



WSEHA Newsletter

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has become obvious since the start of this year that the theme for 2015 was going to be change. Personally and professionally, I have had to make some serious adjustments to simply keep up with the rate of change around me. While I am normally one that welcomes (and in most cases embraces) change, I recently have had to take a step back and say "Wait a minute!". Luckily, the year is flying by at a rapid rate and we are already into March.

As you look around the field of Environmental Public Health in Washington State, there are many changes. Lots of the familiar faces that have either led the profession or have been members of this association have departed. After 12 years in environmental health, these losses are no longer just changes in staffing at some other health department. These become the loss of respected peers and, in many cases, the loss of a friend. While we have been lucky enough to keep some of these friends around in one way or another, some are no longer a part of the overall public health system. The loss of this knowledge and experience will be difficult to replace.



WSEHA is also looking at itself to change and determining how we can better serve the needs of our members. We are excited that Ned Therien has assumed the role of the Region 1 Vice President for the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). As a strong supporter and energetic member of WSEHA, Ned will remain an active contributor to the future of the Association. One of the ways Ned is helping out is by assisting with the updating of the Bylaws and Policies and Procedures. We are strengthening our ties with the Washington State Department of Health's Environmental Public Health Division, and have asked to have a representative appointed to the Board. We are also looking in to ways to attract new board members and Regional Vice Presidents into the Association by waiving membership dues and assisting with travel to make it easier (and cost-effective) to participate. I ask that you consider serving; this is your chance to have a say in where the Association will go in the future.

The Association is also having to say goodbye to our Executive Secretary, Kerri Wagner. Kerri re-joined us back in March of 2009, and has been an integral part of the board ever since. If you have communicated with

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**Announcing Our
Thirty Eighth Annual
WASHINGTON STATE
SWIMMING POOL AND SPA
CONFERENCES - See page 8**

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Michael.Baker@whitmancounty.net

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Next Newsletter Deadline:

May 29, 2015

The Washington State Environmental Health Association Newsletter is the official publication of WSEHA. Membership in WSEHA includes a subscription to the newsletter. Manuscripts for publication must be type-written and submitted via e-mail to kerri@wseha.org, or on a computer disk mailed to WSEHA at the address above. 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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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WSEHA, been to a training, or looked at the website, you have experienced firsthand some of the great work she did. Besides the large amount of work that Kerri did as the Executive Secretary, the position has been tweaked to allow the position to help with trainings and educational opportunities more directly. Be sure to check the website (WSEHA.org) for additional information on the job description. As Kerri has agreed to help with the transition, we are eager to take up as much as time as she is willing to give. I know I can speak for the Board and all the members Kerri has served over the years when I say "Thank You". Please be sure to thank Kerri yourself the next time you see her.

The Environmental Health profession is once again at a crucial point. Brent Stenson, the recently departed Environmental Health Director of Adams County, once commented at the Environmental Health Directors meeting "If we do not recognize and show appreciation for the successes of environmental health in Washington, then none will. It is up to us to show how important our work is and to acknowledge those that do it". With that I say thank you for what you do, and hope that you will be around for years doing what we do best; protecting the health of our communities.

MINI ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Education and training remain the highest priorities for the Washington State Environmental Health Association. Whether directly providing the training or working with one of our partners, WSEHA strives to bring the best training possible to environmental health professionals in Washington State.

After working on different delivery methods for several years, WSEHA returned to the Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in 2013 and was able to put on one of the best AEC's in the Association's history. The excitement for the return of the AEC and the opportunity to learn, network, and socialize with environmental health professionals was evident throughout the conference. In 2014, we were able to build on that success and add additional components to the "traditional" trainings offered at the AEC. The Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) sponsored a track that was dedicated to the legislative and political sides of environmental health. Following the 2014 AEC, discussions on how to provide information on accountability, accreditation, and policy development at future AECs received a lot of comments. WSEHA continues to work on developing and providing this training.

In 2015, the Association is taking a different approach for educational opportunities. Before describing the trainings, I have to be perfectly honest; this was not the direction we originally intended to go. We had hoped to be able to bring a full two-day AEC for 2015. However, due to the amount of work involved with putting on the AEC and the limited number of volunteers, we just weren't able to do so. The time and effort that volunteers put into the two preceding AECs was unbelievable. In the end, we had to "hire out" the additional workload to the Executive Secretary to help fill in where volunteers were unable to do so.

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MESSAGE FROM KERRI

Dear WSEHA Members,

After a lot of careful consideration, I have decided I need to resign from my position as Executive Secretary with the Washington State Environmental Health Association. I decided it was time to return to work in a full time capacity and was recently offered a position as an Environmental Health Specialist with Whatcom County Health Department, which I accepted. I plan to continue as WSEHA's Executive Secretary until the end of April, as needed, to help with the transition and to assist my replacement.

I want to make it clear that my reasons for leaving are definitely not related to dissatisfaction with my job, the Association, or the people I work with. On the contrary, I have experienced great satisfaction from both the work as an Executive Secretary and the great WSEHA volunteers that I have worked with, some of which have been amongst the finest people I have ever known.

I want to thank the past and present WSEHA Board and Committee Chairs so much for giving me the opportunity and the privilege to work with them. I have certainly enjoyed the total of nine plus years that I have done so and will always remember my time and involvement with the Association with great fondness.

I encourage every WSEHA Member to take an active role as a volunteer with this Association. This is *your* professional organization and widespread volunteerism is an indicator of a healthy Association. The greatest benefit you receive is the opportunity to meet and work with dedicated people that are in your very own profession. I'm looking forward to seeing you at future WSEHA events...

With warmth,

Kerri Wagner, RS

MINI ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

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The "mini-AECs" will be a two-day training that will take place in both the Eastside and Westside of the state. Tentatively scheduled for early June (be sure to watch for the final announcement and registration shortly) these trainings will be divided into separate days to allow for content specific training. Day one of the new training will focus exclusively on organizational improvements and increasing efficiency in Environmental Public Health by identifying and eliminating steps and allowing for streamlining the delivery of services. Often described as "Lean" or "Six Sigma", the training will highlight some of the ways local public health can improve the way we provide services. Day two will be training in environmental health programs and will be region specific. Issues that impact the Puget Sound areas and western Washington will be highlighted on one end of the state, while rural development and related policies will be addressed on the other side. As we finalize the presentation, be sure to let your Regional Vice President know of any topics you feel need to be addressed immediately.

While we are wrapping up these mini AECs, we are also starting the planning and coordination process for the full AEC. Volunteers are needed to put on the type of training the Association would like to do, and the type of training you would like to attend. A formal request for volunteers will be coming out soon. It is never too early, or never too late, to get involved with the AEC. Contact your Regional Vice President to get involved!

NEHA News - February 2015

Ned Therien, Region 1 Vice President

I became the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Region 1 Vice President at the end of the 2014 NEHA AEC. Region 1 is comprised of the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. If you are a NEHA member you might be wondering when the election was. Well, there wasn't one because I was the only nominee who submitted an application for the position. The position was vacant for a while after David Riggs became the Second Vice President, one of the national officers. My term runs through the 2017 AEC. NEHA will be looking for nominations by the end of December 2016 for the next term's election or default appointment in 2017. When the time approaches, check the NEHA web site if you are a NEHA member and might want to consider running for the position.

The long-time Executive Director of NEHA, Nelson Fabian, retired last July after 31 years of able leadership. NEHA was very fortunate to have had him for so long. The NEHA Board of Directors undertook a nation-wide recruitment for his replacement. The process is nearing completion, with an announcement expected by the end of March.

NEHA is working with CDC to explore the current and future use of open source data standards in the environmental health field. Open source data standards are used to make inspection scores viewable online to the general public. Most common use of this is for restaurant scores. The first step is identifying the current level of use across the country. If you currently have an open source data program, please contact Christl Tate at ctate@neha.org or (303)756-9090 x305 with your name, health department and what inspections are currently published. Please contact Ms. Tate, not me, if you have any questions about this.

The 2015 NEHA AEC will be held in Orlando July 12-15. Pre-AEC courses will begin on July 10. This is a great location to bring family members to enjoy the many theme parks in the area while you attend the AEC. Check the NEHA AEC web page for more information: <http://www.neha2015aec.org/>.

The venue for the AEC is the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld. NEHA has reserved a block of rooms for AEC attendees from the night of July 9 through July 16 for \$129 per night. The number of rooms in the block varies by night, so reserve early if you want to have an extended stay at that price.

NEHA staff and the board have begun the process of evaluating cities and venues for the 2018 AEC. Both Seattle and Portland are on the short list of cities being considered. Please let me know if you have input to provide NEHA to encourage selection of one of these cities for 2018. I can be reached at nedinoly@juno.com.

I retired from the Washington State Department of Health in June 2014, the last nine years having worked for the State Board of Health. Retirement is good!

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY POSITION OPENING

The Washington State Environmental Health Association has an opening for our Executive Secretary. Under the direction of the ten-member Board, the Executive Secretary is responsible for the administration and operation of the WSEHA office. Please click [here](#) for the job description and application instructions. A cover letter and resume must be submitted no later than April 3, 2015.

2015 CIND M. TRESER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Washington State Environmental Health Association will award up to two **\$1,000** undergraduate scholarship this year through the **Cind M. Treser Memorial Student Scholarship Fund**. The Cind M. Treser Scholarship program was instituted to provide recognition and a financial incentive for undergraduate students majoring in environmental health (or in other life sciences), who have an interest in pursuing a career in environmental health in the state of Washington.

The scholarship will be presented at the Spring WSEHA training conference. The scholarships will be awarded directly to the student and may be used by the student as he or she sees fit.

For additional information, click [here](#).

*The deadline for submission of the Scholarship Application is **April 15, 2015**.*



NEHA's 79th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

Orlando, Florida - July 13-15, 2015

Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld 6677 Sea Harbor Dr, Orlando, FL 32821

The NEHA AEC...So Much More Than a Conference! It is the nexus for environmental health training, education, networking, and advancement. It is the event environmental health professionals attend to acquire practical and real-world information and expertise. It is the event from which environmental health professionals leave, trained, motivated, inspired, and empowered to further advance their organizations and themselves.

Please click the green links below for information about the conference:



[About the AEC](#)

[Preliminary Schedule](#)

[Registration](#)

MEET THE NEW EASTERN REGIONAL VP....CHELSEA CANNARD

My name is Chelsea Cannard and I am an Environmental Health Specialist in Whitman County. I have been working for the Environmental Health Department as the Food Program Coordinator since May 2014. I graduated with a Bachelors of Environmental Science from Portland State University in August 2013.

My professional and educational background primarily involves field science in surface water resources. I have extensive experience in data collection and database development. In my spare time, I play roller derby and enjoy the great outdoors.

I am eager to implement my existing knowledge in pursuing my role as an Environmental Health Specialist and as the Eastern Regional Vice President of WSEHA. I look forward to meeting you all and working with you in the future.



JOIN/RENEW WSEHA MEMBERSHIP!

There are several benefits to being a WSEHA member:

- **Receive Discounts:** You automatically receive discounts to all conferences sponsored by WSEHA and on all products sold by WSEHA.
- **Receive Information:** As a member of WSEHA, you'll receive information on all WSEHA activities, from regional meetings to statewide conferences.
- **CEU's:** By attending our sponsored events, you obtain Continuing Education Units that are required for maintaining sanitarian registration. We submit our conference registration lists directly to the Washington State Board of Registered Sanitarians (WSBRS) for CEU tracking of WSBRS members.
- **Have Voting Privileges:** As a Regular, Associate, Affiliate, Sustaining, or Emeritus member of WSEHA, you have the ability to vote during annual Officer Elections; for changes to policies and procedures, and other issues that require a vote of the membership.
- **Awards and Scholarships:** WSEHA members are eligible for annual awards and scholarships and for nominating others.
- **Receive the WSEHA Newsletter:** WSEHA publishes a quarterly newsletter that provides information on State and local health activities, upcoming educational opportunities, regional reports and more.
- **Get Involved!** We encourage you to take an active role in WSEHA activities. As a WSEHA member, you have the ability to get involved in WSEHA committees and run for office. The greatest benefit you receive is the opportunity to meet and work with dedicated people in your related field. Get involved today!
- **International Health Committee (IHC):** WSEHA's IHC has worked on urgent public environmental health projects such as sanitation improvements in developing countries.

Click here for more information: <http://www.wseha.org/membership-2/>

Click Here for a Membership Application: <http://www.wseha.org/MempershipAPP.htm>



The Thirty Eighth Annual WASHINGTON STATE SWIMMING POOL AND SPA CONFERENCES

WSEHA, in cooperation with Washington State Department of Health and your local health jurisdiction, is pleased to announce the 38th Annual Swimming Pool and Spa Conference. We encourage everyone who operates a pool or spa to participate in this informative conference.

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Benton Franklin Health District
Training Room
7102 W Okanogan Place
Kennewick, WA 98336

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Clover Park Technical College
Building 3 Rotunda
4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW
Lakewood, WA 98499-4098

Time: Conference Sessions are 8:30 am - 4:00 pm; Registration is 7:45 am - 8:20 am

Agenda:

Swimming Pool and Spa Chemistry:

This session covers pH, disinfection, and pool balance including alkalinity and hardness to protect against corrosion or scale.

Illnesses associated with water recreation:

A review of different types of illnesses occurring in water recreation, their symptoms, and ways to protect facilities.

Pool Testing:

Bring your own test kits and we will test different parameters for unknowns and also cover proper use of kits and testing techniques.

Spas:

Overview of some of the unique conditions associated with the warm water spas.

Pool Equipment Operation - Pumps, Motors, and Filters

A practical session dealing with the operation and maintenance of your mechanical room equipment and pool components.

Pool Inspection and Assessment

A review of the inspection process including the inspection form providing rationale.

Registration Fee - Special Pricing for WSEHA members: \$50.00 per person which includes a *Pool Operator's Manual*. \$30.00 per person without the manual.

Pricing for non-members: \$60.00 with the manual and \$40.00 without the manual.

Please note the WSEHA member pricing is not advertised to the general public because the majority of those who attend are non-members. Membership is verified during the registration process.

To Register: Complete the registration form found on our website at www.wseha.org and send with payment (check or money orders only. Sorry, no credit cards) to:
WSEHA, 103 Sea Pines Lane, Bellingham, WA 98229
Form may also be faxed with complete billing information to (360) 738-8949.

Course Content Questions:

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Rick Dawson Kennewick (509) 460-4205

Registration Questions:

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