



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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Fall 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Tom Kunesh

Hello again environmental health colleagues. I hope this edition of our newsletter finds you healthy and refreshed after a beautiful and smoke-free summer. Ever wonder what happens behind the scenes at WSEHA while you are working to protect the public from exposure to illness and injury? Here are a few of the things we've been working on:

- Planning is under way for our 2020 Annual Education Conference. The conference dates and venue are set! Mark your calendars for April 27-29, 2020 in Tacoma at the beautiful Hotel Murano. The planning committee held its first meeting in early September. We've decided on a conference theme and a recipient for the proceeds of our silent auction/raffle fundraiser - see related article from our International Health Committee Chair, Ashlee-Rose Ferguson. We are working at contacting prospective vendors, and planning field trips and social events.
- Preparing for an financial audit. Our treasurer, Jesse Smith, is seeking a member to assist the board in auditing organization finances. If you are interested, please contact Jesse at smithj@cowlitz.wa.gov. This is a routine but important task to verify sound stewardship of member dues and revenues.
- We have been contacted by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) to help plan the 2021 NEHA Annual Education Conference in Spokane.
- Speaking of NEHA, our own Matthew Reighter (Starbucks) is completing his term as NEHA Regional Vice President. His term ends in June 2020. If you are interested in serving our profession at the national level, please contact Matt and let him know you are interested (mreighte@starbucks.com). The national organization is a great place to meet environmental health leaders from around the country and even around the world.
- We recently partnered with Washington DOH and FDA to bring some fantastic food safety training to Washington State. Look for more of the same in 2020.

The president's message always ends with a call to action. Everything I have outlined here is done by people like you who have stepped up to keep our professional organization alive and well. If you appreciate these benefits, why not volunteer to help? There are many ways you can contribute...no experience required! How about:

1. Reach out to your regional Vice President and help plan a regional meeting. Bring in a relevant speaker and create a CEU opportunity for your colleagues.
2. Volunteer to serve on a committee. The International Health Committee currently has one member. Imagine what would happen if Ashlee-Rose won the lottery?
3. Renew your membership! We seem to lose a few dozen people who neglect renewing after the AEC. Your membership keeps us healthy.
4. Volunteer to help plan the Annual Education conference. Nope, it's not too late to join the planning committee and learn how we make the AEC happen every year. Contact our Executive Secretary Megan McNelly (megan@wseha.org) or Conference Chair Jamie Zorich (JZorich@tpchd.org) if you are interested. Follow [this link](#) for a planning committee roster. See what looks right for you!

Our organization is as strong as the volunteers who take on all of these tasks. When you volunteer, you get to work with some great people, it's a lot of fun, and it's a pretty cool item for your resume, too. Stay *well*.--tk

**Nominations for WSEHA Board positions are open! Visit wseha.org for more information.
Join the board and help guide this amazing organization!
Elections close March 13, 2020.**

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Olympic Regional Vice President - Jodie Holdcroft
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WSEHA Committee Chairs

Nominations and Awards Committee—Larry French
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Publications Committee—Anne Moen
anne.moen@kitsappublichealth.org

International Health Committee—Ashlee-Rose Ferguson
Internationalhealth.wseha@gmail.com

AEC Committee—Jamie Zorich
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
IHC Announces 2020 Raffle Award	3
Award Nominations Open	4
Volunteer Opportunity— Finance	5
Educational Symposium	5
Fall Environmental Health & Safety Workshop	6



[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: March 15th

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.

IHC is pleased to announce the 2020 Silent Auction/Raffle Recipient!

Help Animals India: They are a Washington-based non-profit organization that does a lot of rabies prevention and awareness in India which is where our donations will be directed. The World Health Organization estimates that rabies kills about 20,000 humans annually in India, which is 36% of all rabies deaths worldwide. Some of the great work they do include rabies vaccination clinics and training associated, awareness campaigns in schools, dog bite prevention videos and advertising. A single rabies vaccine costs \$1, so imagine all the impact we can have on this near 100% fatal but completely preventable disease. Read more about this wonderful organization here: <https://helpanimalsindia.org/>. Help Animals India are very appreciative and excited to be this year's IHC Silent Auction/Raffle recipient to put our donations towards rabies prevention and awareness!

So how can YOU help Help Animal India? **Donate, Bid/Purchase Raffle Tickets, or Volunteer.....**



If you're interested in donating, the options are endless! The items just have to be in good condition and you think WSEHA members will bid for them. If you don't have any items to donate you can also:

- Coordinate with the IHC Chair to contact local businesses for donations such as:
 - * Gift certificates
 - * Day passes/memberships
 - * Goods or Gift Baskets
 - * Tools
 - * Anything!
- Encourage your coworkers to make the Best Gift Basket there ever was for the annual raffle competitions!
- Donate cash at the event, bid on items, or purchase raffle tickets to win the basket you want!

Silent Auction/Raffle Recipient cont...

Get your competitive side out because we will be hosting the competitions for Most Money Raised and Most Creative again this year! So get ready, start brainstorming ideas to make sure your raffle basket wins these prestigious titles! Some themes to give you ideas: Car Care Basket, Gardening Basket, and Nacho Average Basket and Food Poisoning on a Tray.

Which LHJ is ready to beat the reigning champs of Chelan-Douglas Health District for Most Money Raised and Snohomish Health District for Most Creative!

The IHC could always use more volunteers to help with logistics, broadening its mission (<https://www.wseha.org/international-health>), or requesting donations from businesses. If you have an interest in volunteering, donating, competing in the raffle, or would like any other information please contact IHC Chair Ashlee-Rose Ferguson at internationalhealth.wseha@gmail.com or 360-480-0498!

Thank you for your time and interest in helping a great cause. See you at the 2020 IHC Silent Auction/Raffle!



IHC is calling out the following to make a gift basket for this worthy cause.

**ALL Local Health Jurisdictions,
ALL WSEHA Board Members, and
Any other Individual or Group who wants to join in!**

Award Nominations—We Need You!

March 4, 2020 is the deadline for nominating your colleagues for one of WSEHA's prestigious recognition awards.

We are accepting nominations for the following:

- Rookie of the Year
- Environmental Health Professional of the Year
- John P. Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award

The link below directly connects you to nominating information, the Awards manual, and even a "Tell Us" option where the committee will help you with the paperwork. Take a moment, consider your colleagues and co-workers. You know someone who should be nominated for one of these awards. Click the link below and submit their name!

Everyone deserves a "well done" and recognition for the work you all do to keep Washington healthy. It encourages and inspires all of us when we see hard work recognized. Thank you to everyone who submitted a name last year—we appreciate you!

Please take your time before March 4th and nominate a deserving environmental health professional.

<https://www.wseha.org/awards-wseha-board-nominations>



Finance Committee Volunteer Opportunity

We are looking for at least one volunteer to join a Finance Committee. The primary task of the volunteer would be to help with an annual audit of the associations financial records. The time commitment to this committee should be fairly minimal. If you are interested in helping out the association with this or would like more information please contact the Treasurer (Jesse Smith) at smithj@co.cowlitz.wa.us



PALL Medical

APIC PUGET SOUND

Washington State Department of Health

Educational Symposium

EARN 6 CE CREDITS

Water as a Source of Healthcare-Associated Infection: Science and Evidence to Support Water Management Programs

Collaboration between APIC Puget Sound, Washington State Department of Health and Pall Medical.

Educational grant provided by Pall Medical.

Wednesday, October 30, 2019
Crowne Plaza Seattle Airport, Summit Ballroom, Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Capture essential advice and guidance from recognized experts on critical aspects of healthcare hot and cold water systems.

Chaired by:
Robert T. Hinton, Director of Operations and Maintenance, University of Washington Medical Center
Sara Podczervinski, RN, MPH, CIC, FAPIC, Washington State Healthcare-Associated Infections Coordinator, Washington State Department of Health

Presentation Topics:

- The Engineer's Perspective: Learning from a Legionnaires' Disease Outbreak
- Engineering and Designing Water Systems for Patient Safety
- The Infection Preventionist Perspective: Overcoming a *Pseudomonas* Outbreak in a NICU
- Consequences of Opportunistic Pathogens in Premise Plumbing
- *Legionella* and Other Waterborne Pathogens Among High-Risk Immunocompromised Patient Populations
- Environmental Water Sampling and Clinical Microbiology

Speaker Lineup:

Janet E. Stout PhD, President and Director, Special Pathogens Laboratory

Robert T. Hinton PE, Director of Operations and Maintenance, University of Washington Medical Center

Larry Lee CIH, Owner/Founder, Pacific Industrial Hygiene, LLC

George McCracken Director of Estates Risk and Environment, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

Dr. Steven Pergam Medical Director of Infection Prevention Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and Infectious Disease Researcher, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Dr. Joseph O. Falkinham III, Ph.D, Professor of Microbiology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

Olga Guzman RN, BSN, CIC, Director of Infection Prevention and Control Education, Kaiser Permanente Fontana Medical Center

Save the date!

For On-Demand webinars that focus on supporting Water Safety Teams, please visit our Healthcare Water Hygiene Series at pall.com/medical.
To review a Summary of Pall Medical's past In-Premise Water System Educational Symposia, please click [here](#)

FALL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY WORKSHOP

Registration, Agenda, and Materials: www.doh.wa.gov/schoolworkshop

Please join us for one of the nine School Environmental Health and Safety Workshops. Morning topics include cleaning and disinfection for asthma safe schools, ventilation, wildfire smoke, playgrounds, and more. In the afternoons Department of Labor and Industries Consultative Services will present on safety and industrial hygiene issues in schools.

School personnel (maintenance and operations, custodians, nurses, risk managers, teachers, and administrators), **local health staff**, and others who work on school environmental health issues are encouraged to attend. Continuing education credits are available.

PDFs of Power Points will be posted by October 14.

Date	City	Location
October 15	Wenatchee	WSDOT Building A (NCESD)
October 17	Vancouver	Educational Service District 112
October 21	Yakima	Educational Service District 105
October 22	Pasco	Educational Service District 123
October 23	Spokane	NEW Educational Service District 101
October 28	Bremerton	Olympic Educational Service District 114
October 29	Renton	PS Educational Service District 123
October 30	Anacortes	NW Educational Service District 189
November 5	Tumwater	WSDOH Town Center Campus

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