



# WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MIKE YOUNG

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The Annual Educational Conference is one of the most important functions of the Washington State Environmental Health Association. The conference last month provided many opportunities to learn and socialize with other workers in our field. Just like a garden, your profession requires constant attention, if it's going to be fruitful. I may have gotten this from "Chance the Gardener" in the movie "Being There". Nonetheless, Environmental Health Specialists do need to continually grow as professionals to stay happy and relevant.

I want to thank everyone that worked this last conference. It takes a lot of work to provide four simultaneous sessions for 250 people; then there's providing the food, field trips, a fundraiser and entertainment. Under the leadership of Joe Graham and Liz Coleman, the conference was a success. The Washington State Department of Health provided a great deal of help and I also appreciate the commercial exhibitors that were there. We heard second hand from a vendor who attends many of the other NEHA affiliated state conferences that our conference is one of the top three in the United States. Let's go for number one next year by starting to plan early.

Our conference committee is already looking for a location in eastern Washington in 2019. I'm pleased to know that many experienced people will be helping out next year. People like Tom Kunesh from Whatcom County Health Department, who has agreed to be WSEHA's President-Elect. Tom has served WSEHA for years and with his help I anticipate a good year. You are all encouraged to help out by volunteering, or giving input. If the conference was not relevant to your particular work, we need to know, because there are probably other people with the same need. For example, I have already heard from several people that there needs to be more solid waste topics. Please start thinking of speakers that would be good to address the issue you want. I look forward to hearing from you this year.

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## NOTES FROM THE AEC CHAIR: LIZ COLEMAN

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Immediately following the 2018 Annual Educational Conference, organizers and volunteers gathered to discuss what went well and what could be improved for next year's conference. As we considered everything from meal options to plenary session room sizes, we noted what we could do better. Overall, however, it was clear the conference had been a success and excitement was already building for 2019.

We've begun exploring sites around the state for our next AEC – dates and location will be announced soon. Ideas for speakers and sessions are already being floated. Personally, I'm looking forward to the challenge and fun of adding local flavor to the next conference whether through networking opportunities or off-site field trips.

The success of this year's AEC can easily be attributed to the hard work of committee chairs, organizers and volunteers. Their dedication made this event shine, and made chairing my first AEC a pleasure. If you'd like to roll up your sleeves and join the planning for next year, please let us know!

**2018 AEC Volunteers:** Liz Coleman, chair, WA Dept. of Health (DOH); Linda Atkins, Jefferson County; Ashley Bafaro, Spokane Regional Health District; Nancy Bernard, DOH; Kim Zabel, DOH; Shawn Ultican, Ecology; Ashlee-Rose Ferguson, WSDA

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### WSEHA Committee Chairs

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**AEC Committee—Liz Coleman**  
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**Want to join WSEHA? For information and membership applications, visit:**

<http://www.wseha.org/#!/membership/clulz>



Stay up-to-date on what's going on with WSEHA by [liking](#) our Facebook page! Find out about updates when we add new educational events, job postings, goings-on in the field of Environmental Public Health, or if there are any changes to our organization. Email Dayna if you have anything you'd like her to post either on our website or Facebook page.

Another way to keep up with what we're doing is to join our mailing list. Go to [www.wseha.org](http://www.wseha.org) to join the mailing list or email Dayna Katula at [dayna@wseha.org](mailto:dayna@wseha.org).

## Next Newsletter Deadline:

September 21, 2018

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.

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## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

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**Luis Flores** was the recipient of the John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award, which is the most prestigious of the WSEHA Awards. The Nordin Award is reserved for those that have earned the respect of their peers for their outstanding service in the environmental health profession, lead fellow professionals to go beyond what is expected, and strive for excellence. Luis embodies all of these and so much more, which is obvious when you meet him and what his Whatcom County Health Department co-workers rave about!

This year, the first Jack B. Hatlen Presidents' Award was given. This award was previously named the Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award. Jack Hatlen still inspires EH professionals, so we wanted to be sure to keep his name attached to the award. We changed how the award's criteria and how the recipient is selected. WSEHA's current president, president-elect, and the immediate past president must unanimously agree on a nominee who has directed considerable time, commitment, and effort toward WSEHA and has inspired and motivated other environmental health professionals to become involved with WSEHA to advance the Association or the EH profession. The WSEHA presidents selected **Keith Grellner** of the Kitsap Public Health District and the Washington State Board of Health. Keith's humble acceptance of the award was just one more reason why the presidents selected him!



Kittitas County Public Health's **Tristen Lamb** was chosen for the Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award. This means that Tristen shows outstanding service and dedication to her particular job in the promotion of environmental health and displays extraordinary leadership and professionalism in responding to EH issues. The glowing nomination that WSEHA received for Tristen was inspirational and it's easy to see why she has the support of her peers!

Due to her outstanding grades, community involvement, and exceptional recommendation, **Kate Tokareva** was named as the recipient of the Cind M. Treser Memorial Scholarship. According to Kate's nomination, she is an outstanding student who displays exemplary written communication and critical thinking skills. Although there were other wonderful candidates to choose from this year, Kate easily stood out!

Recognizing your environmental health peers for their work is a great way to show them gratitude, appreciation, and admiration. Start thinking about who you'd like to recognize at next year's AEC! We urge you to make sure they meet the award criteria before nominating them. The criteria, previous award recipients, and more information can be found in the [Awards Manual](#). Photos of the all the award winners can be seen on the [Awards webpage](#), and a photo of Kate is located on the [Student Scholarship](#) webpage.

Article contributed by Dayna Katula; photo by Brian Walsh

### Membership Numbers:

WSEHA: 248 members (as of June 18, 2018)

Know a newly retired EH professional?  
Contact Joe Graham to include their name  
for recognition at the next AEC conference.

**Volunteers con't:** Jerry Caird, *Thurston County Public Health & Social Services*; Kelly Cooper, *DOH*; Rob Eastman, *Chelan-Douglas Health District*; Tania Busch Isaksen, *University of Washington*; Cyndi Free, *DOH*; Mark Toy, *DOH*; Ruth Piccone, *Ecology*

## IHC UPDATE

This year's International Health Committee (IHC) silent auction and raffle raised \$2,115! There was \$450 in direct donations for a total contribution of \$2,565 to this year's charity recipient, [Etta Projects](#)! All proceeds will go to increase access to sustainable safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and trained healthcare in Bolivia, the poorest country in South America.

The auction brought in over 40 items ranging from handmade purses, Saunders signed soccer ball, to various museum admissions, and show or ski lift tickets. The highest winning single bid of \$150 went to a private wine tasting class for 20 people at Total Wine & More!

The raffle brought in seven very unique and awesome baskets pitted against each other for a friendly competition between agencies and board members.

The winners were:

- Most creative – Susan Camp & Mark Toy, DOH: Adorable Germs & How To Kill Them
- Most money raised – Thurston County Public Health: Local Thurston Treats

We want to take the time to truly express our gratitude to all the bidders, donors, and volunteers for making this another successful silent auction/raffle!

*Article and photos contributed by Ashlee-Rose Ferguson*



Most Money Raised:  
Thurston County Public Health: Local Thurston Treats



Most Creative: Susan Camp & Mark Toy, DOH: Adorable Germs & How to Kill Them



**Volunteers con't:** Dennis Campbell, DOH; Randy Freeby, DOH; Lauren Frelander, DOH; Larry French, DOH - retired.; Anna Fretheim, Thurston County Public Health & Social Services; Sally Waters, Island County Health Department; Magen Blevins, DOH

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## SPOTLIGHT ON THE IHC CHAIR

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Hopefully many of you took the opportunity to visit the IHC Silent Auction. If you did, you probably met Ashlee-Rose Ferguson, the IHC Chair. Ashlee-Rose volunteered to chair the IHC earlier this year. She has a passion for environmental health and helping those in need, which is a perfect combo for the IHC Chair. Ashlee-Rose currently works for the Washington State Department of Agriculture and leads their work on meeting the national Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards. Prior to this, Ashlee-Rose was a retail food safety specialist in South Carolina and before that worked in the Zoonotic Disease Program at the Washington State Department of Health.



Ashlee-Rose was recently selected as a fellow in the International Food Protection Training Institute Fellowship Program. This is a very prestigious and exclusive fellowship program that provides the next generation of food safety leaders with high quality in-person sessions, webinars, and a mentor-guided research project. Ashlee-Rose and the eleven other fellows will present their research in person at next year's Association of Food and Drug Officials AEC. There have been just over 60 cohorts chosen since 2011. Ashlee-Rose will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> fellow selected from Washington State.

Congratulations to Ashlee-Rose and a huge thank you for successfully leading this year's IHC Silent Auction! To learn more about IFPTI, visit their website at <https://ifpti.org/>.

*Article contributed by Joe Graham*

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## AEC WRAP-UP WEBPAGE

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# Presentations—Photos—Volunteer List

The [post-AEC webpage](#) has been published! Check out the webpage if you're interested in seeing photos from the conference, presentations, a list of our amazing volunteers, and links to the evaluation and electronic program. Please note that not all presentations are available for viewing (only those that gave us permission to publish). Thanks to all of the presenters who gave permission!

And thanks to Brian Walsh, we have photos of the event!

# Have you done your conference evaluation?

We need your honest input to improve future events! We want to ensure that the conference is meeting your needs, but we can't do that unless we know what those needs are. If you haven't already completed the evaluation, please [click here](#) to do so. Your input is welcomed and greatly appreciated!

**Volunteers con't:** Dave Gifford, *DOH*; Joe Graham, *DOH*; Jodie Holdcroft, *Kitsap Public Health District*; Laura Homan, *DOH*; Emily Hovis, *DOH*; Dayna Katula, *Kitsap Public Health District/WSEHA*; Megan McNelly, *private sector*