



## Are You Tracking?

If someone called you and wanted information on environmental exposures and birth outcomes, or asthma and air quality, where would you go? This is a real scenario since environmental hazards are becoming more recognized as contributors to various chronic diseases, illnesses, and injuries. Environmental exposures affect health conditions such as asthma, certain cancers, lead poisoning and more. The Washington State Department of Health wanted to provide a tool with access to environmental data and outcomes. With funding from the CDC, they developed the **Washington Tracking Network**. CDC funds also supported development of the Community Health Assessment Tool (**CHAT**), which provides restricted access to more detailed health data.



Recent additions to the Washington Tracking Network include an expansion of indicators and an increase in the years of data available. The current list of Indicators include: air quality, asthma, birth defects, birth outcomes, cancer, carbon monoxide, drinking water, heart attack, lead and risk exposure, and population characteristics. Our next portal development phase will focus on the addition of new and expanded content, beginning with injury data.

Washington Tracking Network topics currently address CDC requirements, while the content in CHAT specifically addresses local health jurisdiction assessment needs. Washington Tracking Network and CHAT use web-based query tools to improve data handling, storage, and access to public and restricted data.

To start tracking go to [www.wtn.doh.wa.gov](http://www.wtn.doh.wa.gov). For more information on this project, please contact Annie Merritt at 360-236-3179 or [annie.merritt@doh.wa.gov](mailto:annie.merritt@doh.wa.gov)

*Coming Soon in October...*

*Certified Pool Operator  
(CPO) Course  
for Local Health  
Jurisdiction Staff*

*Inside...*

**Children's Environmental Health Training  
in Spokane on August 24th - Page 5**

## WSEHA Office Location and Contact Information

103 Sea Pines Lane  
Bellingham, WA 98229-9363  
Website: [www.wseha.org](http://www.wseha.org)  
Phone (360) 738-8946  
Fax (360) 738-8949  
Kerri Wagner, Executive Secretary  
[kerri@wseha.org](mailto:kerri@wseha.org)

## WSEHA Board of Directors

### President

Geoffrey Crofoot (425) 339-5250  
[Gcrofoot@shd.snohomish.wa.gov](mailto:Gcrofoot@shd.snohomish.wa.gov)

### President Elect (Vacant)

**Immediate Past President**  
Bruce Scherling (509) 427-8833  
[bruiserlarue33@yahoo.com](mailto:bruiserlarue33@yahoo.com)

**Secretary**  
Vikki Barthels (509) 324-1475  
[vbarthels@spokanecounty.org](mailto:vbarthels@spokanecounty.org)

**Treasurer**  
Steve Garrett (360) 748-7977  
[backquackers@yahoo.com](mailto:backquackers@yahoo.com)

**Central Regional Vice President**  
James Rivard (509) 962-7005  
[James.Rivard@co.kittitas.wa.us](mailto:James.Rivard@co.kittitas.wa.us)

**Eastern Regional Vice President**  
Michael Baker (509) 397-6280  
[Michael.baker@whitmancounty.net](mailto:Michael.baker@whitmancounty.net)

**Northwest Regional Vice President  
(Vacant)**

**Olympic Regional Vice President**  
Jodie Holdcroft (360) 337-5629  
[holdcj@health.co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:holdcj@health.co.kitsap.wa.us)

**Southwest Regional Vice President**  
Michael Vinatieri  
[mvinatieri@hotmail.com](mailto:mvinatieri@hotmail.com)

## WSEHA Committees Chairs

**Policy and Procedures Committee**  
Ned Therien (360) 236-4103  
[Ned.therien@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Ned.therien@doh.wa.gov)

**International Health**  
Ross Lytle (360) 337-5677  
[lytler@health.co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:lytler@health.co.kitsap.wa.us)

**Nominations and Awards**  
Joe Graham (360) 236-3305  
[Joe.graham@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Joe.graham@doh.wa.gov)

## Table of Contents

Are You Tracking? . . . . .	1
President's Message . . . . .	3
Thank-you, Tom Kunes. . . . .	4
Children's Environmental Health Training . . . . .	5
SEHA - Student Environmental Health Association . . . . .	6
Pint Glasses. . . . .	6
Attention: Northwest Region WSEHA Members . . . . .	7
What is a Sustaining Membership? . . . . .	7
WSEHA Membership Application . . . . .	8

## Next Newsletter Deadline:

**Monday, October 31, 2011**

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](mailto: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.

---

## President's Message

---



**By Geoffrey  
Crofoot**

**WSEHA  
President**

Change. Change is good. Change is healthy, right?

Well at the very least change is exciting, or can be.

With change pressing, I sorted my old desk out and took with me only the essentials. I cleaned out the detritus of the years from the dark corners of my desk so that someone new will have a better-than-I-found-it location to setup shop. I did a little reminiscing when I came across long forgotten artifacts from my earlier days in Environmental Health and admittedly, a tear passed the corner of my eye. After it all, I switched off the light and walked straight out of my cubical without closing the door (because there isn't one) and didn't look back.

I've made a West to East move.

Now, I'm just about one month into new work within the Environmental Health field.

I can tell you it's been a rush of: learning (processes, equipment, styles, techniques, regulations...) every day, dealing with new challenges, overcoming perceptions long held, letting go of old and tiring energy, building new relations and reconnecting with the honest, professional work that Environmental Health is.

From the perspective of a newer person (to the team), I'm excited to see opportunity for personal growth and professional development. It is from this new perspective that I

am reminded of the opportunity for growth and career change within Environmental Health. Opportunity is, perhaps, one of the field's most alluring attributes. Within just about any local health jurisdiction, there are generally the three traditional fields to choose from or move into. Outside of local, public work, there are state and federal-level opportunities. Then, there are the private sector and potentially international work as options too. But, perhaps all too often the thought is, "Yeah, but nobody ever really changes." Well, I'm here representing a little reminder that people do actually move and change.

With new work challenges and different infectious agents to consider, I am again reminded of our professional work and how important it is. I find myself asking, "How many people do I know", besides the folks I work with, "whose job it is to prevent disease?" Or perhaps, "What other profession strives to improve the health of people by attempting to improve the conditions which they encounter daily?" I've found the answers invariably to be, respectively, "Only a handful" and "A select few."

Change brings daily reminders of the investigational nature of environmental health. My new manager likes to talk about the root causes of a situation. I really like this idea. It is the root cause of infection that we seek to discover in order to effect protective change. I've touched on, previously, the professional nature of our work. Seeking the root cause of a problem is, indeed, the root of our professional work. It is our professional ability to look at a relatively mundane situation and perceive the true reasons, beyond the superficial, which are causal in why something is going sideways. That ability, my friends, isn't on the checklist. The skill to take in signals, clues, interviews and data, process it all and get to the bottom of a situation is truly the mark of a professional and why we are Registered Sanitarians. I am reminded of this.

Finally, change helped me to remember that our mission is to prevent disease. We help build a stronger society by helping our population stay healthy. For many years I served the public working to prevent disease in the Solid Waste and Toxics arena of Environmental Health.

Today, I greet you from a different program and point of view; the venerable Food Safety Program at the Snohomish Health District.

---

## Thank-you, Tom Kunesh! By Geoffrey Crofoot, WSEHA President

---



**Tom Kunesh**, Whatcom County Health Department

Members of the Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA), it is with a degree of regret and sadness that I announce the departure of Tom Kunesh from the WSEHA Board of Directors.

Tom has served WSEHA for years with effective leadership, distinction and honor. I am pleased to have had him as a Board member, a professional peer and a friend. The Environmental Health profession is fortunate to count a sanitarian of Tom's caliber among its ranks and Whatcom County residents continue to be lucky to have him watching out for them.

Tom explained in his resignation from the Board that he is committed to doing good work and not just holding titles. He explained that commitments closer to home and family have called upon his time and as a result, he decided to step away from WSEHA. I respect his honesty and honor his choice.

As such, I speak for the WSEHA Board when I say, thanks and good luck with all of your future endeavors. I'm sure that all who will have the opportunity to work with Tom will benefit from having Tom as a part of their organization.

With Tom's departure a door of opportunity opens for others who wish to test their leadership abilities. While Tom did exceptional work for WSEHA, there is still room for change and improvement. So, if you know Tom, and his hard-working reputation, and you have a desire to become the next great Northwest Regional Vice President, [please contact me directly](#). The open position in the Northwest region represents the opportunity for change and contribution. I look forward to speaking with you!

Once again, thank you Tom Kunesh for your energy and all of your efforts.

### Get Involved with your professional organization!!

#### Current Openings:

- ▶ President Elect
- ▶ Northwest Regional Vice President
- ▶ Many other exciting opportunities for leadership

Interested members, please contact [Geoffrey Crofoot](#).





The Washington State Environmental Health Association  
and  
The Collaborative on Health and the Environment - WA Chapter  
*Present*



## **Children's Environmental Health Training**

**Spokane: Wednesday, August 24, 2011, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm**

**Registration deadline is Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Registration must be received at the WSEHA office by this date or on-site registration is required.**

**Location: Spokane Regional Health District, Room 402, Check-in: 8:15 am – 8:30 am**

**Course Content:** Children spend a large portion of their time in their home, and this training will focus on providing safe, healthy, lead-free environments for young children in and around their homes. During this 6-hour course, you and your colleagues will discuss the connections between housing and children's environmental health and participate in case studies designed to strengthen your ability to identify and resolve common children's environmental health issues.

**NOTE:** This is a Fragrance-Free event.

**Learning Objectives:** After participating in this session, attendees will be able to...

- describe how their current work activities have a positive impact on children's environmental health.
- identify and remediate common home environmental health hazards.
- describe possible sources of lead exposure, including ethnic remedies, among children in Washington.
- discuss recommendations for future public health activities at the state and local levels to improve children's environmental health.

**Who should attend?** The course is designed to meet the needs of public health practitioners who visit homes to provide health or inspection services or who work with children and want to learn more about how the environment affects children's health.

**Presenters:** The presenter panel draws from the Washington State Department of Health, the American Lung Association, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Washington State Department of Ecology, and the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County. Produced as a partnership between the Washington State Environmental Health Association and the Children's Environmental Health Working Group of the Collaborative on Health and the Environment - Washington Chapter.

**How much does it cost? \$25.00.** This fee includes lunch. Please note the registration deadline is August 19th and registration must be received at the WSEHA office by this date or on-site registration is required. On-site registration is **\$35.00**.

**How do I register?** To register, please complete this [registration form](http://www.wseha.org/ChildrensEHTrainingReg.pdf) (follow link [www.wseha.org/ChildrensEHTrainingReg.pdf](http://www.wseha.org/ChildrensEHTrainingReg.pdf)) and submit with payment to: WSEHA, 103 Sea Pines Lane, Bellingham, WA 98229-9363. Registration forms may also be faxed to (360) 738-8949 only with complete billing information.

---

# SEHA - Student Environmental Health Association

By Anna Fretheim, University of Washington

---

SEHA ended the school year by finishing up painting the bus mural. It now decorates the bus stop across from the UW Bookstore, raising awareness about the major and environmental health in general!



In April, several of us volunteered as judges at a Garfield High School ecology class presentation, where students presented their research and received feedback. Later that month, students from Garfield went on a class trip to UW. SEHA members volunteered to guide them through the UW School of Public Health and engaged in dialogue with them about environmental health and various aspects of college in general. In addition, we were invited to attend a free screening of Forks over Knives, a documentary that explores the potential health effects of eating animal products.

Several of our members graduated in June and are off to achieve great things. Tiana Nizamic is attending the UW School of Medicine, and is already taking classes there this summer. Kendra Broadwater will be going to the University of Michigan to earn an MPH in Industrial Hygiene, and Lani Gabriel just started her new job in an Environmental Health lab in Bellingham.



## Pint Glasses...

The Student Environmental Health Association is selling pint glasses! \$5 gets you a glass with the SEHA design on it. Anna will have them with her at the next board meeting!



---

## Attention: Northwest Region WSEHA Members

---

Greetings colleagues,

As you are aware, I have served as your Washington State Environmental Health Association Northwest Region Vice President for the past several years and have been active in organizing training for WSEHA since 2003. At our most recent Board of Directors meeting, I announced my resignation from the Regional Vice President position, effective June 15, 2011. Family commitments require me to focus my efforts closer to home for the next few years.

As a result, **our organization now needs one of you** to step forward and fill the NW Region VP position on our Board of Directors. The job duties are simple:

- Attend Board meetings either in person or by phone every other month.
- With the assistance of our Executive Secretary, Kerri Wagner, carry out the business of operating our professional organization.
- Assist in planning and organizing continuing education opportunities for all environmental health professionals across the state.

These things are important to all of us. Our organization is powered by the volunteer efforts of its members. Serving on the Board of Director's provides experience worthy of bragging about on your resume as well. If you take a look through the list of past board members, you will see that they include the most respected leaders in our profession.

If this sounds like an opportunity you cannot pass up, contact Geoffrey Crofoot (WSEHA President) at **425.339.5250** or [geofoot@mac.com](mailto:geofoot@mac.com).

It has been an honor to serve our organization. I am available to answer questions if you are interested.--tk

Tom Kunesh, R.S.

---

### What is a Sustaining Membership?

---

**Sustaining Membership:** Sustaining membership is offered at the discretion of the Board to those individuals, firms or organizations, who have interests and objectives compatible with those of this Association. Sustaining members shall be offered to be **listed** on the Association's web site. A sustaining membership authorizes a firm or organization to pay the membership registration rate for up to **four** representatives per Association training event. This membership category is \$250 per year.

---

## Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA)

### Membership Application

WSEHA is a nonprofit professional and educational organization. It was established in 1946 to provide a forum for dialogue and a vehicle for advanced training opportunities. WSEHA enhances individual and collective expertise, promotes professional growth, and revitalizes Environmental Health endeavors. The Association is enriched by the diversity of ideas and orientations of its members, who represent both the public and private sectors.

#### Categories of Membership (please mark next to the category that applies)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Regular Membership (\$50.00)** - Persons who are active in the field of environmental health or related educational activities, who have a bachelors degree from an accredited college or university.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Associated Membership (\$50.00)** - Persons who are active in the field of environmental health or related educational activities, but who do not meet the requirements of regular membership.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Student Membership (\$5.00)** - Persons who are working towards a bachelor or higher degree in sanitary science, public health, environmental health, or related academic field.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Subscribing Membership (\$20.00)** - Persons residing outside of the state of Washington whose principal membership benefit is receiving the WSEHA Newsletter and other generally distributed information.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Affiliate Membership (\$75.00)** - Professional or civic organizations which share the goals and objectives of WSEHA and wish to improve communications and coordination of mutual programs.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sustaining Membership (\$250.00)** - Persons or organizations that are interested in supporting WSEHA and its goals and objectives.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Emeritus Membership (\$5.00)** - May be awarded by the WSEHA Board of Directors to persons who have been active in the field of environmental health for at least 25 years, including at least 6 years as a member of WSEHA, and who have retired because of age or disability.

---

First Name	MI	Last Name	Degree(s)
------------	----	-----------	-----------

---

Job Title	Agency/Organization
-----------	---------------------

---

Work Address	City	State/Zip
--------------	------	-----------

---

Work Phone	Fax Number	E-mail (for newsletter and other WSEHA information)
------------	------------	---

---

Home Address	City	State/Zip
--------------	------	-----------

\_\_\_\_\_ Use as my primary mailing address: ( ) Work ( ) Home  
Alternative E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and will abide by the WSEHA Code of Ethics found at <http://www.wseha.org/CodeofEthics.pdf>.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to WSEHA and mail to: WSEHA, 103 Sea Pines Lane, Bellingham, WA 98229-9363. Memberships expire one year from the date issued and are non-transferable.

---