



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm very excited for this year's AEC and I hope you are as well. I've written previously about the value of continuing education and in-person networking. Our dynamic AEC Planning Committee continues to pour energy into this year's conference to ensure our conference provides the best of both. Please take a few minutes to look at the [agenda](#) (available at wseha.org) and see the amazing speakers and topics planned for all sessions. In addition, some attendees will have the opportunity to tour a regional wastewater treatment plant, a shellfish operation, or the state capitol. There will be evening social events at the hotel and offsite.

We will once again recognize the achievements of our colleagues through our awards process. I highly encourage you to take advantage of the new process the Awards Committee developed for awards nominations. In addition to recognizing our colleagues through awards, we will be recognizing environmental public health professionals in Washington who retired or passed away since last year's AEC. If you know of someone in either of these categories, please send their name, date of retirement or passing, a photo if available, and brief words about the person to dayna@wseha.org. This will be an annual tradition as we strive to maintain a sense of community in our profession.

I truly hope you're able to take advantage of this year's AEC and I look forward to seeing you in Olympia May 7th – 9th.

- Joe Graham

WSEHA AWARDS: UPDATED INFORMATION

The Awards and Scholarship Committee listened to our WSEHA members and made some changes to the award categories and streamlined the nomination process. Having been honored in 2016 with one of the awards, I can tell you that it means a great deal to be recognized by your peers. The deadline for nominations is quickly approaching - get your nominations in by **April 10, 2018!**

The committee understands that we, as EH professionals, are busy, but it is important that we take time to recognize and honor those among us who go above and beyond to promote our profession, mentor our colleagues, partner with industry and other agencies, and in general, set an example for those new members of our field.

[This link](#) will connect you with the different awards and the nomination process. If our committee can be of help with your nomination process, please contact us. We are also busy but wish to expedite your efforts as much as we are able.

Please also take time to review the scholarship opportunities as well. It is our responsibility to support our future colleagues.

I guarantee that your time will be well spent when you see your nominee recognized at the Conference in May. This is a life-changing gift you can offer.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| President's Message | 1 |
| Award Nominations | 1 |
| Special Processes Update | 3 |
| Pool Conferences | 3 |
| Silent Auction & Raffle | 4 |
| AEC Planning Committee | 4 |

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

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



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

Next Newsletter Deadline:

June 22, 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.

SPECIAL PROCESSES COURSE UPDATE

The Washington State Department of Health's Food Safety Program (DOH) worked hard to successfully bring the FD312 Special Processes at Retail Course to Washington. DOH and WSEHA teamed up with NEHA/FDA to organize the educational event, which was held in February 2018 in Vancouver, WA. The course was attended by 50 students, most of which were from local health jurisdictions in Washington. Others that attended were from DOH, Indian Health Services, Idaho, California, and Colorado.



The course included presentations, reviewing Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans, and hands-on activities so that registrants could learn about many of the special processes occurring in our retail food establishments. The special processes that were taught were smoking, curing, use of food additives, reduced oxygen packaging, live molluscan shellfish tanks, sprouted seeds, processing and packaging juice, custom processing of animals, and kombucha. Students reported learning a lot and gaining a much better understanding of when to recognize special processes during inspections, how to approach HACCP plans, and how all of it relates to public health.

We'd like to give DOH's Food Safety Program (Joe Graham, Janet Anderburg, Helena Barton, Cyndi Free, Emily Hovis, and Susan Shelton) a special shout out! They do so much for local health food programs and we're very lucky to have them. Joe and his team go above and beyond to make sure they're providing technical assistance to the counties, staying on top of recalls that affect Washington, creating guidance, giving education, working on regulations, and so much more - all with a smile on their face and a friendly attitude. They'll be at the 2018 Annual Educational Conference, so be sure to thank them when you see them!

Particularly in regards to the success for this course, Susan played a crucial role. This class required that participants complete extensive prerequisites. Susan started work early and ended late to help make sure that students complete the pre-reqs so that no one would miss out on being able to attend. She also coordinated with the venue and FDA/NEHA, which is a big job in and of itself!

2018 POOL CONFERENCES

The [2018 Pool Conferences](#) are upon us! Each year, WSEHA partners with the Washington State Department of Health's Water Recreation Program to bring pool and spa inspectors and pool operators this one-day educational opportunity. In order to accommodate most people, one conference is held in western Washington and the other is held in eastern Washington.

- *Western Washington, April 4, 2018:* Due to a venue hiccup, the location for this conference has been moved from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to the Goodwill Milgard Work Opportunity Center, located at 724 S. 27th Street in Tacoma. We've reached maximum capacity for this site, but you can still complete the Registration Form if you'd like to be added to the wait list.
- *Eastern Washington, April 20, 2018:* There's still room, so register soon if you'd like to attend this one!

Jun Naotsuka, the Water Recreation Program's Manager, has put in a lot of effort to revamp the material for this course. Jun's hope is that the class is more effective than before to give folks a bigger bang for their buck and become better at their jobs to protect public health! Thank you to Jun, Justin Law, and Melissa Reynolds for working hard for pool operators and inspectors around Washington State!

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE

The AEC is getting close! This year's silent auction charity recipient is [Etta Projects](#), located in Tacoma, WA. Etta Projects works in Bolivia, which is the poorest country in South America, to increase access in a sustainable manner to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and trained healthcare. They collaborate with rural communities on those necessities to create a world where all communities are safe and healthy.

We need your help again this year! We're bringing back the friendly competition to see which agency can come up with the best gift basket filled with items local to their area to be auctioned or raffled off! *The important thing to know is that the winning basket will receive a Bragging Rights Certificate!* We all know that having the certificate hanging in your office will afford you the respect that you deserve.

What we need help with:

- ▶ Donation of items or asking local businesses within your community for donations. Items in the past have included hotel stays, jewelry, baskets, services, event tickets, handmade items, etc.
- ▶ Volunteers during the AEC to monitor items, answer questions, and help the auction go smoothly.

Please let us know if:

- ▶ You have any items or services you would like to donate. We also need to know if you have a minimum bid that you'd like us to start with.
- ▶ You're interested in contacting businesses or organizations for donations.
- ▶ You can assist us with the silent auction setup, break down, money collection, or monitoring.

Spread the word! THANK YOU for any help you can provide!

Contact person: Ashlee-Rose Ferguson, internationalhealth.wseha@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO OUR AEC PLANNING COMMITTEE!

CHAIR: Liz Coleman, *Washington State Department of Health*

FABULOUS VOLUNTEERS:

Linda Atkins, *Jefferson County Public Health*

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Magen Blevins, *DOH*

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Joe Graham, *DOH*

Jodie Holdcroft, *Kitsap Public Health District*

Laura Homan, *DOH*

Emily Hovis, *DOH*

Dayna Katula, *Kitsap Public Health District/WSEHA*

Megan McNelly, *private sector*

James Rivard, *Ecology*

Lynn Schneider, *Public Health- Seattle & King County*

Susan Shelton, *DOH*

Jeremy Simmons, *DOH*

Ned Therien, *NEHA*

Chuck Treser, *Retired- University of Washington*

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