



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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Summer 2025

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear WSEHA Members, Colleagues, and Friends,

Hello from the President's desk. I'd like to start by thanking you all for the great work you do. We are all safer because of you. When I consider the critical work you do, and the intelligent and compassionate approach you take, I am heartened that you are there and fortified to aspire to your high standard. I am grateful for and inspired by the opportunity to serve this passionate and impactful community. It truly is an incredible honor to step into the role of President of the Washington State Environmental Health Association.

Every day, environmental health professionals across Washington work to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities—from safeguarding clean water and air to managing food safety and addressing the effects of climate change. Our work is essential, far-reaching, and more important than ever. And yet, support and funding for that work is currently mired in uncertainty.

With these reflections in mind as I look to the year ahead, I want to share a few thoughts I have as I prepare for the journey ahead of us.

Recommitting to Our Mission

In times of change, it's more important than ever to pause, take a breath, and reconnect with our purpose. Environmental health is more than just a field of practice—it's a calling rooted in service. It's about protecting lives and health, championing equity, and creating the conditions for every Washingtonian to thrive. Let this be a time of refocusing—of remembering why we chose this work, and the lasting impact it has on the people and communities we serve.

Reinforcing Our Community

In challenging times, we must lean on and lift one another. That means investing in each other—creating and seizing opportunities to connect, learn, serve, and grow together. WSEHA is more than an association, it's a professional home for environmental health. As we support each other, we strengthen and reinforce that home for the professionals of today and tomorrow.

Mindful Patience

Our work is a marathon, not a sprint. We must remember to pace ourselves, take delays and setbacks in our stride, and most important, ensure that we care for and balance ourselves first, before we throw ourselves into our work. We need to maintain our strength for the challenges that we will face tomorrow. Our profession has come a long way, and we have a lot of work yet to do. For now we may only be able to leave things a little better than the way we find them after a day's work. I look forward to a time when patience and tenacity have carried us until we are able to dig deeper and achieve those important goals we have set.

Meanwhile, my hope for the months ahead is that you will feel empowered to share your ideas, your concerns, and your aspirations for the future of WSEHA. I invite you to get involved—whether that means joining the Planning Committee for next year's Annual Education Conference or simply reaching out to connect with your Board representative. Together, we can strengthen our foundation, build resilience, and ensure that WSEHA remains a trusted force for health and equity in Washington.

**2025 Photo Contest
Winners on page 3!**

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[Email Megan if interested in the position](#)

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Anne.moen@kitsappublichealth.org

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WSEHA Committee Chairs

Nominations and Awards Committee—Emily Hovis

ehovis@uw.edu

Publications Committee—VACANT

International Health Committee – Layken Winchester

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Like [WSEHA’s Facebook page](#) ! Stay up-to-date with the 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:

Fall 2025

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.

2025 PHOTO CONTEST

Drumroll please....the winners of the inaugural WSEHA photo contest are below! We received a variety of photos that represented the visible and invisible work done by EH professionals. Keep an eye out this coming year for opportunities to represent your work and send in your photo(s)!

**1ST PLACE:
WELL IN THE WILD**

**M. KINGTALIK, SEATTLE-KING
COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH**



**2ND PLACE (TIE):
EWWW, E.COLI & CYANO
TESTING**
M. PALOMAKI, CLARK COUNTY



**3RD PLACE:
SPOT THE MISTAKE**
**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH
DISTRICT**

MESSAGE FROM THE AEC CHAIRS

Wow, what an experience in Suquamish! From our tribal partners sharing their culture through dance, stories and presentations, to a variety of presentations from our LHJ counterparts and industry. To top it off, delectable meals, great music for Monday night's social and a perfect setting for the annual cornhole tournament. Thank you all who made it for a day, two or the whole time, your participation and networking made the 76th AEC conference a unique success.

A few highlights this year were:

- Despite the travel and budget restrictions many experienced this year we still had a good turnout, over 240 health professional attended.
- You all helped the International Health Committee raise \$3260 for Water1st, and WSEHA has donated another \$240.
- A field trip to a cutting-edge wastewater treatment in our own backyard, the KPUD Port Gamble facility.
- 2025 Cornhole championship title goes to **Yakima County's Yakimaniacs!** Thank you Willapa Valley school for making and donating the beautiful new boards.



Please check out the [AEC's 76th post conference webpage](#) with presentations and more information about the award recipients. We would love to hear your feedback from the conference. If you haven't yet, please fill out the [evaluation form](#).

We look forward to seeing what next year's conference brings us! If you are interested in volunteering to bring your thoughts and ideas to next year's conference, please join our planning team. We are excited to have new members bring fresh new ideas. If you would rather participate by giving a presentation to tell us your work story that had influence, we look forward to a variety of environmental health presentations next year! Please email Megan McNelly, megan@wseha.org, to get details about signing up. Many thanks to the 2025 AEC planning team for all your hard work, ideas and enthusiasm to make the 76th AEC a huge success! We're looking forward to seeing you in 2026!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

I thought I should also share a little about myself. I grew up in Colorado and earned an Environmental Science BA from University of Colorado at Denver. I worked for a while as an environmental consultant, largely in the oil and gas industry. I found environmental health in 2008. I started out in the as a rule manager in drinking water program at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and later went to Rio Blanco County Public Health. Rio Blanco County is a rural county in northwest Colorado. I spent several years there as an Environmental Health Officer, developing the environmental health program from the ground up. I had a very small staff and, in true Generalist fashion, I did most things myself. I served as the county's Public Health Director for about a year before coming to Washington in 2015.

I came to Washington because I was given the awesome opportunity to serve as the Wastewater Management Section Manager at the Washington State Department of Health. We regulate large on-site sewage systems (LOSS) and reclaimed water systems, and support LHJs in regulating on-site sewage systems (OSS). It's the best job I have ever had and I am grateful every day for the opportunity to do something so important for the people of Washington.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to all we'll accomplish together in the year to come.

NEHA UPDATES

Public Health On Call – Floride and the Law. About this episode: Conversations about fluoride in the water supply are revving up but a key factor in the debate is the legal framework. In this episode: a discussion about the relevant law for assessing fluoride added to drinking water known as the Toxic Substances Control Act—a law limited to a focus on risk, not benefit—and what that means for emerging science and policy discussions around fluoridating water.

Students and Emerging Professionals

We are excited to announce that we have launched a complimentary 12-month NEHA Student Membership! Students can easily register by visiting <https://www.neha.org/students> and completing the form at the bottom of the page. Students can submit posters for presentation at our AEC (virtual or in-person)—more details can be found in the [AEC Presenter Information](#).

NEHA's 2025 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition We are looking forward to seeing you July 14 - 17, 2025 at our [2025 AEC in Phoenix, Arizona](#), and virtually, where we invite you to discover "Your Oasis in the Desert."

AEC [Registration is now open](#)

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

I'm Dayna! I'm dedicated to the environmental public health field and am proud to contribute to its advancement through WSEHA. I've been working in EH since 2013 at the Kitsap Public Health District and have been participating with WSEHA since about 2014. On a personal note, I'm a vocal proponent of the Oxford comma and pet rescue advocate. Please reach out if you want to talk about anything related to EH, WSEHA, Oxford commas, or animal rescue!



PRESIDENT ELECT



Hi, my name is Anne Moen, and I am delighted to be part of the WSEHA board representing the beautiful Olympic region. I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge of the Association and helping to bring more awareness to our organization and the benefits it provides to the Environmental Health profession.

Working at Kitsap Public Health since 2001, I started in the Food and Living Program and then fortunate to gain additional experience working in both the Pollution Identification and Correction Program (PIC) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEPR). I have come back to my roots and am currently the Food and Living Program Manager. Each of these programs bring their own unique aspect to Public Health that are fulfilling in their own ways. I look forward to sharing the experiences in whatever way possible to help promote environmental health profession. I look forward to working with you all, and please feel free to reach out! Anne, Anne.moen@kitsappublichealth.org

REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Thank you to everyone who donated and participated to make this year's IHC silent auction and raffle a success. **YOU helped raise \$3500 for Water1st International!** 100% of the funds raised will go to supporting access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education for communities in need.

Multiple agencies participated in this year's raffle basket competition to provide some of the most creative and prize filled baskets yet. Kitsap Public Health District and Whatcom County Health Department won the competition for "most creative" and "best" baskets. Encourage your agency to donate a basket and win next year's basket competition.

Stay tuned for updates from IHC and the announcement of next year's IHC recipient. Visit the IHC webpage in the meantime to see past recipients and learn more about the committee.

See you in the IHC room at next year's AEC!



DONATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE:

Seefilm Cinemas

Mark Toy

Whatcom County Health Department

Vikan

Kitsap Great Escape

The Museum of Flight

Woodland Park Zoo

Hand's on Children's Museum

ThermoWorks

Eleven Winery

Finn River Farm and Cidery

Grounds for Change

Emily Hovis

Shawn Ultican

Enigma Escapes

Details Wine Bar

Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium

Kitsap Public Health District

Public Health-Seattle & King County

Spokane Regional Health District

Washington State Department of Health-Food Safety Program