



# WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MIKE YOUNG

We are looking forward to the Annual Educational Conference in Yakima this spring. People have stepped up and proposed interesting presentations. We have talks from Washington State Department of Health, Department of Ecology, Local Health Jurisdictions and others. This year we may have a record number of talks from Local Health Jurisdictions. Good job people; this is your event and you should be active in it. There are all kind of reasons people come to this conference:

- People realize that they need to share important work with their colleagues, to work out common problems and share successes. If this is you, consider giving a talk at a future AEC.
- New people may ask, what kind of Environmental Health work is right for me? They should come to the AEC, find out what others are doing in your profession. Socialize with your fellow cohorts, or potential mentors. Want even more? Volunteer to be a leader.
- Want to learn about the future? Look for trends. Sometimes change comes fast, sometime it's slow. Keeping in contact with professionals from other counties, or other agencies, is a good way to look for trends that may affect your area eventually.

The field of Environmental Health changes all the time, mostly to meet the needs of our community. Our focus on protecting people from threats to their health changes when there are new issues found in the environment. Many of us think that Environmental Health is an occupation that includes inspections of food establishments, recreation sites, drinking water systems, and managing waste streams, in accordance with regulations. However, policy, regulations, and the available resources all can change as perception of environmental threats change.

Considering our Annual Education Conference theme, which is: "Environmental Public Health: The foundation to a healthy community." The addition of "Public" to Environmental Health is a subtle change, which may not just be semantics, but a trend. It appears we are following the language of the Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) on their "Journey to foundational public health services." As many Local Health Jurisdictions have become accredited, or moving toward that goal, this process may change the whole profession.

Although I'm not an expert about this subject, it appears that this movement of the PHNCI is to bring many changes for our occupation. I hope that Environmental "Public" Health will facilitate more focus on improving communication, identify partners, and make us more ready with emergency plans when action is needed. I also hope it will facilitate more land use planning and sustainable development. Perhaps we will have to consider changing our association name to WSEPHA.

The future looks exciting and please join us in Yakima May 6<sup>th</sup>.

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[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](http://wseha.org) to join the mailing list or email Megan McNelly at [megan@wseha.org](mailto:megan@wseha.org).

## Next Newsletter Deadline:

May 31, 2019

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.

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## MEET MEGAN, WSEHA'S NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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Hello! I'm the new Executive Secretary for WSEHA. I've been involved with WSEHA as the Publications chair and also as an AEC volunteer for a number of years. If you've been to an AEC (you should really go!), you may have seen me around the registration table. Or around the cookies.

I'm looking forward to working with WSEHA in a more involved capacity. In what I'm sure is a familiar story to many of you, I had no clue of what environmental health was before I was hired as an EHS. Now, I visit places and wonder where in the world they put their septic system, the last time this restaurant was inspected, or admire the walkability of a neighborhood.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you! I'll be at the upcoming Tacoma Pool Conference and the AEC. Feel free to come up and say hi. I tend to have a serious resting face so don't let that deter you – I'm really not scary. I'd love to hear if you have any suggestions on growing or improving WSEHA; my email is [megan@wseha.org](mailto:megan@wseha.org) or if you prefer to call, the number is 360.875.8058.



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## 2019 POOL AND SPA CONFERENCES: JUN NAOTSUKA

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The 42<sup>nd</sup> Pool and Spa Conferences will be held in two locations and the registration is currently open. Those who are interested can find more information and the registration form here: <https://www.wseha.org/pool-conferences>.

The conference on the west side of the state is held at the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department on March 19<sup>th</sup>. The venue on the east side is the Benton-Franklin Health District in Kennewick, and the date is April 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year, we are covering many new topics including drowning statics, drowning case studies, advanced pool engineering, entrapment hazards and the VGB law, advanced pool disinfection, and the roles that the state and local health departments play.

The drowning case studies will be presented by local health inspectors who conducted the investigations themselves. The two guest speakers on the west side are Amanda Zych with the Snohomish Health District and Cindy Marshall from the Seattle and King County Public Health. The guest speaker on the east side is Mellissa Schumaier from Kittitas County Public Health. Drowning incidents (fatal and nonfatal combined) at regulated pools and spas are rare in the state, but when they happen, it is devastating, and it calls for a thorough investigation. We can all learn from the experience these inspectors had and be more prepared to respond to drowning and other injury incidents or use the information to prevent similar incidents from happening as operators and public health professionals. This is only possible because of the willingness of those guest speakers. They will have very interesting stories to share.

All of these new topics will enhance the knowledge and skills of the pool operators and inspectors alike and can be applied to their day-to-day operations and activities. There will be much more information that is more advanced and in-depth compared to the previous conferences, and it will challenge even the most experienced pool inspectors. This is the first time that DOH and WSEHA offer advanced-level Pool and Spa Conferences. We encourage all those who inspect, operate, and own pools and spas to attend this conference. If you have any questions about the content of the conference, please contact Jun Naotsuka, DOH Water Recreation Program Manager at [jun.naotsuka@doh.wa.gov](mailto:jun.naotsuka@doh.wa.gov) or 360-236-3073. If you have questions about how to register, CEU credits, certificates of completion, etc. please contact Megan McNelly at [megan@wseha.org](mailto:megan@wseha.org) or 360-875-8058. If you are wanting to attend, please register soon.

See you all there!

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## 2019 AEC UPDATE: LIZ COLEMAN

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The 2019 AEC Conference is quickly approaching! Scheduled May 6 – 8, 2019 at the Yakima Convention Center, we're putting together an amazing line-up of speakers and presentations, with ample time for networking with your colleagues from around the state.

If you have not yet registered, the time is now. Early bird registration ends March 31, 2019. You can register by going to: <https://www.wseha.org/2019-annual-education-conference>.

We are encouraging previous conference attendees to bring any AEC tote bag from a past conference for use during the AEC. While putting your commitment to environmental stewardship and living your values on full display should be rewarding in itself, we will additionally reward those who bring an old AEC bag with **an extra drink ticket**, good for use during the Monday night social and poster session! Haven't attended before or lost your bag? No worries, there will still be bags available as part of your registration.

On that note, Monday evening, immediately following the final session for the day we will have our annual networking event. All conference attendees will receive a ticket good for one drink during the social hour. Light appetizers, music, local beer and wine options paired with great conversation as you browse the posters, what could make the night better? Receiving an additional drink ticket by bringing an old AEC bag!

While 2019 conference details are nearly final, we are already looking to planning for 2020. Jamie Zorich from Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department has volunteered to chair the 2020 AEC. She has already become a vital part of planning the current AEC as the co-chair and I am thrilled to be working with her!

If you'd also like to join the team for the 2019 AEC, it's not too late! We need volunteers to work the registration table, silent auction room or moderate sessions. Send an email to [megan@wshea.org](mailto:megan@wshea.org) to let her know.

Looking forward to catching up with everyone in Yakima soon!

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## AEC AWARDS NOMINATIONS: LARRY FRENCH

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March 15, 2019 is the deadline for nominating your colleagues for one of WSEHA's prestigious recognition awards. To date, we have received 1, yes 1, nomination.

I find this very disappointing when I look at all the amazing new faces in our organization (Rookie of the Year?), look at the amazing work within your jurisdictions (Environmental Health Professional of the Year?), and look at the successful partnerships built between agencies that led to important improvement in Washington's environmental health (John P. Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award?).

Yes, we are all busy, very busy, but 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.

Just think back to the last time you received a "well done" or other praise for work that you have done. It feels great and makes you want to work even harder to improve our communities.

Please take your time before March 15<sup>th</sup> and nominate a deserving environmental health professional.

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

Larry French  
WSEHA AEC Awards and Nominations Committee Chair  
[teamseattle@comcast.net](mailto:teamseattle@comcast.net)

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## TIDYING UP? DONATE YOUR BEST ITEMS TO A GREAT CAUSE: ASHLEE-ROSE FERGUSON

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Are you doing a bit of Spring cleaning or already underway to see if your stuff sparks joy? If you think someone else will find more joy out of a nice item, then donate it to the 2019 International Health Committee (IHC) Silent Auction/Raffle being held at this year's Annual Education Conference! More details about the auction/raffle below after introducing this year's recipient:

**200 Orphanages Worldwide:** They are a Washington-based non-profit organization that is focused on providing safety, shelter, and sustainability to orphaned children around the world. Some of their most recent projects include building a well in Burundi providing clean water to students and members of the community and purchasing two buffaloes to ensure clean and safe milk for an orphanage in India where local news sources reported that milk supplies were being mixed with harmful chemicals. Their current projects include raising funds for installing three greenhouses, power grids, an irrigation system, and purchasing cows and sheep for an orphanage in Tanzania. Read more about this wonderful organization here: <https://www.200orphanagesworldwide.org/>. 200 Orphanages Worldwide are very appreciative and excited to be this year's IHC Silent Auction/Raffle recipient!

So how can YOU help 200 Orphanages Worldwide? **Donate, Bid/Purchase Raffle Tickets, or Volunteer**

If you're interested in donating after tidying up, here are some ideas for personal donations:

- Gently used books
- Plants
- Beautiful artwork and decor
- Other unique items or memorabilia

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:

- Contact local businesses to see if they can donate anything 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!

**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!**

**The Annual Raffle Competition has two categories:**

1. **Most Money Raised and**
2. **Most Creative.**

Which LHJ is ready to beat the reigning champs of Thurston County for Most Money Raised for their Local Thurston Treats gift basket?! We also have a Most Creative category where Mark Toy with the Adorable Germs and How to Kill Them gift basket is the one to beat! Some of the themes from last year to give you ideas: Car Care Basket, Gardening Basket, and Food & Wine Basket.

(Continued on next page)

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## TIDYING UP? (CONTINUED)

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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 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](mailto:internationalhealth.wseha@gmail.com) or 360-480-0498!

Thank you for your time and interest in helping a great cause. Hope to see you at the 2019 IHC Silent Auction/Raffle!



*Children at orphanage, India*



*Water well,  
Haiti*



*Outdoor steam kitchen, Rwanda*



*Solar water heater, India*

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## IN REMEMBRANCE OF MARY FERLUGA: SALLY WATERS

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Mary Ferluga passed away after a lengthy illness in Feb. 2019. She worked for Benton Franklin Health District starting in 1984 and eventually took a job working with DOH in Food Safety. She was well known throughout the state during her years in food protection. Mary was very knowledgeable in all aspects of food safety and was always willing to help out. She will be greatly missed.

There was nothing about food safety and protection that Mary didn't know. We all appreciated that and the fact that she was always helpful and ready to share her knowledge.