



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Volume 53, No. 3

Summer 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With summer winding down quickly, we'll be devoting more energy into planning for next year's AEC in Olympia. If you haven't volunteered to chair or help with a committee, please share your interest by emailing Dayna Katula at dayna@wseha.org. Your help will make the 2018 AEC just as phenomenal as this year's conference.

As you'll read, we lost a great person, wonderful leader, and friend on July 12th. I'm keeping my message deliberately short so you can spend your valuable time reading about Dave. Tragedies like these really put things in perspective and give us an opportunity to reflect on what's truly important. I encourage you to take that time for reflection and hold those you love closer.

I sincerely thank you for all you do and wish you peace, health, and safety.

- Joe Graham

DAVID COLE: WSEHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The WSEHA Board of Directors would like to offer our condolences to the family and friends of David Cole, including all his coworkers at the Yakima Health District. On July 12, we lost one of our own to a motorcycle accident. Dave was the Environmental Health Director for the Yakima Health District and had been an Environmental Health Specialist for over twelve years. Dave was a dedicated public health professional who was both a leader in his field and in his personal life. He was loved and respected by all who came to know him for the attributes that make a person great.

I personally met Dave in 2004 when we both worked at Cowlitz County and shared an apartment until he moved to Yakima in 2005. Though I only saw him every couple of years after he moved back home, I always cherished every moment I got to spend with him because he was such a great person. I would regularly check conference attendee lists in advance to see if he was attending as he always made a training more enjoyable. He has provided me a benchmark that I will strive for in my life.

At the end of the newsletter is a touching speech from Ryan Ibach, the COO of Yakima Health District, that was presented at Dave's memorial. Please take a moment to read it, if you can.

- Jesse Smith

There is currently a Go Fund Me account set up to help Heather, Lincoln, and Thomas handle expenses. Please consider donating to the account to help support his family during this time of need, in honor of Dave.

[Cole Family Go Fund Me Account](#)

WSEHA Office Location & Contact Information

1088 Puget Drive East Port Orchard, WA 98366
 Website: www.wseha.org
 Phone 414.688.2491, Fax 360.989.3997
 Executive Secretary:
 Dayna Katula
dayna@wseha.org

WSEHA Board of Directors

President - Joe Graham
 360.236.3305
Joe.Graham@doh.wa.gov

President Elect - Mike Young
myoung@snohd.org

Immediate Past President –Michael Baker

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 - Chris Skidmore
 509.332.6752
Chris.Skidmore@co.whitman.wa.us

Northwest Regional Vice President - Bill Angel
 360.296.5322
wangel@whatcomcounty.us

Olympic Regional Vice President - Jodie Holdcroft
 360.337.5629
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—Megan McNelly
meganmcnelly@outlook.com

Policy & Procedure Committee—Shawn Ultican
Shawn.ultican@kitsappublichealth.org

All other committee chair positions are vacant.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
WSEHA: David Cole	1
NEHA Update	3
AEC Update	3
David Cole Memorial	4-6

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

<http://www.wseha.org/#!/membership/c1ulz>



Stay up-to-date on what's going on with WSEHA by [liking](#) our new 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:

December 3, 2017

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.

NEHA UPDATE: MEET MATT REIGHTER, REGIONAL VP

My name is Matt Reighter and I recently was appointed to NEHA's Board of Directors as the Regional Vice President for Region 1, which encompasses Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Oregon. Currently, I am employed by Starbucks Coffee Company as a Quality Assurance Manager based out of Seattle but, prior to relocating to the Evergreen State, I worked for a local health department in Southern California as an Environmental Health Specialist for nine years. In California, my primary focus was on food safety in retail and wholesale food operations. In addition, I had the honor of serving on the California Environmental Health Association's Board of Directors for six years and fulfilling the position of President of the Association from 2015-2016.

As NEHA's Region 1 RVP, I am looking forward to working with WSEHA and its members to continue to drive the environmental health profession forward. By leveraging my experiences from California and Washington, I hope to help build a stronger and more resilient profession that thrives and recognizes the work that you do day in and day out. Over the next few years, I hope to meet and work with many of you to address the challenges that you face as environmental health professionals here by leveraging NEHA's resources both locally and nationally.

Lastly, I would like to leave you with a quote that I continue to reference as I reflect on my professional journey and I hope that it resonates, even a little bit, with you as it is true for all of us that continue to work towards bettering our communities through the practicing environmental health:

"You're going to make a difference. A lot of times it won't be huge, it won't be visible even. But it will matter just the same." – Commissioner James Gordon

My "door" is always open so please feel free to reach out with any questions or just to say hi.

Best,
Matt Reighter, MPH, CP-FS
NEHA Region 1 RVP
mreighte@starbucks.com

2018 AEC UPDATE

As this summer is speeding towards its end, I hope you are all making the most of the sunshine! Planning for the 66th Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in the spring of 2018 has already begun. Mark your calendars for May 7-9! The WSEHA Board chose the 2018 venue so that we could make the most of our conference experience. The Olympic RL is convenient, remodeled, conducive to learning and will provide access to some fun.

I'm looking forward to working with all the volunteers. Our committee chair persons are Liz Coleman (AEC Co-chair), Kathy Jo Shann (A/V), Larry French (Awards), Shawn Ultican (Marketing), Megan McNelly (Publications), Jeremy Simmons (Moderators), Dayna Katula (Registration), Jodie Holdcroft (Social), Nancy Bernard and Susan Shelton (Speaker), Tania Busch Isaksen (Student Coordinator), and Joe Graham (WSEHA President). Brian Walsh will be our photographer. If you are not already on a team, consider joining one of them soon. We have great volunteers but no specific chair leaders for International Health and Facilities (hint, hint).

- Ruth Piccone, AEC Chair

DAVE COLE: THOSE WHO KNEW HIM WERE BLESSED TO HAVE KNOWN HIM

I worked with Dave for twelve years at the Yakima Health District. In those years, I was Dave's co-worker, boss, and, most importantly, my wife Jen and I were good friends with Dave and Heather. For six years, Dave and I shared an office with each other, sharing many exciting moments together such as the births of both Lincoln and Thomas, when Dave and Heather built their house, and when I met and married my wife, Jen. We had many conversations with a wide range of subjects from skiing trips with our boys to sporting events to installing solar panels which Dave was awfully proud of. People at the Health District knew about Dave's love for Heather and the boys, how much he cared about his family and Heather's family, and his strong connection to his church family. After a tragedy, people usually ask what can they do to help. Which of course was asked at the Health District but also what people at the Health District were talking about was the strong support that we all knew Heather and the boys had from both Heather and Dave's family and his church family. Dave's love for Heather was evident to those of us at the Health District 12 years ago when he interviewed for the environmental health specialist position. In the interview, when asked what his greatest accomplishment was, his response was, convincing his fiancée (Heather) to marry him.



I am so saddened to hear this news! It was an amazing opportunity to work with and be a part of David's group during the EHTER course. Our time in Alabama was such a bonding experience and I had nothing but respect for Dave regarding his leadership, intelligence and most of all his great sense of humor. He will be deeply missed!

- Kim Heinz, Lincoln County

Dave brought humor and a lot of fun to the office. He was known as the office prankster. Once he took a co-worker's car keys that she had left on her desk, went out to her car, pulled the car forward about 30 feet, and then returned the keys to her desk. When the co-worker went out to her car later that day she was surprised to see her car parked all by itself in the middle of an empty field. Another example is of a co-worker who was a hunt and peck typist so Dave thought it would be funny to take off the letter keys on his computer keyboard and switch them around so the worker would type the wrong letters.

Perhaps one of Dave's best practical jokes that he liked to do was on other Health Departments throughout the State. You see, there is a lot of interaction and camaraderie between Environmental Public Health employees throughout the State. So every once in a while Dave would send a fake restaurant complaint to a neighboring County's Health Department. One time he created a fake Yahoo account under the name of Rob Akin. Mr. Rob Akin complained about raw bacon he was served at a fictitious restaurant in the middle of nowhere in that County and he demanded that they go check it out. So usually when neighboring Health Departments received some crazy complaint, they suspected it came from Dave and the Yakima Health District. Dave was also instrumental in creating perhaps some of the best Christmas parties. Creating games such as Yakima Health District jeopardy, YHD Family feud, or minute to win it games where employees would have to put nylons over their heads, with a ball at the end and swing it to be the first to knock over cups on the ground.

Dave also had a serious side to him. Dave began his career as a health inspector— inspecting restaurants, drinking water wells, septic systems,

Dave was a great guy to work with in Alabama. He was young and enthusiastic with so much potential. He did a great job as the leader of our entire group as we worked through our shelter exercise on our last day.

- Rosemary Byrne, King County

Continued on page 5

pools, and overseeing the animal rabies surveillance program. After a number of years, he became the lead person in the food program. Along with scheduling food safety program staff, he oversaw the food safety operations of 1000 food facilities in the County, 95 school kitchens, and 600 temporary food vendors who sell at events such as the State Fair or various community day events throughout the County. Dave quickly gained the respect and admiration of his co-workers and management at the Yakima Health District. A year ago, Dave became the Environmental Health Director for the Yakima Health District. Dave had energy and drive to work his way up in the Health District to become a leader. But once he became a leader it was still not above him to ask for help and advice. This was a position that Dave did not take lightly. He knew he served the people of Yakima County and was passionate about protecting the Health of the citizens. His staff used words such as humility, efficient, complex, and likeable to describe him. He was able to create a unique and special relationship with each of his staff and other members of the management team, often giving credit to those around him.

This is such tragic news and it breaks my heart to think about his family and friends that will miss him dearly. I am glad to have been on his EHTER team to experience some of the serious and humorous qualities that made it obvious to me why he had advanced and made a difference as an EPH professional.

- Bill Angel, Whatcom County

Dave was a competitive person who liked to think things through, come up with solutions, and strategize. This was very apparent to everyone at the Health District from 12:30pm to 1:30pm every day in the lunch room where Dave would be a part of a competitive game of pinochle, a tradition one of his best friends Jon Frazier took part in when he worked at the Health District. Dave was always willing to help out. On days that it snowed, I would show up to work about an hour early to clear the sidewalks but there would be Dave, behind the snow blower with the sidewalks almost finished. He was always excited about operating tools and machinery. Another example of his willingness to do anything was two weeks ago, Dave and I were at our

I liked Dave from the moment I met him, and I was looking forward to continuing to build that relationship with him at the Yakima Health District. My heart sank when I heard the news, and my thoughts are with his family and friends.

- Wayne Clifford, DOH

work records storage unit and we couldn't lift open the door because some shelves had shifted, blocking the door. After trying several different ways to get it open, we were able to pry the door open about 18 inches. One of Dave's staff members, Shawn, who was with us made the comment, that he was too fat to fit under the door. I, knowing Dave well enough, knew that if I kept quiet long enough, Dave would volunteer to slide under that door. Sure enough he volunteered, got down on the ground, on his back and slid under the door, pretty much destroyed the shelf inside but we were able to get the door open. When he came out he had dirt and cobwebs all over his backside but did not complain one bit.

One thing that Dave appreciated about being in his management position was that he got to be in control and could make even more of a difference in affecting the health and lives of people in the County and throughout the State. He had a passion for helping those that were less fortunate. He worked with the City of Yakima, Yakima Valley Conference of Governments, and local churches on a project to provide housing for the homeless that met all the required regulations. Just last week, he successfully worked with the City of Yakima Code enforcement, his staff, and his good friend, James Elliot, in getting an owner of a mobile home park to hook up to city sewer because the septic system was failing and there was raw sewage on the ground in which kids were able to play in. In April, there was flooding in the town of Outlook and Dave worked with multiple county and state agencies, including the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs, and a church group to work with those affected by the flood to provide safe drinking water and cleaning procedures so their homes would be safe to move back into.

Continued on page 6

Dave also gained the respect of his colleagues throughout the State for his abilities to be a leader in public health. Two weeks ago, Dave attended FEMA Environmental Health Training for Emergency Response in Aniston, AL, with 22 colleagues throughout the State of Washington. Throughout the week, the group did mock drills/exercises with real actors in small groups to train and prepare for real life emergencies. These small groups were also preparing to do a final mock exercise as one big group at the end of the week. Dave's colleagues and the training staff picked Dave to be the Incident Commander which is quite the honor and says a lot about Dave's leadership abilities. The night before the final exercise, Dave expressed to Heather over the phone how nervous he was to lead this group of people that throughout the week he had gotten to know and respect. Dave felt the final exercise was a great success as did his colleagues.

Here are some of the emails sent by people that attended that training, worked with Dave throughout the week and had only known Dave for a few days.

"In a very short time, Dave was able to display a combination of leadership traits that I had not seen before. What set Dave apart were his abilities to be light hearted and funny when he could be, serious and focused when he had to be. If I am ever called upon to lead, I hope that I can display some of these amazing traits that Dave taught me in the short time we had together."

"I am so happy I met Dave in Alabama, he made such a great impression on me and really impacted me with his motivation and leadership."

"I was very much looking forward to both a wonderful professional and personal relationship with Dave, as he is my next door neighbor from Kittitas County."

"I very much looked forward to working with Dave. There is no doubt that the Washington Public Health Community in general and the Yakima Health District, in particular, have lost an invaluable contributor and close friend."

Larry French, retired from the DOH Food Program, said Dave was one of his favorite people. Colleagues from all over the State such as the Spokane Environmental Health Director, Environmental Health Directors in Vancouver and Everett, Health Department Staff in Moses Lake, Tri-Cities, and Lincoln County, amongst many other counties and State Department of Health staff throughout the whole State all expressed their condolences and mentioned how much Dave will be missed.

I've had the benefit of working with Dave in eastern Washington from when he started at Yakima Health District and through his recent influence as an Environmental Health Director. He has, for all these years, been an exemplary and enthusiastic colleague, a proactive environmental health advocate, a humorous friend, a stabilizing force, and a very kind soul. His early departure is a loss for us all.

- Susan Shelton, DOH



Dave, Heather
Lincoln, and Thomas

Finally, one of Dave's favorite places to go hang out after a rough day or week or just to celebrate some special event was, how ironic, Famous Dave's. Often going there with myself, Andre Fresco, the Executive Director of the Health District and friend, along with other members of the management team. If you go to any restaurant or food establishment in Yakima County, on the food service license, that should be hanging in the restaurant, there you will see the signature of our Famous Dave!

- Ryan Ibach