In my January update, we opened the AEC for registration, included a preliminary topic list, and mentioned some of the other (non-technical) features of the conference. In this update, we’ve added links on the website to a more complete program schedule and more information for potential exhibitors and sponsors (coming soon). Please note that the program schedule is DRAFT. The major themes for breakout sessions on each day are set, but we are still in the process of confirming speakers.

At this time, we are looking for some additional volunteers to help during the AEC to help make it a success:

► **We need moderators** to introduce speakers and make sure presentations run smoothly. Ideally, you will have some interest in the content of the sessions you are moderating and are OK with public speaking. At a minimum, we'll need 16 moderators (one for each morning and afternoon breakout session). We've already identified a few, but if you're interested, please contact Kathy Pierson at (425) 339-5250 or kpierson@snohd.org.

► If you’re coming on Sunday, we’ll need 3-6 volunteers to help stuff bags with conference programs and other information/goodies from about 5 to 7 pm. We'll also need 3-6 volunteers to help with registration and logistics early Monday and Tuesday mornings. If you can help, contact Kerri Wagner at kerri@wseha.org.

► **We need someone to chair the Social Committee.** The Social Committee coordinates social events. With a short conference, this may be a relatively easy job. It would be nice to have some social activity during or right after the early Monday evening social. We have people who will help, but have not identified someone to take the lead on this. Contact me at mark.toy@doh.wa.gov if you're willing to take this on.

► **We need 1-2 volunteers on the A/V committee** to help set up and troubleshoot A/V equipment during the conference. If you can help, contact Dick Pedlar at rwpedlar@comcast.net.

We plan to have a notice board at the AEC advertising intern opportunities for students, and are currently doing outreach with management here at DOH and at local health departments to identify internship opportunities. If you have an internship opportunity you would like featured at the AEC, send me an e-mail at mark.toy@doh.wa.gov. Alternately, if you would like to help us do outreach about the AEC at one of the colleges near to the Great Wolf Lodge (Centralia College, SPSCC, St. Martins, or Evergreen), let me know.

There’s still time to nominate that deserving environmental health professional for a WSEHA Award. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 1st. For more information, see page 4.

**Announcing Our 2013 Annual Educational Conference (AEC)**

At the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound on May 6 & 7.

This year’s theme: "Environmental Public Health – Cornerstone of Public Health"

**February 2013 Update - by Mark Toy, 2013 AEC Chair**
As I mentioned in the last update, ‘Early Bird’ Registration with reduced registration fees will be available through March 15, with discounts for WSEHA members and students. We encourage all registrants to become members of WSEHA to have more of a voice in the future of environmental public health in our state. We should have the final program and conference details up on the website after March 15. We also have details on availability of continuing education credits from a range of professional organizations at that time. And I’ll repeat this mantra:

► Visit the WSEHA website regularly for AEC updates.
► Register for the AEC, and
► Tell your coworkers who are not currently members of WSEHA that the AEC is coming and that being a part of it is a good thing.

See you in May!

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.
It is with some sadness that I write this President’s message as it will likely be my last. I am, however, happy to report that I’m not moving far; I am only moving on to the Immediate Past President position. I am also happy to make this move knowing that there are folks in the wings waiting to take charge of WSEHA and lead the organization to a brightening future.

I’ll leave you in the honest and capable hands of Kay Massong from Thurston County. Kay volunteered for the President Elect position last year, prior to any real plans for an AEC, and at a time when WSEHA was in an especially dark spot. It took a lot of courage to step into that particular breach. So, thank you Kay for stepping forward.

At the writing of this message, there is one nominated candidate for the open position of President Elect. Michael Baker from Whitman County has accepted the nomination. Thank you, Michael. Nominations are still being accepted for President Elect and Northwest Regional Vice President until March 29, 2012 (see related article in this newsletter).

For the last handful of years, the members of the WSEHA Board have been the backbone of this organization. Thank you (current and past members) for your energy and effort.

I never tire of reminding folks that there is an (Annual) Educational Conference (AEC) on the horizon. For this, dare I say miracle, WSEHA has Mr. Mark Toy of the Washington State Department of Health to thank. Mark stepped forward, early, to do the initial footwork and got the idea of an AEC off the ground. It became clear that Mark was the right man and was doing a great job during the early planning stages. Thankfully, Mark accepted the Chair position for the AEC committee. To date, Mark has done wonderful work with all aspects of the AEC planning and organization. I have every confidence that the remainder of the work will go smoothly and WSEHA members will be treated to what will be the first of, hopefully, many more AECs.

There is a small but dedicated group of folks helping Mark carry out the duties of planning and organizing the AEC. Please be sure to thank those folks for their time and energy. Better yet, thank them by offering to lend a hand. This newsletter has a great list of what jobs are still open and which tasks still need to be completed. I’m sure Mark and the AEC planning committee will not mind if I speak for them when I say, it’s never too late to get involved.

Speaking of getting involved; you know from reading my messages over the years that I’m always pushing membership. Nothing has changed here. I will say, now, that members do get a better deal on registration so, it pays to become a member again, or for the first time. For those of you who are members and who do receive this newsletter, feel free to forward it to someone who you think might want to know a little more about WSEHA. Information dissemination; that’s helping out and getting involved too!

It’s been a while since we have had awards in front of our peers. There are some folks who have had amazing careers, and some folks who are in the midst of amazing careers. These folks deserve recognition for their hard work. Please consider nominating a deserving co-worker for one of WSEHA’s awards. Information on making nominations is on our website at www.wseha.org. Keep in mind, the deadline for nominations is rapidly approaching on March 1st, so in the words of Larry the Cable Guy, “Git-R-Done!”

Finally, as I move on, I’d like to leave you with one last thought. As a longtime practitioner of environmental health, I’ll encourage re-use by simply recycling something I’ve said before. It’s nothing new, and I certainly didn’t coin the phrase. It is, however, a principle that has helped me in recent years because in the end, what we do, all of it, matters. With that, I conclude with this thought: Do your very best.

“I’ll leave you in the honest and capable hands of Kay Massong from Thurston County.”
WSEHA Awards - by Joe Graham, Nominations & Awards Chair

Environmental health professionals work hard to make our communities safer and healthier. The outstanding environmental health professionals working in Washington State deserve a little recognition for all the hard work they do. One way you can recognize this valuable work is to nominate one (or several) deserving folks for a WSEHA award. WSEHA awards acknowledge environmental health professionals who show outstanding service and dedication, lead by example, are respected by their peers, and who promote environmental health. The following is a list of the Awards for which we are currently accepting nominations:

► The John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award
► The Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award
► Environmental Health Professional of the Year award
► Rookie of the Year Award
► Environmental Health Story of the Year Award
► Most Humorous/Embarrassing Moment Award

To nominate an environmental health professional, send an email or letter to Joe Graham with the appropriate eligibility information for the respective award. A list of the awards and eligibility criteria for each can be found here: [http://www.wseha.org/awards.html](http://www.wseha.org/awards.html). Joe’s email address is joe.graham@doh.wa.gov and his mailing address is Department of Health/PO Box 47825/Olympia, WA 98504-7825.

**The deadline to nominate candidates for 2013 awards is March 1st.** Nominations may be made by any member of WSEHA. Awards will be presented at the WSEHA Annual Educational Conference May 6-7, 2013 at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, WA. You can contact Joe or your Regional Vice-President if we are currently accepting nominations for two Board positions that need to be filled. The elected members will take office at the end of WSEHA’s annual meeting at the AEC. Here is more information about the Board positions available:

► The President (Elect) is the first year of a three year term followed by the Current President in the second year and Immediate Past President the third year. The President (elect, current and immediate past) is responsible for pursing the purposes and objectives of WSEHA. To this end he/she is responsible for planning and developing goals and objectives, organizing, coordinating and reviewing the Association’s activities.

► The Northwest Regional Vice President 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.

In order to nominate a person for one of these positions, or yourself, please respond to this email by Friday, March 29, 2013.
WSEHA Committee Openings!

The following committees need chairs and volunteers and here is more information about these positions and committees…

**Education 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.

**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 www.wseha.org under the “About Us” tab.*

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.

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Ecology is Inviting Comment...


Last fall, Ecology convened a group of business, government, academic and non-governmental leaders to come up with new approaches for reducing toxic chemical pollution in Washington. Ecology asked them to think outside their typical legal and political silos to find creative new approaches to toxics that would offer better human health, environmental and economic outcomes.

Those interested in commenting and providing input are encouraged to do so. Send comments by March 11, 2013 to: Carol Kraege, Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600, or email carol.kraege@ecy.wa.gov.

The Washington Toxics Reduction Strategies Workgroup letter and white paper can be found here: [http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/policy_trs.htm](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/toxics/policy_trs.htm)
WSEHA, in cooperation with Washington State Department of Health and your local health jurisdiction, is pleased to announce the 36th Annual Swimming Pool and Spa Conference. We encourage everyone who operates a pool or spa to participate in this informative conference.

**Agenda:**

**Swimming Pool and Spa Chemistry:**
Our most popular session! It covers pH, disinfection, and pool balance including alkalinity and hardness to protect against corrosion or scale.

**Illnesses associated with water recreation:**
Review of different types of illnesses occurring in water recreation, their symptoms, and ways to protect facilities.

**Pool Testing:**
Bring your own test kits and we will test different parameters for unknowns and also cover proper use of kits and testing techniques.

**Spas:**
Overview of some of the unique conditions associated with the warm water spas.

**Pool Equipment Operation - Pumps, Motors, and Filters**
Practical session dealing with the operation and maintenance of your mechanical room equipment and pool components.

**Pool Inspection and Assessment**
Provides a review of our inspection process including the inspection form. Provides a rationale for inspection items listed.

**Registration Fee:** $45.00 per person for WSEHA members, $55.00 for non-members. This fee includes a *Pool Operator’s Manual.* Please note the $45.00 fee for WSEHA members is not advised to the general public because the majority of those who attend are non-members. Membership is verified during the registration process.

**To Register:** Complete the registration form found on our website at:
www.wseha.org/2013pregform.pdf

and send with payment to WSEHA, 103 Sea Pines Lane, Bellingham, WA 98229

Form may also be faxed with complete billing information to (360) 738-8949.

**Course Content Questions:**
Paul Reeves  
Olympia  
(360) 236-3386
Rick Dawson  
Kennewick  
(509) 460-4205
Dave DeLong  
Tacoma  
(253) 798-6499

**Registration Questions:**
Kerri Wagner (360) 738-8946 or kerri@wseha.org
Current Job Openings Posted on Our Website

**Education & Outreach Program Assistant**
Closing Date: February 22, 2013. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services; Location: Thurston County, Washington. This position assists with the organization and implementation of Department volunteer activities that include the Medical Reserve Corps and Emergency Preparedness and Response activities.

**Business Applications Analyst**
Closing Date: March 8, 2013. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services; Location: Thurston County, Washington. This position is housed within the Environmental Health Division and will work with on-site sewage, food, drinking water, water quality, and land use permitting and compliance staff.

If you have a job opening you would like listed on our website, please email our Executive Secretary at kerri@wseha.org with the job title, closing date, job description and application information (or a simple link will do).

The National Environmental Health Association’s 77th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition
July 9-11, 2013

AEC Venue & Hotel is the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport located at 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway in Arlington, Virginia.

Now Available: The NEHA 2013 AEC Brochure and Detailed Session Information
Download a copy of the brochure for the NEHA 2013 AEC.

Also review detailed information about the training and educational sessions and events being offered at the NEHA 2013 AEC online. You can browse sessions in a chronological list, by specific day, and/or by an environmental health topic area.