



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MIKE YOUNG

As president of WSEHA, I was recently asked by a representative from National Environmental Health Association (NEHA): What are the most pressing Environmental Health needs in your affiliate?

That's quite a question, I thought, who am I to represent such a vast field of professionals? Then I thought, I'll just answer because this will show that being a volunteer for an organization provides you an opportunity to make a difference. I also thought if I give a good answer, perhaps someone will be happy. If there was a better answer, someone will let me know, I'm sure. So... I went with - we could use more knowledge about **Environmental Health Resource Management**.

In this time of limited resources, our leaders and the public have asked for evidence they are getting the maximum benefit from public funding. Management is then compelled to show they placed the appropriate resources, such as number of inspectors, or number of inspections per year, most beneficially to serve public health. However, as we know, Environmental Health work is often preventive actions for good public health, which sometimes has no clear cause and effect. In these cases, management tends to only place resources allowed to them by policy makers when they have specific rules to address issues. In a perfect world, we would have performance measures tools that provide quantifiable readings directly from the community, used by Environmental Health managers to demonstrate there is a good effect, as a result of actions taken.

Finding good scientifically based performance measures to demonstrate good resource management is important but difficult to find. We should look for workable performance measures that utilize applied science, which can be used by local health agencies. If there are health jurisdictions who have found workable performance measure tools or have utilized some new applied science, we would like to hear about it at the next Annual Education Conferences (AEC) with WSEHA or NEHA. For example, are there communities who have successfully utilized rat maps to justify more solid waste compliance resources? Are there agencies who have food establishments with such good handling practices they have avoided outbreaks, while others did not? Has anyone successfully used DNA to remove human fecal contamination from a surface water concern? Environmental Health agencies should share what resource management tools have worked or what has not worked. Resources for the whole environmental health profession will only improve if we create these tools, which can in turn be used in education and lobbying.

Please let me know if you have better answers because you can make a difference. We are busy planning for the 2019 AEC in May on the east side of the Cascades, and your input is welcome as to the type of speakers and subjects discussed. We are also talking about the 2020 AEC on the west side of the mountain. If you want to make a difference and lead your profession in the years to come, please let us know why we should hold the AEC in your area.

See page 3 for 2019 AEC updates and how you can help

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

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



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

Next Newsletter Deadline:

March 1, 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.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: 2019 AEC

We are beginning to plan and put the conference planning team together for the 2019 AEC. I'd like to invite you to join us to help plan another excellent education and networking event with your colleagues. We have some specific needs and lots of ways you can join existing committees to help. Here are some specific roles we need people to step up for:

- ***We need a conference co-chair.*** Liz Coleman, chair for the 2018 conference, has agreed to stay on another year to provide experience and continuity. Liz needs a capable planning partner who can learn this year and step into the lead role for the 2020 conference (west side location to be determined). This may be a new role for you, but rest assured, there will be plenty of other people with conference planning experience to support you.
- ***We need volunteers for the International Health committee Auction/fundraiser:*** Ashlee-Rose Ferguson can always use a few extra sets of hands to help collect auction items, set up the auction, and keep it running smoothly. Remember that auction proceeds will be donated to a non-profit doing public health work in the developing world.
- ***The Marketing Committee*** (Shawn Ultican and Jodie Holdcroft) can always use help signing up exhibitors and getting the word out about the good work we do. Some local central Washington volunteers will be helpful here.
- ***The Social Committee*** (Jodie Holdcroft and Dave Gifford) can always use some local volunteers who know the best and coolest things to do around Yakima. Think about a golf tournament? A hike? A pub crawl? A fun run? A tour of a local attraction? The possibilities are endless.
- ***The Speaker Committee*** (Nancy Bernard, Susan Shelton, and Anna Fretheim) will appreciate assistance bringing in great speakers. Again, think local – with central and eastern Washington themes. Do you have any ideas for keynote or plenary speakers? Field trips have been very popular in the past: Are you willing to help plan one?
- ***The A/V Committee.*** A smooth A/V system is one of our most critical infrastructure requirements. It can also be very costly to contract this work out. Lynn Schneider and Laura Homan made it look effortless in 2018, but I assure you it took lots of brain power behind the scenes to make it look so easy.

Join the team and help us plan **YOUR** 2019 AEC. Thanks to all who have and who will help with this great event.

- Tom Kunesh, WSEHA President -Elect

NOTES FROM THE AEC CHAIR: LIZ COLEMAN

I'm excited to announce the 2019 Annual Educational Conference will be held May 6 – 8 at the Yakima Convention Center. More details, registration and hotel information will be available soon. In the meantime, mark your calendars, consider submitting an abstract or volunteer to help with planning!

After considering several cities, Yakima was chosen for its central location, great weather and convention center size. We're looking forward to partnering with the Yakima Health District to showcase their city and create a memorable – and educational – event!

POSITION OPEN: WSEHA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

After much consideration, I have decided to resign from the WSEHA Executive Secretary position. As many of you know, I also work full time at the Kitsap Public Health District. I've reached the point in my life in which one job is more than enough! I look forward to spending more time with my pets and husband (don't tell him that I listed the pets before him) and enjoying WSEHA events instead as a spectator and volunteer.

It has been a pleasure serving the Association and its [Board of Directors](#), members, and volunteers. The highlight of my time with WSEHA is seeing the number of passionate people willing to contribute to the environmental health profession through volunteerism. I have gotten the opportunity to work among many amazing, dedicated volunteers and look forward to many years of continued relationships as I help on the AEC Planning Committee. This position also gave me my first exposure to a working board of directors. It was a wonderful experience, and I now have a deep appreciation for the volunteer WSEHA Board. Food for thought - they're going above and beyond for us, and they don't even expect a thank you!

Now, time to plug the position: This is an awesome job. It's perfect for folks who are working part time in, taking a break from, or previously worked in the environmental public health field. It will take your networking to the next level since the Executive Secretary has their hand in all of the Association's proverbial pots. This position can help you refine your communication, organization, coordination, judgement, and basic accounting skills (plus put a few extra bucks in your wallet). Feel free to contact me any time with questions about this position at dayna@wseha.org. Find more details about the job on WSEHA's [Job Postings webpage](#) (there are a bunch of other jobs posted as well). The position will be open until filled, with first review occurring on October 8, 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to be at your service!

— Dayna Katula

4 Reasons Why You Should Help Plan the AEC (or at least attend)

1. You get to meet lots of cool people.



2. You get to learn about interesting topics (and get CEUs!).

3. You can help raise funds for a deserving non-profit.



4. You get cookies.