



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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Winter 2016

2017 AEC

Washington State Environmental Health Association 2017 Annual Educational Conference (AEC)

Wenatchee Conference Center May 1-3.

This year's theme: *TBD soon*

By Mark Toy, 2017 AEC Chair

This is my second time to chair the AEC. Most people who have done this have better sense than to do it twice but this time, Ruth Piccone has volunteered to assist as co-chair. In preparing this article, I re-read the first article I wrote for the 2013 AEC and portions of it are worth repeating:

"Environmental public health services and sanitation have been the backbone of public health in the United States since 1798 ... The first laws enacted to protect public health and ensure safety pertained to sanitation. Laws ensuring clean water, sewage management, and food service standards were promulgated 100 years before vaccination of children became law. As a result of proper sanitation, more than 80% of human disease has been eliminated."

The quote above comes from a 2003 CDC document titled *A National Strategy to Revitalize Environmental Public Health Services*. It was written in response to an assessment by CDC and others that there were not enough properly trained environmental public health specialists to adequately implement essential public health services and address new and emerging environmental health threats. This assessment is even more pertinent today with waves of baby boomer retirements, and growing impacts from climate change and new and emerging infections such as the Zika virus. At press time we still had not voted on a catchy theme title for the conference, but in honor of our 65th AEC, it will be something along the lines of succession planning and workforce development.

The stated goals of the AEC include:

- Providing a variety of educational opportunities to WSEHA members during the AEC,
- Identifying emerging environmental health issues that will require education and training,
- Establishing connections among environmental health professionals in all agencies and arenas, and
- Encouraging professional standards of practice

I have been encouraged since the preliminary call for volunteers went on the WSEHA website. The volunteer roster so far totals about 30 (many new volunteers!) and we have a much better lead time than last year. As detailed in that announcement, the AEC is returning east of the Cascades in 2017 to the Wenatchee Conference Center. Based on your feedback from the 2016 AEC, we have expanded the conference length to allow

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WSEHA Office Location and 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 - Michael Baker
509.397.6280
MichaelB@co.whitman.wa.us

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

Immediate Past President –Kay Massong
kmassong@hotmail.com

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
360.875.9356
mmcnelly@co.pacific.wa.us

All other committee chair positions are vacant

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

Next Newsletter Deadline:

March 31, 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 News

NEHA 2016 AEC and HUD Healthy Homes Conference Recorded Sessions. For those unable to attend the NEHA 2016 AEC and HUD Healthy Homes Conference, presented by Green & Healthy Homes Initiative in San Antonio, continuing education hours can be earned by viewing the recorded sessions from the conference. View the recorded sessions anytime or any place from your desktop and choose those of interest to you to meet the education requirements you need. Attendees of the conference automatically get FREE access to all recorded sessions to view sessions they may have missed. The sessions are also available to individuals who did not attend the conference. More than 24 hours of continuing education is available for only \$149/member or \$249/nonmember. - See more at: <http://neha.org/aec/recorded-sessions#sthash.hmsrf4wR.dpuf>

New NEHA Blog Entry: Health Impact Assessment and Environmental Health. Did you know that we have a blog dedicated to the environmental health professional? NEHA's "A Day in the Life of an EH Professional Blog" is a place to share ideas and cultivate discussion on the work and topics important to the profession. The most recently posted blog, [Health Impact Assessment: A New Way to Look at EH](#), is authored by NEHA's Dr. Sandra Whitehead and discusses a new tool that can help the profession. Check it out and share your thoughts!

NEHA Praises Proposed Environmental Health Bill Introduced by Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-MI). NEHA fully supports proposed landmark legislation, the Environmental Health Workforce Act of 2016, H.R. 5543, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5543>, introduced by Representative Brenda L. Lawrence (D-MI), and co-sponsored by Representatives Conyers (D-MI), and Kildee (D-MI). This bill will ensure that there is a consistent set of guidelines and standards for the training and education of environmental health professionals across the nation.

Currently, only 28 states require a credential for environmental health workers. "Credentialed environmental health practitioners, where they exist, have strong science degrees, routinely partner with the regulated community, and understand cultural sensitivities because they live in the communities in which they serve. These valuable workforce characteristics help ensure a healthy and prosperous society," said David Dyjack, NEHA Executive Director and CEO. "We are thrilled that Reps. Lawrence, Kildee, and Conyers recognize the incredibly important work of environmental health professionals for the health of our nation's citizens. This legislation will save money, save lives, and protect our children's future." Given the diversity and complexity of recent environmental health issues that have been a high priority for public safety – lead contaminated drinking water, food tainted with E. coli, and potential outbreaks of Zika virus, this legislation is a key component to ensuring a highly skilled workforce to find the best solutions and protect future generations of Americans.

NEHA Membership - [Join NEHA](#) and be part of an organization that fosters cooperation and understanding among environmental health professionals. Receive 10 issues of the [Journal of Environmental Health](#) (JEH) and find out why subscribers from some 53 countries around the world go to the Journal to stay current on the latest technological, legal, and research-based advancements in environmental health. Be proficient in the current and emerging issues with **NEHA credentials**, which signify a level of expertise and competency based on education and experience that is nationally recognized. NEHA members receive **discounts** on **credential** exam and renewal fees, have access to free NEHA e-Learning sessions, receive discounts for the NEHA AEC, the premiere environmental health education conference where you can network and learn with the best in your field. **Advance Your Career with a [NEHA Credential](#).**

TRAINING: FD207 FDA PLAN REVIEW FOR RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

WSEHA is partnering with DOH and FDA to bring you a 3-day Plan Review for Retail Food Establishments course! If you are a federal, state, local, territorial, or tribal official who is responsible for the plan review of retail food establishments and retail food stores, join us March 14-16, 2017, at the Tacoma Rhodes Center. This will be a face-to-face classroom course that involves a mix of instructor presentation and group and individual hands-on learning activities. The course content is divided into eight (8) modules, and each module is comprised of specific lessons and topics.

Exercises to support learning include practical application exercises to support learning outcomes in every lesson and include presentation or discussion of results. Exercises are designed to solicit discussion and encourage a thought process based on risk-assessment, rather than identify correct answers, as this course is based on best practice guidance and not on specific law or regulation. The course learning strategies include a blend of PowerPoint presentation, group discussion, group exercises, video presentation, and demonstration.

Seating is limited, so be sure to register soon! Registration costs are \$40 for WSEHA members and \$50 for non-members. Click [here](#) to register and find out other course information. If you have any questions, contact Dayna at dayna@wseha.org.

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for more networking opportunities with your fellow environmental public health professionals. The conference will officially start at lunch on Monday, May 1, and extend to lunch on Wednesday, May 3, allowing for travel time on each end. We've also secured a block of rooms at per diem rates at the Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel. For more information about the facility, visit their website: <https://www.coasthotels.com/hotels/washington/wenatchee/coast-wenatchee-center-hotel/>

As in 2013, I will try to post monthly updates on the WSEHA website to let you know how the AEC preparations are progressing. We have and will continue to do outreach with senior State and local environmental health managers to design the conference to encourage attendance, and we will actively solicit speakers on topics we feel are of interest to our membership.

So please:

Visit the WSEHA website regularly for AEC updates.

Submit an abstract (forms will be available on our website soon) if you have something you think is worth sharing with your colleagues, or drop us a message if there's a topic you'd really like to see presented.

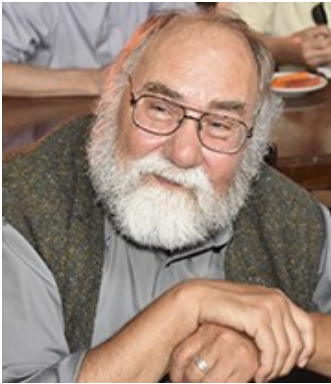
Register for the AEC when we send out the preliminary program in the beginning of 2017, and

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!

CHUCK TRESER, NOW RETIRED, STILL TEACHES

Adapted from a University of Washington Faculty Profile written by Elizabeth Sharpe



Charles (Chuck) Treser retired this summer from the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences in the University of Washington School of Public Health, where he has been on faculty for the past 36 years. Now a principal lecturer emeritus, he continues to teach.

Treser loves to talk about Ireland, where he has gone to visit nearly 15 times. An old farm about 45 minutes by car from Cork keeps his suitcase between his visits. It's there he returned for another month-long sojourn after celebrating his retirement.

Treser has been a sanitarian for 46 years. After he finished serving in the military, he took a position at the Allegheny County Health Department in Pittsburgh. One of his first assignments was a model cities' program to regenerate neighborhoods. Later, he took a year off to get a master's degree in environmental and occupational health from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, which was the number one university in public health at the time.

Jack Hatlen helped recruit Treser to the University of Washington as a lecturer and program manager for a distance-learning program in environmental health in 1980. With Hatlen, Treser helped start the Association for Environmental Health Academic Programs in 1999 and was the first president. Through this association, they connected with environmental health programs across the country and established an accreditation council.

"Chuck was always volunteering," Hatlen remembers. Treser was a marshal in the University's commencement for 27 years. He chaired committees in the American Public Health Association. He was president of the Washington State Public Health Association and had several terms as secretary of the Washington State Environmental Health Association. He chaired the National Conference of Local Environmental Health Administrators.

He was elected a diplomate in the American Academy of Sanitarians and received the John P. Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award from the Washington State Environmental Health Association. He received a leadership award from Public Health Seattle & King County. He was honored by the Public Health Practice Program Office at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and received a Distinguished Service Award from the American Public Health Association. The list of awards he's received covers more than one page in his curriculum vitae.

Treser connected with people. He built relationships. That translated well for the undergraduates who he helped find internships. Since 2005, he advised 240 undergraduates during their internship experience, required for graduation for the BS degree.

He continues to remain active even into his retirement. He is a public health professional deeply invested in healthy housing. This fall he is back to teaching classes on this subject he holds dear.