



# WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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Summer 2016

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am thrilled to announce that following this year's Annual Educational Conference (AEC), we are now fully staffed as an association. Joe Graham, Food Safety Program Supervisor, WA DOH, has been elected as the incoming President. Joe has been actively involved in many areas of WSEHA throughout the years and most recently served as the Awards Committee Chair to help recognize and thank the best and brightest in our field. As most of you already know Joe and have worked with him and/or his team in the past, you know what a great opportunity it is for the Association to have Joe help lead us through the next couple of years. In fact, Joe is already starting! Immediately following the AEC, Joe has stepped up and already helped steer the Board in some great new directions.

We are also thrilled that Bill Angel has decided to assume the Northwest Regional Vice President position held by Mike Vinatieri. You probably already know Bill, as he has served on the AEC for a few years now and has helped with recruiting new vendors and sponsors to the event. Bill has been with the Whatcom County Public Health Department since 1999 and works in their solid and hazardous waste programs. Even while working with area landfills, site hazard assessments, or meth contaminated property, Bill has also been able to help county owned facilities ramp up to ensure regulatory compliance. Bill is excited to be a part of WSEHA and help with developing and providing environmental public health training in all programs and specialties. We are excited to have him on board!

This unfortunately means that Mike Vinatieri will be stepping down from an active role on the WSEHA Board. Mike has been a huge part of WSEHA and, knowing Mike, he won't be able to stay from all WSEHA events, so the next time you see him be sure to thank him for his dedication to our profession and our Association.

A special thank you to everyone who was able to attend the AEC, and an additional thank you to the Environmental Health Directors that supported their staff attending the conference. I for one had an amazing time, except that I ended up on the microphone way too often as the other hosts for the event ended up being out sick or losing their voice. Be sure to read the AEC Wrap-Up article in this newsletter for more information on the 2016 AEC (and the work that is already being done for a 2017 AEC!).

As always, I'll end this with a simple request...Become involved with WSEHA. As an Association, we are looking to do a lot in the upcoming year. While we do have a group of volunteers forming, we can always use a few more. You can contact me, Dayna, or any of the regional vice-presidents for more information on volunteering and upcoming events.



*The student group poses for a picture on the Portland Spirit dinner cruise, one of the events during the 2016 AEC in Vancouver.*

## WSEHA Office Location and Contact Information

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Dayna Katula  
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### WSEHA Board of Directors

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**President Elect - Joe Graham**  
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**Immediate Past President - Kay Massong**  
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**Treasurer - Jesse Smith**  
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**Central Regional Vice President - James Rivard**  
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**Eastern Regional Vice President - Chris Skidmore**  
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**Northwest Regional Vice President - Bill Angel**  
[wangel@whatcomcounty.us](mailto:wangel@whatcomcounty.us)

**Olympic Regional Vice President - Jodie Holdcroft**  
360.337.5629  
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**Southwest Regional Vice President - Jeremy Simmons**  
[Jeremy.simmons@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Jeremy.simmons@doh.wa.gov)

### WSEHA Committee Chairs

**International Health Committee - Ross Lytle**  
360.337.5677  
[Ross.Lytle@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:Ross.Lytle@kitsappublichealth.org)

**Nominations and Awards Committee—Larry French**

**Publications Committee—Megan McNelly**  
360.875.9356  
[mmcnelly@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:mmcnelly@co.pacific.wa.us)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NEHA News	3
WSEHA Board Changes	4
2016 AEC Wrap-Up	5-7
2016 Scholarship Award Winners	8
2016 WSEHA Silent Action Results	8

Want to join WSEHA? For information and membership applications, visit:

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



## Next Newsletter Deadline:

November 9, 2016

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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## NEHA News

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A question I receive occasionally is how to convert a state RS credential to a National Environmental Health Association REHS/RS. At times, state registration organizations have asked NEHA to allow a window of opportunity to facilitate reciprocity. Some folks may have not taken advantage of such an opportunity because they expected to spend the remainder of their career in one state. Then they find the job opportunities might be greener in another state and the NEHA REHS/RS would be portable almost nationwide. Of course, they could apply to NEHA and take the registration exam again. But what a chore to have to review all the study materials again!

Good news! NEHA allows a way to get the REHS/RS by reciprocity if you have a valid state credential, have a bachelor's degree with at least 30 semester/45 quarter hours in basic sciences, and have proof of passing the same exam used for the NEHA REHS/RS at the time you tested with a minimum score as follows:

650 for the NEHA exam taken after July 13, 2014

68% for the NEHA exam taken between January 1, 1998 and July 12, 2014

70% for the Professional Examination Service (PES) exam taken prior to December 31, 1997.

If you are not sure your college credits will qualify, you may request NEHA to evaluate your college transcript(s). You will need to send \$50 along with a completed NEHA Transcript Review Request Form.

If you are not sure of your score or the type of exam you took to become registered in your state, check with your state registration program. If that does not work, NEHA has some state exam score records.

The cost to complete the process to get your NEHA REHS/RS is \$125 for NEHA members and \$185 for nonmembers. Of course, standard NEHA renewal fees would apply after that.

For more information about using reciprocity to get the NEHA REHS/RS credential check out

<http://www.neha.org/professional-development/credentials/Reciprocity> or contact TJay Gerber at NEHA headquarters [tgerber@neha.org](mailto:tgerber@neha.org) or 303-756-9090 ext. 328.

- Ned Therien, Region 1 VP

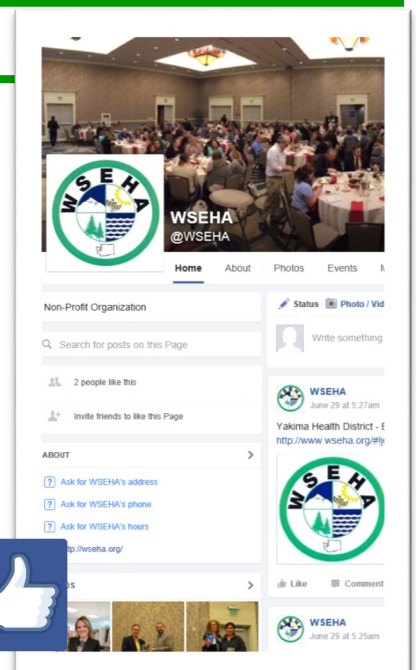
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## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

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Stay up-to-date on what's going on with WSEHA by liking our new Facebook page (search for WSEHA)! It's a little bare at the moment since it's so new, but we will use this page for updates when we add new educational events, find out about job postings in our field, or if there are any changes to our organization. To help us build our page, it would be great if you could tag us in any relevant pictures that you post.

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



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## **CHANGES ON THE WSEHA BOARD**

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We have a few (and one sad) exciting changes to the WSEHA Board of Directors! We are excited to welcome Joe Graham, the Washington State Department of Health's Food Safety Program Supervisor, as WSEHA's next President. He will serve for one year as President Elect, and then will take over for Michael Baker as President. Michael will then become the Immediate Past President, taking the place of Kay Massong. In 2017, we will be looking for someone to step-up and run for President Elect, so start thinking about it now!

We are a great non-profit organization, and our mission is to enhance individual and collective expertise, promote professional growth, and revitalize Environmental Public Health endeavors. We represent members in both the public and private sector, so don't feel like you need to be in government in order to participate. If you have any questions about what it takes to be WSEHA's President, contact us to find out!

WSEHA is also happy to report that Bill Angel, an Environmental Health Specialist with the Whatcom County Health Department, has volunteered to be the Northwest Regional Vice President. Michael Vinatieri has been filling-in while the position has remained vacant (thank you Mike!), so it's great to have a representative from the Northwest Region take charge.

The sad news we have to report is that after more than a decade of service, Ross Lytle, a Senior Environmental Health Specialist with the Kitsap Public Health District, has decided to step down from the Board in order to spend more time with his family. He currently serves as the WSEHA Secretary and International Health Committee (IHC) Chair. Luckily for us, Ross has offered to continue his duties until we find replacements. If you are interested in becoming WSEHA's Secretary or Chair of the IHC, please contact us!

If you're interested in participating with WSEHA but don't want the responsibility of being on the Board, consider being a member of one of our many committees. We are always looking for volunteers to make our organization successful. Our committees include:

Annual Educational Conference • Education • International Health • Membership and Benefits •  
Nominations and Awards • Publications • Policies and Procedures

Participating with a non-profit like ours is also beneficial for you too! How, you ask? You'll be able to broaden your connections and build valuable networks, round out your resume, gain expertise on complex issues, make an impact, and develop skills in the areas of teamwork, working with budgets, and strategic planning.

A very special thank you to Larry French, a recent retiree from the Washington State Department of Health's Food Safety Program for volunteering to become the Chair of the Nominations and Awards Committee. Larry is taking over Joe Graham's Chair duties. Thank you Larry!

If you are interesting in joining our awesome team, please send Dayna Katula an email at [dayna@wseha.org](mailto:dayna@wseha.org) or call at 414.688.2491.

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## **2016 AEC WRAP-UP**

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Now *that* was an AEC! The 2016 Washington State Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference (AEC) was a big success on almost all levels of measurement.

Before I comment any further, let me get a few of the "thank yous" in. There is really no way to adequately thank everyone that helped make this conference great. First, Clark County Environmental Public Health Department. Joe Laxson and staff did a great job in serving as the host county for the AEC. They went out of their way to help with the local contacts and set the bar really high for the next county to follow. I would also like to thank Rick Porso and Kelli Cooper from the Washington State Department of Health. Their leadership and personal drive helped bring in some new partners and new ideas into how to efficiently manage the AEC and all the chaos that can potentially accompany it. A thank you to Dayna Katula, our Executive Secretary, who showed why she is a superstar at coordinating and organizing. A personal and professional thank you to all the committee members who helped out in the planning stages, in the running of the AEC, and in all the follow up that has happened. As we have said frequently, the AEC is not possible without the support of its members. Thanks to Bill Emminger and our peers over in the Oregon Environmental Health Association. It was great to reacquaint our Associations and build the foundations for future trainings. Finally, a thank you to the WSEHA Board for being an active part of the process. I really am looking forward to the work that this Board puts together in the upcoming years.



*Secretary of Health Dr. John Wiesman purchasing raffle tickets.*

Whatever your interest, the AEC had something for you. Right from the start on day one, you could tell it would be everything we had hoped it would. A welcome from Clark County's Health Officer (Dr. Alan Melnick) and Chair of the Board of Health (Councilor Marc Boldt) and presentation from Dr. John Wiesman showed how important our work is at the local levels. The plenary by Dr. Kristie Ebi show how changing climates can impact us here in the Pacific northwest (especially in the growing of hops!!!). Day two started with a an inspirational and very engaging presentation by Dr./Captain Hugh Mainzer about environmental public health and emergency preparedness. The take away message for me...hug those that make your life and job that much more special.

And then we got to the work of our peers...The amount and breadth of material that was covered at this environmental public health conference really showed how the environmental public health profession is changing. While the overall themes tried to encompass the topics of the presentation (i.e. water, food, epidemiology, services) it quickly became evident that we are all such broad generalists now that it is nearly impossible to categorize the work we do. It looks like the Salvato *Environmental Engineering and Sanitation* will need a few additional chapters shortly!

**AEC Chair:** Rick Porso

**AEC Co-Chair:** Kelly Cooper

Michael Baker, *Whitman Co Health Dept*

Mark Toy, *WA DOH*

Bill Angel, *Whatcom Co Health Dept*

Chris McCord, *WA DOH*

Jeremy Simmons, *WA DOH*

Nancy Bernard, *WA DOH*

Chuck Treser, *UW*

Megan McNelly, *Pacific Co DCD*

Yvonne Van Nostran, *Clark Co EPH*

Joe Graham, *WA DOH*

Mike Vinateiri, *NW Regional VP*

Kathy Jo Shann, *WA DOH*

Dayna Katula, *WSEHA Executive Secretary*

Ned Therien, *NEHA*

Theresa McGuire, *WA DOH*

Mark Toy, *WA DOH*

Eva Crim, *Kitsap Public Health District*

Gary Holt, *WA DOH*

Joe Laxson, *Clark Co EPH*

Jodie Holdcroft, *Kitsap Public Health District*

Ross Lytle, *Kitsap Public Health District*

Andrea Watson, *WA DOH*

Jessica Baggett, *WA DOH*

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## **AEC WRAP-UP (continued)**

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We are also a very giving group. We were able to raise \$1,230 for the families of the victims of the San Bernardino attack. Additionally, we raised nearly \$900 to support the work of MercyCorps. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate and thank you to the regions and departments that donated the gift baskets and items raffled off or listed in the silent auction.



The only measurement where we fell a little short on the AEC was money and covering all the costs associated with the event. While the Hilton was a great facility and staff were eager to help, the initial cost of the facility and the added on expenses accumulated during the event were just a little more than our budget had covered. However, as an Association, we agreed that this is not called an “Annual Profit Conference” but are in-



stead appropriately named the “Annual Educational Conference”. The Board agreed that we met our goal of providing some of the best environmental public health training you will find anywhere. The presentations on the work we are doing locally was phenomenal. The work done through partnerships was huge. And, the plenary speakers were both experts in their fields as well as amazing presenters.

The AEC experience was such a success, that we are trying to do it again. NEXT YEAR! Based on feedback and interest from this AEC we are already in the planning stages for the 2017 Annual Education Conference. Stay tuned for additional information (or contact Dayna right now to become an AEC committee member and get all the details!). Please consider volunteering and being a part of the 2017 conference.

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## **2016 WSEHA AWARDS**

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### **Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award**

This year, Megan McNelly was honored with the Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award. Megan works at the Pacific County Department of Community Development. The purpose of the Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award is to give recognition to a WSEHA member who has:



1. Directed considerable time, commitment and personal effort toward the development, maintenance and/or promotion of the Washington State Environmental Health Association; and
2. Inspired and motivated other environmental health professionals, through his/her involvement and personal enthusiasm, to become involved with the Association and to develop their maximum level of personal and professional potential.

In order to convey how valuable and appreciated Megan is, Megan’s colleague wrote the following:

*“Megan is currently working to create an On-site Septic Loan Program for the County. She worked to draft the grants that were accepted by the Department of Ecology and is now working on the details of the program that will take effect late spring/early summer. To create the program, she has spent numerous hours talking with other counties around the state, traveling to see them, and researching and talking with financial institutions and community groups. This program is certainly needed in our county and Megan is doing everything she can to make sure it succeeds.”*

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## **2016 WSEHA AWARDS (continued)**

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*Megan is well respected by her colleagues for her work ethic. She wears many different hats; however, she never complains and is always willing to jump in and help. Too often, I use the royal 'we' when I talk about projects that need to get done or that I think we should do. A good example of this is the WSEHA call for volunteers to assist with the 2013 AEC. I mentioned to Megan that it would be good if 'we' volunteered some of our time to the AEC and next thing I know Megan had volunteered and she was the sole committee member on an assignment. She is always there to help whoever needs it. This has led us all to rely on Megan more than we should, but she knows so much and we know that if Megan is on the project, it will get done."*

### **John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award**

The John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award was given to Larry French, who retired from the Washington State Department of Health's Food Safety Program earlier this year. The purpose of this award is to give recognition to a member of the Association who:

1. Has earned the respect of his/her peers for outstanding service in the promotion of, and contribution to, the environmental health profession;
2. Does his/her job well, taking responsibilities seriously and continuously striving for excellence;
3. Shows a commitment to the environmental health profession by giving of his/her ideas and efforts;
4. Leads, by example, his/her fellow professionals to go beyond just what is expected; and
5. Contributes to the advancement of the environmental health professional and everything the job and title represents.

Here are a few words that his colleagues have written to make sure that everyone knows how great Larry is:

*"In a word, Larry has been a consummate 'professional.' In his work at both the Public Health-Seattle and King County and the Department of Health for 25 years, Larry's attitude, work ethic, and ability to build relationships has been excellent. Larry came to work every day with a passion to make a difference. This attitude not only resulted in productive work, it also couldn't help but positively impact those around him. Larry's strong work ethic continuously resulted in him exceeding expectations and in helping his team complete both routine and emergency tasks in a fast-paced environment. And, certainly, Larry's 'people skills' were/are nearly incomparable."*

*"Larry loved to teach, train, and mentor and looked for any opportunity to do so. His positive attitude was infectious and made being around him a joy. Larry was an extremely hard worker and his efforts very positively reflect on the Environmental Health Profession. His example, enthusiasm, and passion for public health have inspired many food safety professionals across the state."*

*"Larry is a highly dedicated and creative public health professional that made significant contributions to Environmental Health practice throughout his career. Larry regularly demonstrated excellent frontline leadership skills such as a commitment to workforce development and dedication to community-based public health practice."*



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## 2016 WSEHA INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SILENT AUCTION

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The WSEHA International Health Committee (IHC) continued what has become a tradition at the Annual Education Conference – the Silent Auction to support the efforts of world relief organizations to improve environmental health and sanitation in developing regions of the world.

This year's chosen recipient was MercyCorps of Seattle. MercyCorps is a multi-faceted international relief organization, which is active in all parts of the developing world. Among their current projects is providing food and safe water to Syrian refugees in the neighboring countries of Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq.



At this year's Vancouver AEC, the Silent Auction raised a total of \$827. The IHC would like to extend a big "thank you" to those who donated Silent Auction items or money. More information about MercyCorps and their projects can be found on their website at <https://www.mercycorps.org/>.

We're always looking for interested people to help plan, conduct, and solicit donations for, the next Silent Auction. If you're interested, contact Ross Lytle at [ross.lytle@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:ross.lytle@kitsappublichealth.org).

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## 2016 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

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The WSEHA scholarship program gives recognition to outstanding and deserving undergraduate students majoring in environmental health (or in an allied discipline), and who intend to take employment in the field of environmental health in Washington State upon completion of the baccalaureate degree requirements. This year, WSEHA awarded scholarships to two deserving students.

**Darian Disrud** is a senior majoring in Environmental Health at the University of Washington School of Public Health. She impressed the scholarship award jury by her passion for Environmental Health, her scholarship, her involvement in many outside activities. Just some of the activities with which she has been involved over her academic career include being a Dawg Daze Leader, a UW Student EH Association officer, a WashPIRG volunteer, volunteering with the Forterra reforestation project planting trees along the Duwamish waterway, Cascade View Presbyterian community volunteer, Seattle/King County Clinic Volunteer, Public Health – Seattle and King County volunteer, Nikkei Concerns community volunteer, and being 2Visions Photography business manager -- all the while going to school. Darian would like to work as an Environmental Health Specialist with a Public Health Agency in Washington after graduation.

**Elinor Lake** is a senior majoring in Biological Sciences at the Washington State University Tri-cities campus. She is an excellent scholar and an active member of the campus community. She continues to perform at a high academic level despite having some health problems in the last year and to "give back" to the campus through volunteer work with the admissions office, career development center, and other student services. She is the campus leader in environmental sustainability efforts with her work with the environmental club and collaboration with local industries. Her advisor writes "She is highly deserving of a scholarship because she constantly gives back to her community through volunteer work."

