



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Tom Kunesh

Greetings environmental health colleagues.

Have you ever had that strange feeling of déjà vu? In July it appeared that we were emerging from the stress and fear of Covid response. Alas, here we are facing another wave of illness. The disruption to our professional and personal lives defines the past 18 months and clouds the foreseeable future.

For a little morale boost, check out this link and see where Washington ranks in places to work during the pandemic: <https://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/countries/united-states/poverty-in-the-us/covid-map/>. Washington ranks near the top. Our public health system contributes to population health and we are an essential part of the public health system. When I see the signs thanking first responders, hospital workers, and essential business workers I always think of taking a sharpie out and adding “public health workers.” I then remember that I’m not in it for the glory but for the satisfaction of doing important work that serves our community. When I look back over my 32 years in environmental public health, that’s what stands out... and the fantastic colleagues that I work with every day. I toast you all.



For more great news, read on pg. 4. NEHA 2022 in Spokane is on and your WSEHA has big plans!

WSEHA Mailing Address & Contact Information

PO Box 721, South Bend, WA 98586
Website: www.wseha.org
Phone 360.875.8058, Fax 360.989.3997
Executive Secretary:
Megan McNelly
megan@wseha.org

WSEHA Board of Directors

President - Tom Kunesh
tkunesh@co.whatcom.wa.us

President Elect - Nancy Bernard
Nancy.Bernard@doh.wa.gov

Immediate Past President –Mike Young
stillyoung.my@gmail.com

Secretary - Jennifer Garcelon
360.417.2347
jgarcelon@co.clallam.wa.us

Treasurer - Jesse Smith
360.414.5599 x6442
smithj@co.cowlitz.wa.us

Central Regional Vice President - James Rivard
509.457.7123
jriv461@ecy.wa.gov

Eastern Regional Vice President - Ben Stone
509.553.3000
Ben.stone@whitmancounty.net

Northwest Regional Vice President - VACANT

Olympic Regional Vice President - Jodie Holdcroft
360.728.2302
Jodie.Holdcroft@kitsappublichealth.org

Southwest Regional Vice President - Jeremy Simmons
Jeremy.simmons@doh.wa.gov

WSEHA Committee Chairs

Nominations and Awards Committee—Larry French
teamseattle@comcast.net

Publications Committee—Anne Moen
anne.moen@kitsappublichealth.org

International Health Committee— VACANT

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Like [WSEHA's Facebook page!](#) Stay up-to-date [with](#) new educational events, job postings, and 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:

January 2022

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.

2021 Cind M. Treser Memorial Scholarship Awards

On August 12th The WSEHA Board of Directors hosted the second virtual Awards Ceremony honoring the recipients of the 2021 Cindi M. Treser Memorial Scholarships.



The Cindi M. Treser Scholarship Award was established to give 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.

The Scholarship Committee evaluates all applicants according to the following criteria:

- The student's Grade Point Average
- The Environmental Health Curriculum
- The degree of the student's Campus Involvement
- The degree of the student's Community Involvement
- The student's Commitment to Environmental Health
- The applicant's Career Potential
- The student's Financial Need
- The strength of his/her recommendation



	<p>Moeko Agata (award of \$4000) is in the University of Washington's Environmental Health Program, expected to graduate in 2023. Upon completing her Bachelor of Science degree, Moeko would like to obtain her Master of Science in either Environmental Health or Epidemiology. She would like to minimize preventable diseases in Washington by improving the daily lives of those living in the state. Moeko has received many academic awards and is an active participant in her community through volunteer work.</p>
	<p>Emily Marvin (award of \$1000) is expected to graduate in 2022 from Whitworth University with a Bachelor of Art degree in Biology and a minor in Environmental Studies. Emily's goal is to earn her Master of Science in Environmental Health through the University of Washington after she is finished with her undergraduate degree. She is interested in the policy and legal sides of Environmental Health and plans to work in the field in Washington State. Her internship and volunteer effort with Spokane Riverkeeper is focused on repairing the riparian zones of Hangman Creek and monitoring the temperature and pollution levels of the Spokane River.</p>

2022 AEC— EXCITING PARTNERSHIP

NEHA 2022 is coming to Spokane! The conference will be held June 28-July 1 at the Spokane Convention Center. WSEHA is partnering with NEHA to make this the best AEC ever. Here are some highlights:

- * WSEHA members can **register** at the steeply discounted rate of \$450.00 for the entire conference. This is about \$300.00 less than NEHA members pay! No, you do not need to be a NEHA member to register at this rate. If your WSEHA membership has lapsed, be sure to renew right away. Registration opens December 1, 2021.
- * WSEHA is developing **two tracks** of Washington Specific content for the NEHA AEC. This is our opportunity to highlight the great work Washington does for the benefit of colleagues across America and internationally. There's a separate proposal process so make sure you submit your abstract info [here](#), **not** at the NEHA site. We'll be accepting proposals until October 31. If you have any questions, email megan@wseha.org.
- * Our favorite **events** will still occur including the International Health Committee silent auction, WSEHA awards, WESHA and WSBRS annual meetings, and just maybe the second annual WSEHA corn-hole tournament – who can unseat Joe Graham as reigning champion?



WSEHA BOARD UPDATES

The WSEHA Board meets a few times each year. Minutes can be found at <https://www.wseha.org/board-meeting-minutes>.

Recent Board action:

- Approval of scholarship recipients
- Approval of MOU with NEHA regarding the 2022 AEC

FUN LAST MINUTE CEU IDEAS

****[Health Effects of Wildfires: How to protect yourself and your family - YouTube](#)****

Excellent – features Drs. Stephanie Holm & Mark Miller, co-directors at the Western States Pediatric EH Specialty Unit (WSPEHSU)

****[Navigating the Landscape of Air Cleaning Technologies for COVID-19 - YouTube](#)****

Excellent – features Professors Elliott Gall, PhD and Brent Stephens, PhD

****[Choose Safe Places Webinar - Zoom](#)****

Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting, 2/25/21, ELI, NACCHO, SEHN, ATSDR, featuring Vickie Leonard, WSPEHSU, and Carol Westinghouse, Informed Green Solutions – 2 of my go-to experts.

****[ACMT - Safer Disinfectant Use Webinars](#)****

9/8/21: Disinfecting Devices and Best Practices: *Dr. Jason Marshall, Laboratory Director at the University of Massachusetts' Toxics Use Reduction Institute, will discuss a variety of devices that have been marketed to deliver disinfectants or directly disinfect. Their role in disinfection of the SARS-CoV-2 virus will be addressed as well as any safety concerns.* [ACMT - Disinfectant Devices](#)

****American College of Medical Toxicology: [ACMT - COVID-19 Webinar Series](#)****

****[PEHSU National Classroom \(pehsuclassroom.net\)](#)

****[Webinar: Asthma-Friendly Schools: Strategies to Reduce the Risk of COVID-19 Transmission and Improve Indoor Air Quality | US EPA](#)****

****[OnDemand Training Webinars | US EPA](#)****

Indoor Air Quality in Schools

****[IAQ Master Class Professional Training Webinar Series](#)****

(10 1 hour webinars – great preparation for a school program)

****[IAQ Knowledge-to-Action Professional Training Webinar Series](#)****

(These vary in quality. The starred one above is excellent.)

****[Healthy Indoor Environments in Schools: Plans, Practices and Principles for Maintaining Healthy Learning Environment | US EPA](#)****

****[Energy Savings Plus Health Webinars](#)****

****[Webinars about Integrated Pest Management | US EPA](#)****

YOUR ORGANIZATION NEEDS YOU

One of my jobs as president is to be the RAH RAH! Leader for the organization. However, while the organization can function without the Rah Rahs, it cannot function without you. What can you do?

- * Renew your membership. This year it's especially important as membership brings you a big registration discount at the 2022 NEHA/WSEHA AEC in Spokane. Renew or join here: <https://www.wseha.org/membership-application>.
- * Volunteer. The AEC planning committee can use assistance. Specifically:
 - * Steven Galvez, our International Health Committee (IHC) chair is stepping down as his career path has taken him out of state. We have volunteers ready to help with committee work and we need a chairperson to help keep things organized and on track. Steven and Ashlee-Rose Ferguson have generously offered to advise the new committee chair to help with the transition. The IHC seeks a worthy organization conducting public health work in the developing world and holds a silent auction at the AEC each year to raise money for the chosen organization. If this sounds like something you can get excited about, contact our Executive Secretary, Megan McNelly (megan@wseha.org).
 - * Join our speaker committee. This group reviews AEC presentation proposals and builds the conference agenda.
 - * Submit an abstract to present at the AEC. We need up to 40 presenters for our part of the AEC this year.
 - * If you've got something cool to share, let's hear about it.
- * If you're interested in these or other AEC roles, contact Tom Kunesh (tkunesh@whatcomcounty.us) and we'll find a way for you to help.

Volunteer for one of our vacant Board positions. We are looking for a Northwest Region Vice President and a President-Elect. Learn more about our Board of Directors here: <https://www.wseha.org/board-of-directors> and here https://9fc455a8-c1c2-4891-9d94-455cd32be1b2.filesusr.com/ugd/448313_f407c8623a2d4e0bbd6a1f4d95913d14.pdf.

Nominate a colleague for one of our association awards. Learn more here: <https://www.wseha.org/awards>.

Tell your colleagues about us. We are a member driven non-profit that simply provides professional development for our members, supports students with scholarships and funds international public health work.