



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Volume 53, No. 4

Winter 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With today's technology we have many ways to facilitate meetings - webinars, video conferences, and conference calls with lots of participants. For me nothing substitutes for in-person, face-to-face meetings and trainings. I certainly recognize the need to meet remotely due to budget and time constraints. But there is great value in having a physical handshake, talking to someone face-to-face, and interacting directly with educators and presenters. There is great need to collaborate and we often need to work together when emergencies and crises happen. Having personal relationships with our colleagues can be very helpful during those stressful times. I sincerely hope you're able to take advantage of next year's AEC. If you can't go, send your staff or encourage your boss to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you,
Joe Graham

MESSAGE FROM MIKE YOUNG: PRESIDENT-ELECT

As the new President Elect, I'm learning this important job from the current and past presidents, as they plan the next AEC. These conferences are important to our work, and I have enjoyed them many times. Helping out during the May 2018 conference in Olympia is giving back for those valuable experiences. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

For those of you I don't know, I currently work at Snohomish Health District in our Safe Environments Section. In the past 29 years, I have worked in almost all the various fields of Environmental Health including food, drinking water, water recreation, waste water, solid waste, dangerous waste and toxins in Idaho and Washington. My education includes an Associate Degree in Civil Engineering and a BS in Geology from Idaho State University, and a Master of Science degree in Geography with a focus on Natural Resource Management at Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University.

My goal in the following years is to support my fellow Environmental Health Specialist in this important work. I would also like to see an increase in participation in this association, but not just in attendance. There is so much we can all learn by sharing our experiences in the applied science of Environmental Health and continual struggles we all face. At the last conference in Wenatchee, I gave a talk about Arsenic in Well Water. Consider that a challenge for you all to share your experience with a poster, or a talk. I'm sure, there is much we can learn from your individual experiences solving various problems.

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Want to support WSEHA by becoming a member? For information and membership applications, visit:

<http://www.wseha.org/#!/membership/c1ulz>



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 wseha.org to join the mailing list or email Dayna Katula at dayna@wseha.org.

Next Newsletter Deadline:

March 28, 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.

INTRODUCING.....ASHLEE-ROSE FERGUSON, IHC CHAIR

Ashlee-Rose Ferguson is very excited to be WSEHA's newest International Health Committee (IHC) Chair. She believes in the IHC mission of promoting international environmental issues in order to prevent mortality and disease. As a child and continuing into her adulthood, she always strives to make a difference in this world. Being the IHC Chair, she hopes to expand on the IHC's mission and beneficial impact.



Originally hailing from outside of Philadelphia, she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Science from State University of New York: College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Then went on to gain valuable environmental health experience with WA DOH in zoonotic diseases, Clemson University in bio-control projects, SC Department of Health and Environmental Control in food safety and vector surveillance to currently the Animal Feed Regulatory Program Standards (AFRPS) Coordinator for WSDA.

Her hobbies and interests include music, wildlife (this includes her three cats: Shelby, Koca, and Luna), hiking, camping, working with all different types of personalities, reading, Ron Swanson, learning Russian, making lists, photography, food, Excel, and smiling.

She thanks WSEHA for this opportunity! She hopes to contribute as much as possible to this important role and to motivate WSEHA members to be interested in international health concerns and opportunities.

See page 6 for the details on the 2018 IHC Silent Auction!

2018 WSEHA AWARDS

The WSEHA Conference is coming up quicker than we would all think. It is time to start thinking about recognizing those who have gone above and beyond to make their agency and our profession proud.

Having been the recipient of a WSEHA award in 2016, I can tell you that it is a huge honor and one that I shared with colleagues as well as family and friends. The Awards and Scholarship Committee (James Rivard, Chuck Treser and myself) has made several proposals to the Environmental Health Directors to broaden and streamline the categories and nominating process. In early 2018 these will be shared. After that, the committee and some additional recruits will make calls around the State to spark action and get the nominations process going. Last year, there were no nominations for some categories, so with our changes, we hope that we can solicit more in 2018.

This is the time to start thinking of those people in your office who really exemplify our profession and the future of our profession.

As they say - Stay tuned for more updates in January!
- Larry French

SPECIAL PROCESS AT RETAIL COURSE

The Washington State Department of Health's Food Safety Program is hosting the FD312 Special Processes at Retail Course in Vancouver, WA! This course will be held February 6-7, 2018, at the Marriott TownePlace Suites in Vancouver, WA.

The course will focus on the microbiology of these various forms of food processing at retail, specific concerns for each process, and necessary controls for the hazards associated with each process. Particular emphasis will be placed on reduced oxygen packaging (ROP) in retail settings. The course will include practical evaluation of various food samples, verification and validation of HACCP plans, and approaches to conducting inspections. Click [here](#) to see the agenda.

The FD312 Special Processes at Retail course explores the specific types of food processing in retail food establishments which are required by the FDA Food Code to have a variance and mandatory HACCP plan. Topics will include smoking, curing, use of food additives, reduced oxygen packaging, live molluscan shellfish tanks, sprouted seeds, processing and packaging juice, custom processing of animals, and any other processes determined by a Regulatory Authority to require a variance/HACCP plan.

Experienced federal, state, local, territorial and tribal officials who are responsible for the inspections of retail food service establishments and those that are responsible for HACCP plan review are encouraged to attend; two or more years of inspection experience is required for registration.

Space is very limited for this popular course. Because of this, registrations will be prioritized based on the following:

1. Inspectors from Washington State.
2. The first inspector to register from each jurisdiction. We want to make sure that each jurisdiction is represented. Please be aware that if your jurisdiction has registered more than one inspector, that only the first registrant will be added to the registration list. All others following will be added to the wait list. This prioritization aspect will end on January 9, 2018, and as many on the wait list as possible will be added to the registration list (in order of date registered). Those on the wait list are encouraged to complete prerequisites (listed below) regardless of registration status.
3. Inspectors with two or more years of inspection experience.

The registration fee for this course is \$40 for WSEHA members and \$50 for non-WSEHA members. For more information and for access registration, please visit the [Special Processes Course webpage](#).

Side note: Some folks have experience a technical issue with the registration form. Please try using a different browser, then email Dayna at dayna@wseha.org if that still doesn't work. We apologize for the inconvenience!

POOL AND SPA CONFERENCE 2018

Pool and Spa Conferences will be offered again in 2018 with some new content. The conference is ideal for pool and spa operators who are beginners or who have intermediate experience, and operators who have much experience and public health inspectors are also welcome.

Dates and Locations:

April 4, 2018 - Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, Tacoma

April 20, 2018 - Benton-Franklin Health District, Kennewick

The topics to be covered are:

1. Basic Pool Engineering
2. Recreational Water Illnesses
3. Water Disinfection
4. Water Chemistry
5. Water Quality Testing
6. Pool Equipment, Operation, and Maintenance
7. Operational Requirements, Regulations, and Inspections

More details and registration information will be coming out soon!

If you have any questions regarding the course content, please contact Jun Naotsuka at jun.naotsuka@doh.wa.gov or 360-236-3073.

If you have questions about registration or anything else, please contact Dayna Katula at dayna@wseha.org or 414-688-2491.

CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS, NOW ACCEPTED!

You asked and we took action! In order to accommodate all of our customers' needs, you will be given the option to pay with a debit or credit card or pay by check next time you register for an event with us. Those that choose to pay with a card will be paying an added 2.3% credit card processing fee, but the fee can be avoided by paying with a check. If you have any questions or concerns about how this works, please email Dayna at dayna@wseha.org.



IHC—2018 SILENT AUCTION/RAFFLE

At the 2018 AEC, the International Health Committee (IHC) is hosting its Annual Silent Auction and Raffle!

The IHC is committed to educating and alleviating environmental health issues around the globe. There are so many countries that are significantly impacted from various environmental issues, such as lack of sanitation systems, ambient/household air pollution, and zoonotic diseases. Education and providing technical assistance are the most important factors in reducing these risks. Therefore, IHC supports organizations that have a similar mission and vision.

One way we support these organizations, is to host an annual silent auction/raffle. All proceeds go to a carefully selected international non-profit organization that fits the criteria mentioned and has a local tie to Washington State.

The IHC is pleased to announce that the recipient for the 2018 Silent Auction/Raffle will be Etta Projects!

Etta Projects is a Washington based non-profit that works in Bolivia which is the poorest country in South America. Their mission is to collaborate with communities to create sustainable solutions to improve health, sanitation, and clean water. This year Etta Project's founder, Penye Nixon was the recipient for the Greater Tacoma Peace Prize Award. Their important work has helped over 10,000 people gain access to healthcare in their community, over 8,000 people gain access to clean drinking water, and 435 families gain access to clean sanitation systems. Please visit their website at <http://www.ettaprojects.org/> to learn more about the organization and other ways to support their vision of a world where all communities are safe and healthy.



To make the 2018 IHC Silent Auction and Raffle successful, we're asking for item donations of any kind. Item categories are not limited and can be anything from handmade entries to gift cards to donations from local businesses to support this wonderful organization. Please contact the IHC Chair, Ashlee-Rose Ferguson at aferguson@agr.wa.gov. Additionally, Etta Projects will be submitting some traditional Bolivian weavings and other items showcasing the culture where the raised funds will be going.

The IHC is also in need of volunteers to help with the logistics of the auction at the 2018 AEC and with help expanding its mission. Some areas of opportunity include help with updating the IHC project posters, developing presentations, and being a liaison for our sister organizations on current international environmental health issues. Please spread the word about IHC's mission and request for volunteers and item donations!



Remember every little bit counts. IHC strives to “make dents.” We may feel like we cannot change the world by ourselves but we all can do our part which leads to beneficial, lasting impacts. Please help the IHC in fulfilling its mission!

