



WSEHA Newsletter

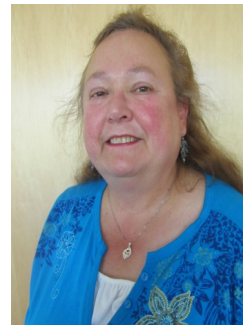


WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Meet Your New WSEHA Board Members!

Kay Massong, President Elect:

"I was born and raised in Yakima, Washington. I am the oldest daughter of six children. I attended college at Eastern Washington State College for one year, then I got married and started a family. We moved to Olympia in 1971 and had three sons by 1975. In 1980, I went to Olympia Technical Community College and received certification in Civil Engineering Technology. I worked as a Civil Engineer Technician (drafting water system plans) for four years. In May of 1986 I was laid off and I started work (assisting customers) for Thurston County Environmental Health. This was just a fill-in, "temporary" job (until I got back into Engineering). After about a year, I gave up on Engineering and pursued a career in Environmental Health. I completed an AA and became an Environmental Health Technician with the on-site program. After 2 years, I switched to the pool/food program. In 1992, I completed a BS from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (through McCord AFB). At that point, I became an Environmental Health Specialist. I continued to work in the pool/food program for another 2 or 3 years. I became a Registered Sanitarian and was promoted to EHS II. My primary work today is in the food and school programs.



"Why did I volunteer for President-Elect?" During my career in Environmental Health, I have received an abundance of training, skills, information and networking opportunities from the AECs and workshops that WSEHA sponsored. As us baby-boomers are retiring, there will be a lot of new sanitarians to take our places. I want these new professionals to have the training and networking that I was exposed to. This exchange of information is invaluable. As an organization of professionals, we need to encourage this new generation to join us. We also need to encourage the current EH workers to join WSEHA so they can share their knowledge and experiences."



Jesse Smith, Treasurer in Training:

Hello everyone, I am volunteering to take over the treasurer position from Steve Garrett. I have worked for the Cowlitz County Health Department for nearly eight years and make my residence in Kelso. Prior to this I did an internship at Lewis County and spent a summer doing pool inspections at Tacoma-Pierce. My primary areas of work are with the drinking water, food and swimming pool programs. I grew up in Centralia, WA and went to school at the University of Washington where I got my degree in Environmental Health.

Did you hear? WSEHA is in the planning stages of an *Educational Conference* taking place in later April or early May in the Olympia area.

Stay tuned...More to come soon!

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President Elect

Kay Massong (360) 867-2571
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Immediate Past President (Vacant)

Secretary

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Check out our website at
www.wseha.org

Next Newsletter
Deadline:

Wednesday, October 31, 2012

The Washington State Environmental Health Association Newsletter is the official publication of WSEHA. Membership in WSEHA includes a subscription to the newsletter. Manuscripts for publication must be type-written and submitted via e-mail to kerri@wseha.org, or on a computer disk mailed to WSEHA at the address above. 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.

President's Message



**By Geoffrey
Crofoot**

**WSEHA
President**

If you have not already heard, please let me be the first to tell you that Washington State Environmental Health Association is planning on hosting an Educational Conference in 2013 with the hope that it will again become an Annual Educational Conference (AEC). Without being too specific in this President's Message, start thinking about early May 2013 as a tentative date. Yay!

With a conference on the horizon, WSEHA will need your involvement more than ever before. The conference will be organized by member volunteers and largely financed by membership dues. This means that volunteers are needed for the conference planning committee; volunteers are needed to supply conference content (presentations) and current members will be needed to renew their memberships, remind co-workers to renew and, hopefully, encourage potential new members to become members.

In other excellent news, WSEHA is proud and honored to announce that two people have generously volunteered for open positions on the WSEHA board. Kay Massong, from Thurston County, has volunteered and has been appointed by the Board as the President Elect. Jesse Smith, from Cowlitz County, has volunteered for and will be the Treasurer in Training until he is fully appointed to the position. For more information on Kay and Jesse, please read their bios in on the front page of this newsletter. If you

happen to encounter them in your travels or during your work day, please give them the thanks that they deserve as they are shouldering a heavy responsibility.

It is my expectation that Kay and Jesse are just the first in more volunteers to come. As a reminder, there will soon be a need for a President Elect as Kay will shortly be moving into the President's spot and I'll be sliding over to the Immediate Past President. Committees such as the Education, Membership, and Awards all need Chairs and volunteers. Finally, the Northwest Regional Vice President's position continues to be vacant.

Looking forward, I'm excited about the potential of starting a new tradition of education with the 2013 Educational Conference. I'm excited about our new volunteers and discovering what they have in mind for our organization. I'm excited for WSEHA and it's brightening future. Please join me in this excitement and help build the future of WSEHA for the next generation of Environmental Health Professionals.

In closing and with the renewed call for volunteers and participation, I am reminded of John F. Kennedy who famously asked, "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country."

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Crofoot, WSEHA President

"...Washington State Environmental Health Association is planning on hosting an Educational Conference in 2013 with the hope that it will again become an Annual Educational Conference (AEC)."

Need Help Studying for your NEHA RS/REHS Exam? New to Environmental Health? Need Some Refresher Courses?

The Environmental Public Health Online Courses (EPHOC) training program has been developed specifically for you – the most important frontline environmental health professional. This program will not only give you the knowledge and application of the basic subjects needed in your environmental health practice, but also expose you to the broader field, as well as introduce some of the newest concepts that will shape the future of how environmental health will be protecting our communities and our world.

The fifteen EPHOC courses are taught by a group of environmental public health subject matter experts from across the country. The instructor group is a mix of academic professors and environmental health practitioners in several different agency settings. Course content includes the various roles and responsibilities of environmental public health staff in the over 45 hours of online training provided. The courses can be taken individually on demand. They have been divided into multiple 40 to 60 minute modules for each course. Successful completion of the course content and the post test will allow online students to print out a course certificate. NEHA members can submit the certificate for pre-approved continuing education hour credits toward credential maintenance.

EPHOC training programs are designed for:

- New hire environmental public health professional and in-service refresher training
- Individuals preparing for a state or national credential exam
- Environmental health and related-discipline students
- Environmental public health professionals wanting to improve their technical knowledge or receive continuing education hours

For more information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/eLearn/EPHOC.htm>

LOCAL APPLICATION

Recently, Island County Public Health (ICPH) started looking for opportunities for EH training. A few staff were preparing to sit for the RS/REHS exam and others were just interested in quality education options for EH topics. Another challenge has been shrinking staff resources due the economic downturn. Staff numbers have shrunk but the work load has increased. ICPH wanted to offer training to staff members as they take on additional work loads in a wider range of programs.

The staff at ICPH, with enthusiastic support by management, put together fourteen training workshops. On Fridays, the staff gathered in a conference room and watched each of the EPHOC training program modules. As they viewed each module together, the method provided the opportunity to share “war stories” and discuss local considerations for each topic. It was a great opportunity and very well received by the staff.

Continued on next page (page 5).

ICPH greatly appreciates the program and hopes it will be improved and expanded to meet the ever changing demand on EH professionals. To further the EH profession and to protect the public health, having access to quality training is critical. If you have questions about ICPH's experience, please contact Joe Laxson at 360-678-7910 or j.laxson@co.island.wa.us.

Submitted by:

Brandi Bordelon
LMS Administrator
South Central Public Health Partnership
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Joe Laxson
Environmental Health Specialist
Island County Public Health

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* **An Environmental Health Quiz For You...** *
*

- 1) Who is widely considered the “Father of Modern Epidemiology”?
 - A) Robert Koch
 - B) John Snow
 - C) Joseph Lister
 - D) W C Cole Claiborne
- 2) Which will not protect against foodborne disease (foodborne illness)?
 - A) Wash produce before eating
 - B) Thoroughly cook meats and eggs
 - C) Store perishable items in a cool, dry environment
 - D) Purchase organic produce
- 3) What is an epidemic?
 - A) The first time a disease is documented
 - B) When more than 50% of a population has a specific illness
 - C) When more than 25% of a population has a specific illness
 - D) When the occurrence of a disease exceeds the normal rate
- 4) Which is the first illness that was attributed to an animal carrier?
 - A) Rabies
 - B) Smallpox
 - C) HIV
 - D) Malaria
- 5) Which of the following is NOT a Category A bioterrorism agent?
 - A) Ricin Toxin
 - B) Smallpox
 - C) Botulism
 - D) Anthrax

Answers are on the next page (upside down). Source: <http://www.whatispublichealth.org>.

Answers to “An Environmental Health Quiz for You”...

1. B. John Snow is widely regarded as the “Father of Modern Epidemiology” following his efforts to contain the cholera outbreak in London’s Soho District in 1854. Snow identified the cause of the outbreak as a public water pump on Broad Street and had the handle removed, thus ending the outbreak.
2. D. Organic produce can contain the same foodborne contaminants as other produce. “Organic” only means that pesticides were not used in growing the produce, and does not refer to the absence of pathogens.
3. D. An epidemic is when the occurrence in a community of geographic area of a disease is at a rate that clearly exceeds the normally expected rate.
4. D. Malaria is the first human illness attributed to an animal carrier (mosquitoes) in 1717.
5. A. Ricin Toxin. Botulism, Anthrax, and Smallpox are all Category A bioterrorism agents, the deadliest (and most easily spread) agents. Category B agents are moderately easy to spread, have moderate illness rates and lower death rates. Examples of Category B agents include: Ricin Toxin, Brucellosis, Q Fever, Typhus, and food and waterborne pathogens.

Want to Help Out or Lead a WSEHA Committee?

As Geoffrey noted in the President’s Message, the following need committee chairs and volunteers: Education, Membership, and Awards Committees. Also, the Northwest Regional Vice President’s position is currently vacant. Here is more information about these positions and committees...

The Northwest Regional Vice President: This position needs to be filled by a member from the NW region which includes the following counties – Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom. Each Regional VP represents the Board to their respective region and also represents the regional members to the Board. This position should organize and conduct a regular regional business meeting at least once a year in conjunction with an educational event. This position provides articles on regional happenings and events to the newsletter editor and also nominates appropriate individuals from their region for WSEHA awards.

Educational Committee:: This committee devises, and puts into effect, ways and means of improving the professional standards of sanitarians through continuing education and help enable the members to better educate the public in all phases of environmental health.

Awards Committee: This committee identifies and selects qualified candidates for awards and scholarships (when offered). Final selection of the candidates for the awards of the Association shall be made by action of the Board of Directors.

Membership Committee: This committee conducts an annual membership drive to attract new members, they devise and implement ways and means of increasing and sustaining the membership, and they develop or revise a membership brochure.

Publications Committee: This person is the editor of the *WSEHA Newsletter* and other publications.

More information about the above positions can be found in our Policy and Procedures Manual which is located on our website at <http://www.wseha.org/P&PManual/WSEHAP&PManual.pdf>

If you are interested in any of the above positions or committees, please contact WSEHA’s Executive Secretary, Kerri Wagner, at kerri@wseha.org or (360) 738-8946.