



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Volume 55, No. 2

Summer 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Tom Kunesh

Dear colleagues,

For those of you who attended the Annual Education Conference (AEC) in Yakima...I hope you feel that your time was well spent. We carried on some great traditions and started some new ones. We recognized some talented individuals who shine every day in their public health work and a few who have helped keep our organization together. Who knew that a “cornhole” tournament could bring so many people together? Who knew a group of high school students could rock our Monday social gathering so thoroughly?

While all of that was fun, our main purpose is to provide education to our members and again our 2019 AEC was a great success. Please join me in thanking the 30+ members of our planning committee and our Association staff (Dayna Katula and Megan McNelly) for making sure the conference went smoothly. The speakers, poster presenters, and the program committee did a great job assuring that all major environmental health program areas were covered. Our facilities and audio-visual committee members assured that the gear was functional and the meeting spaces were ready for us. We had great vendors and Poster presenters who felt like valued partners as participants in “The Game.” To top it off, we raised over \$2000.00 for 200 Orphanages Worldwide.

Our organization is as strong as the volunteers who step up to help run it. We are fortunate to have a great group of Board members and active colleagues that do their parts. For the first time in recent memory, we have a full slate of regional Vice Presidents, thanks to the recent election of Ben Stone in the Eastern Region and Kevin Chung in the Northwest. We also had TWO candidates run for President-elect and that hasn't happened in years. Thanks to Shawn Ultican for stepping up as a candidate and to Nancy Bernard, who was chosen by members as our President-Elect.



Finally...a dual shout-out ... to Liz Coleman for filling the critical Conference Coordinator role for the past two years; ... and to Jamie-Diane Zorich, who has stepped up to coordinate the 2020 AEC on the west side. The Conference Coordinator is the glue that holds the whole enterprise together.

Looking ahead to 2020, we are already beginning to plan for the next AEC. We have selected a location that I am really excited about – the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. Stay tuned for more information on the 2020 conference. We'll be sending a “Save the Date” announcement after the ink dries on the contract. We'll also be sending out a request for Planning Committee volunteers...there's no better way to assure a strong AEC and at the same time network with the leaders in our profession.

I now realize that the main task of President is to thank people and give Rah! Rah! Speeches – I can do that. Thanks to each of you for doing your part to keep our organization strong.

Sincerely Yours,

Tom Kunesh, RS

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Like WSEHA's Facebook page! Stay up-to-date with new educational events, job postings, and goings-on in the field of Environmental Public Health.

Another way to keep up with what we're doing is to join our mailing list. Go to wseha.org to join the mailing list or email Megan McNelly at megan@wseha.org.

Next Newsletter Deadline:

September 30th

The Washington State Environmental Health Association Newsletter is the official publication of WSEHA. Membership in WSEHA includes a subscription to the newsletter. Membership in WSEHA is not required for acceptance of articles in the newsletter.

Opinions expressed in articles published in the WSEHA newsletter should not be accepted necessarily as statements of policy or opinions of WSEHA.

WSEHA 67th Annual AEC Awards and Scholarships

Larry French, James Rivard, Chuck Treser, Dayna Katula

JOHN NORDIN OUTSTANDING SANITARIAN AWARD *SUSAN SHELTON, DOH*

It was the committee's true honor to present this prestigious award to Susan who has worked so tirelessly and selflessly at the local and state levels. She is truly a role model for us all.



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Yes, we had a tie! *SAMANTHA RUSSELL, Skagit County* *MARIAH CRAWFORD, Thurston County*

These women have already made their mark on environmental health in their jurisdictions with hard work, diverse projects, good judgement and the ability to work independently and as part of a team. Congratulations to both of them and their colleagues. We look forward to great things from them.



PAST PRESIDENT'S AWARD *MIKE YOUNG, Snohomish Health District*

The entire Association owes Mike their gratitude for his dedication over the past year as our President. Our "ship" had a good skipper and our healthy organization is the reward. Thank you.



JACK B. HATLEN PRESIDENT'S INSPIRATIONAL AWARD *MICHAEL BAKER, Jefferson County, OR & Past WSEHA president*

In honor of Mike's commitment and dedication to the organization and the furthering of environmental health, it was the pleasure of the WSEHA presidents to present him with this award.



WSEHA 67th Annual AEC Awards and Scholarships

Cont...

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Wow, we had excellent applicants again this year. Such individuals are the future of our profession and we are pleased to see the integrity and quality of these students who we encourage to continue into Environmental Health.

- ✦ **LOGAN DEARBORN** – University of Washington. \$1,000.00
- ✦ **JENNIFER KIM** – University of Washington. \$500.00
- ✦ **SAMANTHA DARLING** – Central Washington State University. \$500.00

2020 AEC in Tacoma!

Save the dates! Our 2020 Annual Education Conference is scheduled for April 27-29, 2020 at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma.

Tacoma is rich with opportunities to explore. Enjoy the mountain, city and water views along with a plethora of entertaining activities. Tacoma is recognized for their renowned museums, small local business, artists, musicians, places for hikers, runners and cyclists , and a scene for foodies and beer connoisseurs.

We look forward to seeing you there!

IHC Silent Auction & Raffle Results

IHC's Silent Auction/Raffle at the 2019 AEC was a sweeping success! We raised a total of \$2,080! One hundred percent of the proceeds going to such a great cause, 200 Orphanages Worldwide! Our donation will be going towards a clean water project in Kahunda, Tanzania, in particular a valuable well with solar powered pumps. This well will bring clean, safe water, reducing waterborne diseases, to orphaned girls and the surrounding community. This will also decrease the time the community members spend fetching water, often allowing for girls to attend more school. 200 Orphanage Worldwide's Founder/Executive Director, Project Manager, and Board of Directors sends their sincerest gratitude to WSEHA!

Now for the winners of the coveted competitions!

Most money raised:
Chelan-Douglas Health District!!



Most unique:
Snohomish Health District



What happened with the 2018 Donation?

So much good! We just received the project update from Etta Projects! Their update outlines just how our donation was used to help improve health in Bolivia. Etta Projects truly believes in involving the local government and community members, including women leaders, on all their projects. They provide partial funding, guidance and education to ensure these projects are self-sustaining and even more successful. The first project our donation helped with was to supply clean water to 50 homes in the rural community of San Miguel Ricon.

The second project also involved supplying clean water. This project provided 28 of the 32 homes in the small community of Guadalupe Palometilla. The need for a sanitation infrastructure in this village was imperative. For sewage disposal, most of the families were using a pit latrine or some open defecation. Gray water was disposed of either by dumping it around the house or directly into a nearby small river. By improving access to clean water, it will have significant beneficial impacts on this community's health.

Please visit <https://www.wseha.org/international-health> to view pictures of this year's baskets & winners. You will also find all project reports where you can read about the international projects in more detail.

IHC is so honored to be a part of such important endeavors. WE THANK YOU, WSEHA Members, for all you do!

Article and photos contributed by Ashlee-Rose Ferguson

Retail HACCP Validation and Verification

DOH and WSEHA are excited to announce that a two day course, provided by North Carolina State University, will be held at Renton Technical College in August. There are two training dates available – August 6-7 and August 8-9. In addition to the 2-day training, NC State offers an optional ½-day “Train the Trainer” course on Monday, August 5th.

The course uses hands-on and interactive activities to build on basic understanding of HACCP principles and to provide training in applying these principles. The course goals are to provide the tools and knowledge to identify special processes, skillfully review submitted HACCP Plan documentation, and gain a working knowledge of these processes to better help operators of retail food establishments. NC State encourages attendees to take the course material back to their home area and train additional people on HACCP review.



The DOH Food Safety Program is using an FDA-AFDO grant to provide scholarships to help cover the NC State registration costs for one food safety staff member from each LHJ. LHJs must claim their scholarship by July 1 or it will be awarded to other registrants. Staff from Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon, and a few other states are planning to attend and we believe this will be an excellent training and partnership opportunity. We hope you'll be able to send a member of your team.

To register or find out more information, visit www.wseha.org/haccp. Classes are filling up fast!



The inaugural AEC cornhole tournament.....
rematch, anyone?

Photo: Shawn Ultican

Pictures and presentations are available at the [post-AEC website](#)! If you haven't already, be sure to complete the evaluation that's available at the website. We need and appreciate your feedback!



The Monday night social & poster session went swimmingly! There were a large variety of topics and presenters who knew their stuff.



April 17, 2019, was declared Environmental Health Specialist Day, in recognition of all the important work performed that impacts the lives of Washington state residents. A copy of the resolution was displayed at the AEC. The photo shows some of Thurston County's employees who make a difference in environmental health.

Photo: Jerry Caird

Welcome Our New WSEHA Regional Vice Presidents

Eastern Region

My name is Ben Stone and I am honored to be joining the WSEHA Board of Directors as Regional Vice President for the Eastern Region. I currently work as an Environmental Health Specialist for Whitman County as a generalist. I appreciate the opportunity to work in several different programs but focus mainly on Epidemiology, and Drinking Water. I was born and raised in Whitman County so I am very excited for the opportunity to make a positive impact in the communities that I grew up in.

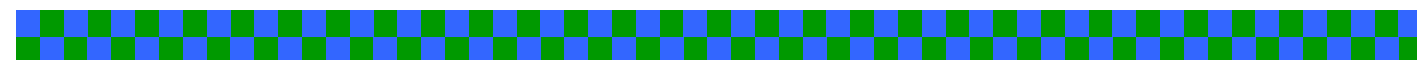


I graduated from Washington State University with a B.S. in Biology with a focus on Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and much of my experience comes from conservation biology field work. My move into public health occurred nearly two years ago and in that time I have greatly enjoyed learning about how our lived environment can have such an important impact on public health.

As WSEHA's Eastern RVP, I am looking forward to working with the Board of Directors and the WSEHA's membership to provide education opportunities for Environmental Health Specialists across the state that help drive the profession forward.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or just to say hi.

Best,
Ben Stone
Whitman County Public Health
Ben.stone@whitmancounty.net



Northwest Region

"I started working in the Food Safety program at the Snohomish Health District in February 2017. I went to the University of Washington and studied Environmental Health. I am a Washington native and I enjoy the rainy days, cloudy skies, and multiple weather system fiasco we have on a daily basis.

My favorite activities include gardening, playing video games, sleeping, and binge watching the hottest shows from 5 years ago (I am always behind on the latest pop culture reference). I am excited to start my role and meet everyone in WSEHA. "

Kevin Chung
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