas, and engage with fellow members. Together, let us seize the opportunities ahead and embark on a transformation journey.

Thank you for being part of our dynamic community. Exciting times await the FPSA Network, and I am eager to witness the positive change we will create.

Warm regards,
Cara Godack, FPSA Networks Chair

Networks Updates



Chair: Brian Shoop, *Gray Solutions*
Vice-Chair: Jon Miller, *A M King*

Food Safety Network Update

The Food Safety Network recently partnered with the FPSA Bakery and Prepared Foods Councils to develop an FPSA Webinar titled “*Rising to the Sesame Challenge*.” This webinar is scheduled to take place in August and will feature experts Nathan Mirdamadi (Commercial Food Sanitation), Kara Scherer (Dennis Group), and Adam Guichard (Neogen). Moderated by Prepared Foods Council Chairman Darin Zehr (Commercial Food Sanitation), this panel of experts will dive into the operational challenges production with sesame seed poses and solutions from sanitation, design-build, and lab testing perspectives.

To help others “digest the Regulations and Standards Road Map” regarding food safety, the Food Safety Network has developed an acronym Food Safety Directory to be posted in the Food Safety Library on the [FPSA Website](#).

The Network also continues its efforts on Hygienic Design Standards for Plant-Based Foods and a review of FSMA & USDA updates. The Network would like to [invite all FPSA Members](#) to participate in the group’s upcoming meetings, which include:

- Thursday, July 13 at 3 PM ET/ 2 PM CT
- Thursday, September 7 at 3 PM ET/ 2 PM CT
- Tuesday, October 24 at Process Expo – Network Meet-Up at FPSA Booth from 4 – 5 PM CT in Chicago.
- Thursday, November 2 at 3 PM ET/ 2 PM CT



Chair: Denise Klaren, *Glen Dimplex Thermal Solutions*
Vice-Chair: Kelvin Binns, *WIPOTEC*

Packaging Network Update

In April, for Earth Day, the [Packaging Network released its first session](#) for the #Unpack-Sustainability campaign with a feature on [Kwik Lok](#)—leading the way in sustainable innovation with its EcoLok and FibreLok. Kwik Lok is fully committed to innovating and investing in materials science, thus enabling them to offer products that utilize Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) material or other recycled and recyclable materials. Kwik Lok’s priority is helping its customers make advances in sustainability and minimizing the collective impact on the environment. For some, that means identifying opportunities to cut carbon emissions. For others, minimizing plastics is the priority. Most are trying to find a balance between the two. Kwik Lok has closing solutions – EcoLok and FibreLok – that meet these challenges and continue to innovate better outcomes.



Networks Updates

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As a part of the #UnpackSustainability Campaign, the Network has held discussions on “[Amazon Big Box Idea](#)” to reduce packaging for items coming out of production facilities. The Network expects to hold a session on these efforts, but ultimately, they’re looking for innovations and changes that members of FPSA have implemented. Do you have an idea for an upcoming #UnpackSustainability campaign feature that will highlight the innovative things your company is doing? If so, please reach out to FPSA Networks Staff Liaison Elena Sierra at esierra@fpsa.org.

During the Packaging Network’s May Meeting, the group discussed calculating a company’s carbon footprint. The EPA has provided a tool that all [companies can use to calculate their carbon footprint](#). The Network discussed the need to find industry benchmarks so companies can compare their progress to companies of similar size and production. The last item discussed on the May conference call was “What Constitutes a Recyclable Package?” The Network has made efforts to reach out to leaders in this space and will discuss the next steps on how to address the topic during its next conference call. All members of FPSA are welcome to [join the Packaging Network](#) for the rest of its 2023 Meetings:

Tuesday, July 18 at 1 PM ET/ Noon CT

- Tuesday, September 19 at 1 PM ET/ Noon CT
- Tuesday, October 24 at Process Expo – Network Meet-Up at FPSA Booth from 4 – 5 PM CT in Chicago.
- Tuesday, November 21 at 1 PM ET/ Noon CT



Chair: Tim Barthel, *Cybertrol*
Vice-Chair: Brian Krumsee, *Handtmann*

Technology Network Update

For 2023, the Network is presenting 5-minute “Tech Talks” for its fellow Networks and the FPSA Councils. These short convos will tackle technical areas of need and success stories. For Q3, the planned “Tech Talks” will be:

- Bakery Council signed up for **Virtual Reality**
- Prepared Foods Council signed up for **IP69K – when is it needed and Predictive Maintenance**
- Dairy and Pet Food Councils signed up for **AI**
- MISA Council also signed up for **Predictive Maintenance**

The Network has also been focused on developing resources for the “*Cross-training technical staff on sales.*” To do so, the Network has created a working group to address this important topic. For those interested in participating in this campaign and more, please [sign-up for the Technology Network](#) and their upcoming meetings:

- Tuesday, August 1 at 2 PM ET/ 1 PM CT
- Tuesday, October 3 at 2 PM ET/ 1 PM CT
- Tuesday, October 24 at Process Expo – Network Meet-Up at FPSA Booth from 4 – 5 PM CT in Chicago.
- Tuesday, December 5 at 2 PM ET/ 1 PM CT

Networks Updates



Chair: Cara Godack, *Rome Grinding Solutions*
Vice-Chair: Kendra Consiglio, *Weber*

Women's Alliance Network Update

For 2023, the Network's Events Subcommittee is busy planning the 2023 Process Expo **Women's Alliance Breakfast**. This event on Tuesday, October 24 at 8 AM CT will be an excellent opportunity for women in the F&B industry to network and celebrate their most outstanding achievements together. The Women's Alliance Network aims to empower women to succeed in their current positions and take their careers to the next level. The Women's Breakfast will feature speaker Nicole Makowski, President of Makowski's Real Sausage Company, and the \$25 registration fee will go to support Nicole's chosen charity – **Jackson Chance Foundation**.

Additionally, during the breakfast, women who have positively impacted women's careers and gender balance in the food and beverage industry will be recognized with the **Red Circle Honors**. The deadline to submit Red Circle Honor nominations is **August 1st**. Members are encouraged to nominate their companies, colleagues, and customers for the following awards categories:

- **Rising Star** – Awarded to women with less than five years of experience who have made a significant impact with their professional achievements and personal influence in the food and beverage industry.
- **Innovation and Inspiration** – Recognizes women who have introduced game-changing innovations or inspiring ideas to their company within the past 18 months, including new products, technology, programs, systems, or processes.
- **Career Excellence** – Presented to a woman dedicated to the food and beverage industry and has taken a proactive approach to her personal and professional development and the development of other women in the industry.
- **Achievement in Developing & Promoting Women** – The Achievement in Developing and Promoting Women recognizes an FPFA member company that actively supports and develops women's careers in their employ and works toward gender balance.
- **Male Ally** – The Male Ally Red Circle honor recognizes a male colleague who actively supports, promotes, and develops the careers of other genders in the workforce.



SAVE THE DATE:
Monday, October 23, at Process Expo,
is the Women's Alliance Network Meet-Up
at the FPFA Booth from 4-5 PM CT in Chicago.

The Membership Subcommittee is hard at work producing videos while continuing its social media outreach efforts. Recently, the subcommittee produced two episodes of "Executive Spotlight" on **Ester Codina** (Alfa Laval) and **Tricia Clark** (Ensign Solutions). If you know someone who you think would like to be on the Executive Spotlight, please reach out to FPFA Networks Staff Liaison Elena Sierra at esierra@fpfa.org.



Networks Updates

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The Professional Development Subcommittee is searching for its next webinar topic while continuing its Book Club and Mentor Circle program support. The Mentorship Circle has been busy planning for the start of the next round of mentor circles ([August/September 2023](#)). The Mentorship Circle Leadership is considering changes to the program from speed mentoring to flash mentoring in order to revitalize the program. Also, don't forget to register for Book Club's upcoming events:

2023 Book Club Calendar

- ***Good Leaders Ask Great Questions:*** *Your Foundation for Successful Leadership* by John C. Maxwell to meet on **Wednesday, September 20** at 11:30 AM ET / 10:30 AM CT.
» [REGISTER ONLINE](#) to join in on the Good Leaders Ask Great Questions discussion.
- ***Think Again:*** *The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know* by Adam Grant to meet on **Wednesday, December 13** at 11:30 AM ET / 10:30 AM CT.
» [REGISTER ONLINE](#) to join in on the discussion of Think Again.



Chair: Len Roche, *Seiberling, a Haskell Company*
Vice-Chair: Nicole Chestnut, *Rome Grinding Solutions*

Young Professionals Group Update

The Network continues to focus on various areas of interest to develop content for the industry, including student programs for Process Expo, such as:

- Booth Tours – October 23 & October 24
- Career Fair – Mark your Calendars for October 25!
- Mock Interviews and Career Roundtables

The Professional Development Subcommittee has developed a survey for HR Professionals in FPSSA and will release it this July. On the Career Development Front, the YPG is making strides in completing volume 2 of the [Career Booklet](#) to help young people visualize the wide variety of careers available in our industry.

The YPG is no longer just for members under 40! Everyone who wishes to contribute to creating a gateway for the next generation into the food and beverage industry is [welcome to join the Network](#) for its upcoming meetings:

- Wednesday, August 2 at 2 PM ET / 1 PM CT
- Wednesday, October 4 at 2 PM ET / 1 PM CT
- Monday, October 23, at Process Expo, is the YPG's Network Meet-Up at FPSSA Booth from 4 – 5 PM CT in Chicago.
- Wednesday, December 6 at 2 PM ET / 1 PM CT

The YPG is in the process of its "[Summer Series](#)" of Career Roundtables to educate students about the different career paths in the industry. Career Roundtables are "Speed" networking opportunities for students to discuss with YPG members various topics and concerns that students have about entering the food and beverage sector. **Here are the two upcoming sessions. Please share these opportunities with your interns and school contacts!**

- **[July 19 at 2 PM ET](#)** (all degrees with operations-focused careers, e.g., psychology, sociology, marketing, communications, business, etc.)
- **[August 16 at 2 PM ET](#)** (food science/chemistry/biology/science degrees)

A poster for the 2023 Summer Series of Career Roundtables. It features the FPSSA Young Professionals Group logo at the top left. The title "2023 SUMMER SERIES OF CAREER ROUNDTABLES" is prominently displayed. Below the title, it says "Speed Networking for Students with FPSSA Young Professionals Group Members in the food industry." There are three circular icons representing different degree types: Engineering Degrees (showing a person working on a computer), Operations Degrees (showing gears), and Science Degrees (showing laboratory glassware). Below these icons, a table lists the dates and times for each session: Engineering - June 14th at 2 PM ET / 1 PM CT, All Degrees - July 19th, and Science Degrees - August 16th. At the bottom, there is a red button that says "REGISTER FOR THESE ONLINE EVENTS".



**Food Processing Suppliers
Association PROCESS EXPO**
1451 Dolley Madison Blvd.
Suite 101
McLean, VA 22101



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