



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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Spring 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Tom Kunesh



*Spring is almost here
An optimistic time of year
When the flower bulbs pop
And Covid case rates drop
Time to let go of the fear*



OK so I am not a world-renowned poet. I am truly optimistic about many things:

- The NEHA/WSEHA AEC will be an in-person event this year
- Environmental Health professionals can get back to the jobs we were hired for
- Foundational Public Health funding means lots of new staff at local and state agencies
- Broader recognition of the good work we do every day
- Seeing people smile again with masking mandates relaxed
- And just maybe seeing you all in Spokane, in person soon

Now that I've said all of that, let's talk about ways you can help. These asks may sound familiar...:

- ▶ Nominate a colleague for an award. Have you watched someone around you shine? Do you think they deserve recognition for the outstanding work they do? If so, consider nominating a colleague for an award. See this link to nominate someone today: <https://www.wseha.org/awards-wseha-board-nominations>
- ▶ Nominate someone to serve on the WSEHA Board. We have three open positions: East Region VP, NW region VP, and President-elect. You can even nominate yourself! <https://www.wseha.org/awards-wseha-board-nominations>
- ▶ Renew your WSEHA membership. If your membership has lapsed, please renew today. Membership has rewards – WSEHA members pay up to \$355.00 less for 2022 NEHA AEC registration.
- ▶ Sign up to volunteer at the AEC. Look for opportunities to help as a room moderator or with the International Health Committee Auction and Raffle.
- ▶ Collaborate with colleagues to procure and auction item or prepare a raffle basket.

Thanks for being there.

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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 to join the mailing list or email Megan McNelly at megan@wseha.org.

Next Newsletter Deadline:

July 30, 2022

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.

AEC 2022 Update

Registration is open for the 2022 NEHA/WSEHA Annual Education Conference! **Remember to renew your WSEHA membership to receive a steep registration discount!** WSEHA members save \$180.00 compared to the NEHA member rate and \$355.00 over the non-member rate. WSEHA members can also register at the discounted rate through May 27, over 1 month after the NEHA early bird rate expires. You will never again have an opportunity to attend a NEHA conference at these prices.

By partnering with NEHA, WSEHA members will have full access to all 13 educational tracks. Ten tracks will be in person and 3 will be available to virtual attendees. Two full in person tracks will feature 100% Washington content.

Our International Health committee is cooking up another fun auction and raffle event to support Project Ethiopia. See our web page for more details: <https://www.wseha.org/international-health>

Our Social Committee is cooking up an evening of cornhole, music, and fun. Team sign-ups are available so go register now! We'll be raffling a special basket during the tournament and a food and beverage gift card for use at the tournament will be raffled on the first day (proceeds to the IHC) so don't miss out!



If you haven't attended a NEHA conference in the past, this is your year!



Check out page 5 to see how to get you or a co-workers in one of these photos!



International Health Committee Auction

The 2022 AEC is fast approaching and IHC needs YOUR help to raise funds for Project Ethiopia at this year's silent auction/raffle!


Based in Seattle, [Project Ethiopia](#) works in the Dangla region in a remote area of northwest Ethiopia where other aid money often does not reach. Side by side with community partners, they create hope and opportunity through education, healthy homes, and economic resilience.

Funds from this year's silent auction and raffle will help support projects that provide safe drinking water, ensure children have access to education, build homes that support health and sanitation, and implement innovative strategies related to sustainable farming and production.

How can YOU help support Project Ethiopia?



- * Donate to the silent auction! Items in the past have included:

 getaways handmade items books
 gift cards tools gently used items & memorabilia

- * Raffle baskets! It's time to get competitive and creative! IHC is encouraging all WSEHA board members, LHJs, and any individual with a creative spirit to donate your best raffle gift basket. Who will take home the awards for most creative basket and most money raised?

Please also feel free to make direct monetary donations at the auction by using the following link:



Any additional questions about donating, volunteer opportunities, or the upcoming auction can be directed to Layken Winchester, IHC Chair.

Thank you for your time and help in supporting Project Ethiopia! Looking forward to a great silent auction/raffle at this year's AEC!

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WSEHA Awards/Scholarship: Who is YOUR Nomination?

Each year, members of our Association have the opportunity to nominate deserving individuals for their exemplary efforts in our field of Environmental Health. Our committee needs your help.

Below is a “Cliff’s Notes” version of potential awards. There is also a link below to our WSEHA website where full details are available. **Remember that our offer is still valid – we will help you complete the nomination application. All you need to do is email one of us on the Awards and Scholarships Committee.** Awards will be presented as we cohost our AEC with NEHA. That is awesome!



- Who’s that WSEHA member who has reached out beyond your office or agency? They may have worked on a regional or national project that benefited environmental health as well as other fields and jurisdictions. That person would be an excellent candidate for nomination for the **John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award**.
- Or perhaps you have worked with someone, an Association member or not, who has spearheaded a project or program that benefited your jurisdiction and our field of environmental health. Their work may have included others in your offices as well as other agencies. That person could be recognized with the **Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award**.
- And let’s not forget those up-and-coming stars in your office and in your programs. We need to acknowledge these colleagues who have been on the job less than two years and have demonstrated a level of professionalism and dedication that makes them an asset to our profession. These are our **Rookies of the Year**.
- We even have an Honorary Membership for a non-WSEHA individual who has had a positive impact on our profession.

The **Jack B Hatlen President’s Award** is an honor decided by the Association’s current president, the president elect, and the immediate past president. It emphasizes excellence made for our Association as well as our profession. If you have ideas for this award, contact one of these Association positions.

And we cannot forget our future. The **Cind M Treser Memorial Student Scholarships** are available to those studying Environmental Health and related fields. Our committee reaches out to Washington colleges and universities for applicants.

Our committee and your Association need your help with this. For more information on these honors, click here <https://www.wseha.org/awards>

We are more than happy to assist you with the nomination application. Just contact us.

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