

Committee Highlight: Web Programs Committee

It has been very enjoyable and memorable for me to be on the Master Brewers Web Programs Committee the last few years and I am looking forward to chairing the committee in 2020. The most memorable part of being on the committee for me is the immense amount of expertise and knowledge that is shared by our webinar presenters.

Safety has become a major focus for breweries these days and these webinars answered a lot of questions in relation to OSHA requirements and brewery inspections. In 2019, two webinars presented by Mark Jaeggi focused on safety, and a special shout-out goes out to him for his webinars on Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) and Confined Spaces. Quality has been and always will be a big focus and there were several excellent webinars geared for laboratory personnel. There was one on PCR (polymerase chain reaction), one on screening for Lactobacillus, and one on necessary laboratory equipment.

The industry has seen unprecedented growth of start-up breweries in the time that I have been on the Web Programs Committee, and believe the webinars are invaluable to help both new and existing breweries tackle production issues, quality concerns, and understanding governmental regulations. Knowledge is key in running a successful brewery. Master Brewers webinars can help the brewer be safer and smarter and improve the bottom line at the same time.

The best part of being on the Web Programs Committee to me is being able to help breweries accomplish their ultimate goals: make better beer, being safer, and optimizing their processes. We have several webinars already on the books for 2020, so be on the lookout for lots of important and meaningful webinars this year.

In closing and as I have mentioned in the past, webinars are a perfect example of what the Master Brewers is all about, which is taken from the Mission Statement: "To be the recognized leader in brewing education and technical information by leveraging the collective resources of the brewing community, thereby offering continuous **improvement to the processes and products of our members."** The knowledge, friendships, and camaraderie of all the members make the Master Brewers a very unique organization and I am proud to be a member of the Master Brewers.

Cheers,

Dana Johnson, Birko Corp. Chair, Master Brewers Web Programs Committee