Greetings, MEHA Members.

For those interested in a brain tease, I recommend reading a bit about time dilation, or Einstein’s theory of relativity. I’ve wondered on many occasions how a unit of time (a day, a year) seems to pass more quickly as time moves on. Not that age has anything to do with space-time, I did discover a clue in my few minutes of reading. To slow the rate of time in a measurable way, I just need to find the nearest black hole and jump in. Right, that’ll do it then.

What can I say? The past 10 months have gone by quickly. I have been honored, and quite humbled, to serve as President. I am most proud of the work that the committees and Board of Directors have done and continue to do. The organization has grown, the educational conferences have been outstanding, and the future of MEHA is bright.

Next term, Nicole and Caleb will serve as President and President-Elect. I want to convey a special thanks to both for their leadership and for covering for me throughout my term as President. A special thanks to Jim Topie for his service to MEHA. As Second Past President, Jim will complete his 5-year term in May. I also want to thank Sadie for lining up an exceptional group of candidates for election ballot. Please take the time to vote for VP, First Year Director, Member at Large, and Secretary.

If it isn’t self-evident, those serving on our committees and as committee chairs have been outstanding. Notice the scholarships, the quality of conferences, student involvement, increased membership, outreach activities, and MEHA memorabilia.

I hope you’ll consider volunteering your time on one of the MEHA committees or Board. We have been successful because of the time and energy many have selflessly volunteered. Our future truly depends on you, so please get involved. Thanks to all for a memorable and positive term. I look forward to seeing you at the Spring AEC.

Now, off to it. I need to make up for an hour I lost somehow (daylight savings) overnight.

Sincerely,

Jeff Luedeman, President
SEPTMBER 21, 2017

EDUCATIONAL POSTER SESSION

FDA Regional Retail Food Safety Seminar and NEHA Region 4 Conference

The Minnesota Environmental Health Association is proud to host an educational poster session at the joint FDA Regional Retail Food Safety Seminar/NEHA Region 4 Conference. Showcase your research to Environmental and Public Health Professionals from 17 states and the District of Columbia. Poster session participation is open to students and professionals. Visit www.mehaonline.org for more information and to submit your abstract.
SAVE the DATE

FDA Retail Food Protection Seminar
September 19-21, 2017

NEHA Region 4 Conference
September 20-21, 2017

The Commons Hotel
Minneapolis, MN

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I am running for MEHA vice president. MEHA has been an important public health organization in Minnesota since 1961. I am asking for your support (and your vote) for the Vice-President position. It is a five year term, and if elected I look forward to contributing to MEHA’s mission of continuing to shape, support, and promote “the environmental health field ... as a legitimate and widely respected profession”. Recent MEHA efforts have increased membership and strengthened the conferences and association overall. This is an excellent focus and will support the environmental health profession(s) to be relevant, highly skilled, and well respected.

I have worked in environmental public health for 20 years, and 3 years in environmental health & safety in the oil and gas industry. During my time as Executive Officer (Director) at the Upper Missouri District Health Unit (ND), I served as Chairperson for North Dakota’s 28 local public health administrators from 2006 through 2008. As Chair, I was proud of the hard work we did in bringing the 28 unique health units together, while respecting their individual situations and diverse needs. I am now back in Minnesota, and since 2012 I have served as Environmental Health Manager for Olmsted County Public Health Services. I have maintained my membership in MEHA or North Dakota’s Environmental Health Association throughout my career.

My wife, 2 daughters, and I live in Rochester, MN. Our teenage girls keep us busy with rock climbing, various musical instruments and concerts, ballet (well, not me), and a variety of outdoor activities like kayaking and hiking/backpacking.

Thank you for your membership in MEHA, and thank you for your consideration for voting for me as Vice-President!
Hello, my name is Nick Koreen and I’m excited to be running for the First Year Director position on the MEHA board. After spending 16 years within the restaurant industry and following my graduation from Metropolitan State University, I changed careers in early 2015. Since becoming part of the environmental health community I have split time between the city of Minneapolis and MDH as a field sanitarian responsible for inspecting food establishments, recreational water systems, and a wide variety of lodging establishments.

I have been an active member with MEHA for the past three years and am actively involved with planning this fall’s joint FDA conference on multiple committees.

When not diving into environmental health concerns and opportunities you can find me around my home in Blaine working on the house, gardening, teaching my soon how to cook, or playing billiards. I’m eager to represent you and serve this upcoming year as First Year Director on the MEHA board.
Hello! My name is Jessica Jutz and I am pleased to be running for First Year Director of MEHA. I obtained my bachelor’s degree from UW-Eau Claire’s Environmental Public Health program and my master’s degree in Public Health Administration and Policy from the University of Minnesota’s School of Public Health. I began my career in environmental health working as a third party auditor for NSF International and then moved to the City of Bloomington where I have worked for 10 years. I have worked in many of our program areas and am currently the supervisor of the food, pools and lodging group.

If you are thinking that my picture looks familiar it might be that you have seen me behind the registration desk or trying to fix something at a conference. I have been on the conference planning committee for MEHA since 2011 and have helped orchestrate 2-3 conferences each year. I enjoy being a part of the committee and collaborating to do the tons of behind the scenes work it takes to get good speakers on interesting topics and make the conferences run smoothly. Over the past 6 years I have attended the majority of the board meetings and participated in the discussions, but I have not been able to vote since I was not a board member- so now I am running! I have the historical knowledge of the organization but also fresh ideas of how to keep our organization moving forward.

I look forward to being able to expand my contribution to our fantastic professional organization. Thank you for your consideration.
Hello, my name is Hannah Davis and I am running for the position of MEHA Member-At-Large. I am a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and have been with the Saint Paul – Ramsey County Health Department for five years. My primary responsibilities include inspections of food, beverage, and lodging facilities. I also conduct plan reviews, HACCP inspections, swimming pool inspections, and well sampling. Prior to Ramsey County, I interned with the City of Brooklyn Park for six months where I inspected swimming pools and temporary events.

I graduated from St. Cloud State University in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Community Health. In 2016, I completed my Masters of Public Health from the University of Minnesota – School of Public Health.

Over the past few years I have become involved with MEHA as member of the registration committee. I assist teaching the registered sanitarian review sessions with Frank Sedzielarz, Christopher Forslund, and Doug Edson. Additionally, I am in my third year as a participant in the MEHA mentor program. Each year mentors commit to one year of mentorship with 1-2 environmental health students from nearby colleges to navigate questions related to career paths and educational opportunities. I am very blessed to have had such a valuable early career in environmental health full of exciting training and educational opportunities. I want to help give other newbies the opportunities for the same experiences I did.

In my spare time I enjoy binge watching Chicago shows, running, and obsessing over my French bulldog, Harley. I sincerely look forward to the opportunity to become more involved with such a prestigious agency as Member-At-Large.

Thank you for your consideration.
My name is Jesse Hennes, and I’m excited to submit my name in consideration for Member at Large on the MEHA Board. I work as a Senior Environmental Health Specialist for Washington County Public Health and Environment in Stillwater, MN. My duties at the county include conducting routine inspections of food, lodging and pool establishments, conducting water samples of licensed establishments, and providing outreach to residents on water sample results.

Before joining Washington County, I worked at the University of Minnesota in the Microbiology Teaching labs, and more recently with Minnesota Department of Health as a Public Health Sanitarian. I graduated from North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND with a BS in Microbiology, and a minor in Food Safety.

I currently reside in St. Paul with my wife and our dog. I enjoy traveling, watching live music, camping, sampling craft beers, and watching all the local MN sports teams.

I have been an active MEHA member since 2014 and am presently the Co-Chair of the MEHA Technology Committee. I’m eager and excited at the opportunity to represent you as the Member at Large on the MEHA Board.

Thank you for your consideration.
Hello! My name is Jenni Lansing and I am honored to be a candidate for Member at Large on the MEHA board. I am the Senior Environmental Research Analyst for the Minneapolis Health Department where I have been working since 2012. Previously, I worked for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment as an Environmental Protection Specialist. I earned my MS in Environmental Sciences from the University of Colorado and my BS in Fisheries and Wildlife from the University of Minnesota.

I am excited to offer a unique perspective to MEHA. At the Minneapolis Health Department I wear many hats, but the main focus of my work is air and water quality. Over the past three years I completed the *Air Quality in Minneapolis: A Neighborhood Approach* study which analyzed air pollutants on a local scale. Since 2014, I have also been working on a ground-water study; collecting samples from hand-pump wells located through the City of Minneapolis parks and analyzing them for a variety of contaminants.

In my spare time I enjoy biking, running, camping with my family, and knitting. I live in South Minneapolis with my husband, son, daughter, dog, and two cats. In the last two years I have enjoyed being involved in MEHA’s Legislative Committee, as a member and then a Co-Chair. It has been a wonderful way to get to know other members of MEHA and I look forward to continued service to MEHA. Thank you for your consideration!
Hello, my name is Ryan Lee and I am excited to be running for a third term as the MEHA secretary. I am currently a Registered Environmental Health Sanitarian with the Minnesota Department of Health: Food, Pools, and Lodging Services section working out of the St. Paul Freeman offices. I joined MDH as a FPLS field inspector in 2013, and my current territory the City of Eagan, MN.

I currently reside in Roseville, MN, and in my spare time I enjoy painting, biking, brewing, and fishing. The values of MEHA are important to me, and I look forward to being able to help MEHA achieve its goals. Thank you for your consideration in voting for me as Secretary.

MEHA is on Facebook! Visit our page and join the group! Please “Like” us so we can share MEHA news and other interesting Environmental Health info with you in a timely manner.
MEHA Winter Conference-2017 University of Minnesota

Michelle Messer and Angie Cyr working the registration desk

Jeff Luedeman, MEHA President, addressing the membership
Dr. Suppes presenting at the MEHA Winter Conference along with students from UW Eau Claire at the poster session
Jim Topie presented Dr. O. Peter Snyder, Jr., Ph.D., with a Life Award from MEHA in recognition of his outstanding work advancing food safety. Dr. Snyder is a long time MEHA member joining in 1987.

Dr. Snyder’s remarks: Thank you for honoring me with the lifetime membership award to MEHA. It was unexpected but appreciated. I did lots of communications with the environmentalists. This is a good way to show that my work with them was meaningful.

St. Paul-Ramsey County staff with intern, Nicole Skatrud, recipient of the Northstar Scholarship. (L to R) Hannah Davis, Mindy Stepnick, Lori Green, Nicole Skatrud and Mark Clary.

President Luedeman and Jim Topie presenting an Honorary Membership Award to Dr. Edward Ehlinger, Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner, in recognition of his dedication to the practice of environmental and public health.
2017 Mary Lauren Olson Scholarship Recipient

Deirdre R. Green is a doctoral student in the Occupational Injury Prevention and Research Training Program at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. She has a master’s degree in Industrial Hygiene from the University of Iowa, and became interested in studying workplace hazards while conducting field worker training during an internship with Monsanto.

2017 MEHA Northstar Scholarship

Nicole Skatrud is a senior majoring in Environmental Public Health at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. Nicole interned this past summer in the Community Environmental Health Program at St. Paul-Ramsey County. Nicole conducted inspections in many program areas to include food & temporary event food inspections, swimming pools, manufactured home parks and conducted all vending inspections.
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- Certified Pool/Spa Inspector $40 Standardized training for health officials and pool operators conducting pool and spa inspections
- Water Chemistry Basics $30 Learn the basics of water chemistry, water testing and chemical dosing

*Eligible for CEU credit*
UPCOMING Events

2017 Regional FDA Food Safety Seminar & NEHA Region 4 Conference
Minneapolis, MN
September 19-21, 2017

MEHA Spring Conference
Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge
Deerwood, MN
May 11-12, 2017
MEMBER UPDATES

On the Move....Angie Cyr from MDH Rochester to her new position at MDH Metro Office. Angie is now the Business and Finance Operations Unit Supervisor. Congratulations!

Welcome to Barb Krech to Hennepin County Environmental Health.

Congratulations to Andrea (Finley) Kieffer, MDH FPLS, on her recent wedding.

On the Move .. Lesli Haines, MDH Drinking Water to MDH FPLS Rochester

Congratulations to Pam Steinbach, MD, on your retirement. Enjoy!

On the Move...Tessa Whitemarsh from Washington County to Target

On the Move...Dan Opsahl from Brooklyn Park to MDA FFSD Division. Dan is the new Retail Food Plan Review Supervisor. Congratulations!

On the Move..Nick Koreen from MDH FPLS to the City of Minneapolis

On the Move...Valerie Gamble from Outreach and Delegation Coordinator, Food and Feed Safety Division at MDA to Produce Safety Program Manager at MDA.

Thank you to the following people who contributed to this edition: Jim Topie, Jeff Luedeman, Jill Debrito, Angie Cyr and Laura Suppes.

Request From The Editor

An important part of the newsletter is the human element—what is going on with MEHA members. Please let the editor know about any comings and goings, births, weddings, honors...

Deadline for the next issue is

September 1, 2017

Send to:

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