



WSEHA NEWSLETTER

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Volume 62 No. 1

Spring 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hey WSEHA,

I hope you're enjoying the longer, warmer days of spring.

Big news: this year, we're partnering with the Washington State Public Health Association to host a **Joint Annual Educational Conference (AEC)**. WSPHA's vision—*a healthy Washington for all*—aligns closely with our work, and this partnership is an opportunity for new connections across public and environmental health.

The conference will take place **October 13–15, 2026** at the Wenatchee Convention Center. It will follow a familiar format (half-day, full-day, half-day), but on a larger scale than we're used to. There will be **nine total tracks**, including **three dedicated to WSEHA**. You are encouraged to attend and present across both WSEHA and WSPHA sessions.

Why a joint conference? Like many organizations, we're navigating a year with budget constraints and travel limitations affecting our members and their agencies. The boards of both associations recognized that our traditional, standalone conferences might be challenging. But we also understand that the AEC remains essential. We discussed the concept and agreed while there is uncertainty around participation this year, a partnership would allow us to bring members together for meaningful education, networking, and collaboration.

This wasn't a decision we made lightly. Both boards carefully considered the opportunities and challenges around coordinating at this scale, trying something new, and bridging two distinct but related professions. In the end, we chose to move forward as equal partners in planning and decision-making. Think of this year as a thoughtful experiment—and an exciting chance to learn from our colleagues across public health.

What does this mean for you?

WSEHA will maintain strong ownership of our three tracks, including format, speakers, and content. At the same time, this is our moment to show up and represent environmental health.

We're actively looking for:

- **Presenters**
- **Planning Committee volunteers**

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WSEHA Committee Chairs

Nominations and Awards Committee—Emily Hovis
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Publications Committee—VACANT

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Like [WSEHA’s Facebook page](#) ! Stay up-to-date with the 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:
Summer 2026**

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.



JOINT CONFERENCE

Wenatchee, WA | Oct. 13-15, 2026



PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS

We are now accepting submissions to present at the 2026 Joint Conference held at the Wenatchee Convention Center from October 13-15, 2026.

All public health and environmental public health topics are encouraged.

Before submitting a proposal, presenters must agree to the following:

- The person listed as the primary presenter must attend and present at the conference.
- Presentations can have 4 speakers total.
- All presenters must purchase a conference registration and arrange their own lodging.
- Those unable to purchase a registration are encouraged to apply for a scholarship.
- Workshops **MUST** have an interactive group component.

Notifications of status (ACCEPTED, ALTERNATE, or DECLINED) will be sent by **Mid-July, 2026**.

APPLY HERE BY JUNE 5, 2026

Questions? Email: info@wspha.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *cont*

If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to Megan McNelly, WSEHA Executive Secretary. If you're ready to present or show a poster, you can submit your [proposal online](#).

Registration details are still being finalized. While fees may be slightly higher than last year, we are working to keep costs as manageable as possible.

Additional WSEHA news:

We currently have a vacancy on the board for the **Northwest Regional Vice President**, representing Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties. We are also holding an election for our Secretary position this year. If you've been considering getting more involved, this is a great opportunity to step in. The **President-Elect** position open as well.

We're looking forward to what this year brings—and to seeing many of you in Wenatchee.

- *Jeremy Simmons*

WSEHA BOARD NOMINATIONS

nominations open until August 14, 2026

Positions Open:

- Northwest Regional VP
- Secretary (even years)
- President-Elect

KNOW MORE AT

[HTTPS://WWW.WSEHA.ORG/WSEHA-BOARD-NOMINATIONS](https://www.wseha.org/wseha-board-nominations)



WSEHA AWARDS

2026

NOMINATIONS OPEN



JOHN NORDIN

OUTSTANDING SANITARIAN
SOMEONE WHO DEMONSTRATES THEIR
DEEP COMMITMENT TO FIELD OF EH.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

SOMEONE WHO SHOWS EXTRAORDINARY
LEADERSHIP & SERVICE



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

SOMEONE NEW TO EH (2 YEARS OR LESS)
WHO HAS EXCEEDED EXPECTATIONS

WWW.WSEHA.ORG