



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Volume 58 No. 1

Winter 2022

President's Message: Tom Kunesh

Winter greetings EH professionals. 2021 is winding down and it gets me thinking about accomplishments for the year. From a WSEHA perspective, the biggest one is securing a partnership with NEHA for planning the AEC 2022. WSEHA members who attend will enjoy significant savings: \$180.00 less than the NEHA early bird member rate! We will see lots of Washington-specific content as well as have full access to all of the NEHA tracks.

Many of our traditions will continue in conjunction with the NEHA AEC including WSEHA Awards, Scholarships, IHC Silent Auction, officer elections, and our annual meeting. Of course, all of this depends on what Covid is up to – but we are planning for in person and hoping Covid finally begins to fade away.

In 2021, we also maintained two traditions that are usually associated with the AEC:

- Our Scholarship committee awarded a total of \$5000.00 to two deserving students who plan to pursue careers in Environmental Public Health.
- Our International Health Committee awarded \$2210.00 to Water First International, supporting their working to secure safe drinking water for people in the developing world.

Looking ahead to 2022 – in addition to our work with NEHA in support of AEC 2022, we will be working with WA DOH to host a pool conference again this spring.

Even if Covid remains our unwelcome guest, we will have a plan B and keep on keepin' on. Which brings me to the ever-present request for your support and involvement in your professional organization. How can you help?

- **Renew your membership.** Your membership fee allows us to carry on with the great work this organization does. It also entitles you to a steep discount for conference registration! NEHA only comes to Washington every few decades so be sure to take advantage of this opportunity.
- **Volunteer.** We currently have openings for two Vice President positions on the Board of Directors in our Eastern and Northwest regions.
- **Nominate a colleague for an award.** Our Awards Committee will be seeking recipients in the new year. Learn more at [Awards | wseha](#).
- **Encourage your co-workers to join WSEHA.**

Thank you to all who have served and supported WSEHA. You are a great group of people. I am always humbled to work in the company of such great and dedicated public servants.



Click the photo to learn about the 2022 IHC recipient and how you can help!

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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:

April 30th, 2022

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.

AEC 2022 Update

Registration for the 2022 AEC is open. WSEHA is partnering with NEHA to host their [2022 AEC and Exhibition](#) June 28-July 1, 2022, at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane. Pre-conference sessions are also available beginning Sunday June 26. This is a rare opportunity for Washington to host the NEHA AEC. We hope you will all take advantage of this great opportunity to learn alongside colleagues from across the country and around the world.

Current WSEHA members have already been provided with the discount code that allows them to register for the full conference for \$450.00. NEHA membership is not required for this discount. This is a \$180.00 discount below the NEHA member early bird registration rate! All registration will be managed by NEHA. For details on the registration process, see the [WSEHA 2022 AEC webpage](#) or your email.



<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/hotel-photos/gegak-the-historic-davenport-autograph-collection/>

WSEHA has developed two Washington-specific education tracks to provide a local perspective. Thank you to our Speaker Committee and our presenters! NEHA will curate many additional tracks. All tracks will be open to all attendees. NEHA and WSEHA are planning for an in-person conference. For those who are unable to travel, NEHA is also committed to providing some virtual content. NEHA is prepared to pivot to 100% virtual if necessary due to Covid risk.

In addition, our Social Committee is planning a great get-together event on the evening of the 29th so you won't want to miss out on that either! Stay tuned by checking the WSEHA AEC page [here](#).

We are really looking forward to returning to in-person learning and networking. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend NEHA/WSEHA AEC 2022. We hope to see you in Spokane.

AEC Silent Auction Returns & the Recipient is



PROJECT ETHIOPIA

Project Ethiopia partners with rural communities to create hope and opportunity through education, healthy homes, and economic resilience. Their projects provide safe drinking water, ensure children have access to education, support aspiring learners to attend university, build homes that support health and sanitation, offer

low-interest micro loans, and implement innovative strategies related to sustainable farming and production. They work in the Dangla region (population approximately 280,000) in a remote area of northwest Ethiopia where other aid money often does not reach. Project Ethiopia does not operate as a traditional non-governmental organization (NGO), but rather utilizes a model in which they work side-by-side with the community, developing strong relationships and earning the trust of village partners.

♥ IHC needs YOUR help with donation items for the auction! Auction items in the past have included:

Gift Baskets - Gift Cards - Handmade Items - Getaways - Services - Etc.

All donations can be sent to the address below.

Unable to attend the auction or donate an auction item? You can still help! **Click** the Project Ethiopia button below to make a direct contribution.



Thank you for your time and help in supporting Project Ethiopia!

Any additional questions about donating, volunteer opportunities, or the upcoming auction can be directed to Layken Winchester, IHC Chair.

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School Fall EHS Webinars—DOH

[School Environmental Health and Safety Workshop :: Washington State Department of Health](#)



November 9, 2021

[Video: Ventilation, Filtration, and School Indoor Air Quality](#)

[Presentation: Ventilation, Filtration, and School Indoor Air Quality \(PDF\)](#)

November 17, 2021

[Video: Best Practices for Cleaning and Disinfection for Schools](#)

[Presentation: Best Practices for Cleaning and Disinfection for Schools \(PDF\)](#)

WSEHA Board Update

The WSEHA board meets a few times a year via conference call or Zoom with the Annual Business meeting usually occurring during the AEC. Meeting minutes can be found on the WSEHA website under About or by using [this link](#).

Recent Board action:

- Approval of the 2022 Pool and Spa Conferences
- Approval of the 2022 IHC Recipient
- Approval of the 2022 Executive Secretary contract

Board members are listed on page two of every newsletter. If you ever have any concerns or questions, we have a great panel of Vice-Presidents and Board members. We'd love to hear from you!