



MEHA BULLETIN



President

Jim Topie

Winter 2015 Issue

Volume 44, No. 1

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By President Jim Topie

Wow! This year as your President has gone by so quickly. Our combined energy is allowing our professional association to gain speed and further advance Environmental Health (EH) in Minnesota. We continue to make this year awesome for MEHA and are showing the world what "EH Awesome" really looks like. I am constantly amazed by how much positive energy our MEHA Board, committees and members have. MEHA membership numbers continue to build across all EH categories. We had record attendance at our 2015 Winter Education Conference. Committees are on an active roll. Communication and network opportunities continue to be forward-thinking. The results of our recent 2015 MEHA Member Survey reflect the strategic directions that we have advanced, as well as those areas that we recognize that still need to be built upon.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will find a slate of candidates that nicely fill the 2015 ballot for MEHA Board elections. Our annual survey results continue to signify the importance of recruiting Board candidates from a variety of EH fields and occupations.

We greatly appreciate the individuals who are willing to commit their time and talents to the Board. For the office of Vice President, the candidate must be willing to commit to serve on the Board for five years. That individual will actually fill five different Board positions during their term, including the very important role of President in the third year. Three Directors commit to three year terms. Their terms are staggered, so that one new Director is elected each year. Also on the ballot are Member-at-Large and Secretary, each committing to serve for a one year term. The Treasurer is appointed by the President annually. With this design of succession, your Board looks both short and long term at how we can advance a strong, positive and effective professional organization. Contact information for the current Board members can be found on the MEHA [website](#).

Our 2015 MEHA Member Survey was emailed to over 430 current and past members for their input. Time and again the overwhelming responses to questions about how we are doing were “*satisfied*” or “*very satisfied*.” Responses to many of the questions were largely positive. For the question “*Do you have any other comments, concerns, or general feedback about MEHA? In other words: What is MEHA doing right? What could MEHA do to improve*” comments included: “None,” “Nice job,” “Nope,” “None that I can think of,” “I’m good, taking it all in,” “MEHA is doing right - keeping membership and growing it. Offering conferences where members can get together face to face (human contact is critically important in networking). I liked the community outreach event (Feed my Starving Children) despite not being able to attend. Posting career opportunities is a positive move. Impressed with increased registration at events ...kudos.”

Other survey comments included the following:

- ⇒ “The organization in the past 2 -3 years I have seen growth, positivity more timely messages.”
- ⇒ “We’re doing a good job, guys... let’s keep up the momentum.”
- ⇒ “Conferences are excellent. They are a great value for the price and networking opportunity.”
- ⇒ “I’m not EH - I’m public health.”
- ⇒ “Good variety - keep it up.”
- ⇒ Conferences: “I would attend more if it was paid for and more support from my employer. Help with affording travel, lodging and food would be nice.”
- ⇒ “No suggestions - keep up the good work at providing a variety of EH topics at the conferences.”
- ⇒ Membership fees: “An unbelievable deal.”
- ⇒ On line membership and registration: “Everything works fine... what's to criticize?”
- ⇒ “How is the newsletter information sourced? One idea is to survey members for some of the content.”
- ⇒ Weekly E-Blast Newsletter: “I really like it, keep doing it!”
- ⇒ “Continue strengthening relationships between working professionals, students, and retirees as well as the relationship between State agencies and local agencies. The bigger MEHA gets the more important it is to keep bridging relationships between members to feel purpose in membership. Also, bridge connections between MEHA and other similarly related groups (MOWA, Hospitality MN, Brewers and Winery guilds, corporate groups, etc.).”

Your Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will continue to reflect on the survey results and advance upon areas that still need improvement. We will continue to build upon all the great work of our past. Our new and renewing members bring diverse backgrounds to our professional organization.

Membership is currently at 425, an increase of 10% from last year. We especially appreciate our student members and their enthusiasm for the opportunities that await them. Our renewing members are our core and they help mentor and educate our students, newer professional members and each other. That, in turn, creates more diversity and a better organization for the future.

NEHA Region 4 News

Keith Johnson, R.S. Region 4 VP

First, thank you to your newsletter editor for waiting for me to get back from our board meeting in Denver to write this! Newsletter editors get far too little credit for the patience and perseverance they develop as they try to do the right thing for their associations!

BIG NEWS! The 2017 AEC will be in Grand Rapids, MI! It's been 30 years since the conference was held there, and it's high time it was back. I have to say that the Grand Rapids folks blew us away with their city. I haven't seen a downtown with so many shops, pubs, cafes, and walkable places for a long time. It's right on the Grand River, across from the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library. Everyone, from cab drivers to Chamber people, [spoke](#) highly of their city. I am really looking forward to 2017! Congratulations to the Michigan affiliate. They really worked for this.

We interviewed four candidates for the Executive Director job for NEHA. I came away from these interviews greatly relieved, because we had some great candidates who spoke with passion and commitment to the NEHA mission. I am convinced that we will have a new director within a month or so who will do this association proud. I have to admit, I was a little worried about how we would follow Nelson, but it looks like it's going to work out fine.

We were also a little worried about how we would do financially in the wake of so many changes. That has not entirely gone away, but we will make some money this year, and, barring the Federal government doing something rash, we should continue to do so. The annual conferences have lost money in the last several years, and we need to stop that. We are not raising registration fees, though, and at the same time, we are working on making the learning process more relevant and fun. We're looking at everything from shorter sessions to more hands on and field trip sessions. You'll see some of those ideas in action in Orlando this year.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

Food Service Training April-June 2015

Food Manager Initial Certification Classes

- St. Cloud, April 15
- Worthington, April 15
- St. Paul, May 14
- Alexandria, May 19
- Thief River Falls, June 18

Classes are 9 AM-4:30 PM, exam following.

Food Manager Certification Renewal

- St. Cloud, April 7, 9 AM-1 PM
- Worthington, April 14, 1-5 PM
- St. Paul, May 14, 9 AM- 1 PM *
- Alexandria, May 19, 9 AM-1 PM
- Thief River Falls, June 17, 1-5 PM

*At these locations, participants will attend four hours of the Certification Course. Pre-registration strongly recommended at least two weeks in advance for all classes.

Online Courses:

Food Allergen Training for Food Service

Employees: One-hour interactive web-based course teaches food handlers about food allergies and the important role they have to protect the health of customers. Individual and group viewing options available. \$25 per person. Register at extension.umn.edu/food-safety

Food Manager Certification Courses

Both classroom and on-line formats are available.

Serve It up Safely™ Renewal

Four-hour Certified Food Manager renewal developed by University of Minnesota Extension Food Safety Educators. Offered in two formats: classroom and online.

For more information and schedules:

507-337-2819 or schwa047@umn.edu or
www.extension.umn.edu/food-safety



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"Six Things I Wish I Knew Before I Started"

- 1) It's important that the politicians you serve are educated and aware of why the work you do is important;
- 2) Interpersonal skills are just as important as technical skills;
- 3) Approach your work with spirit and intent;
- 4) Relationships are based on interaction and trust;
- 5) Networking, networking, networking;
- 6) Get involved with your professional association. If you're going to be a member, you might as well participate.

(These six items are tweets recorded during the last conference)

Note from Bonnie: Some of you may have heard me reference this subject at the Winter MEHA conference on January 29th, and some of you oldsters may have been lucky enough to hear the CHS Conference presentation that the following thoughts were taken from. Many of the details have been lost over the fog of time, but I remember the gist of the stories. Kim Carlton asked me to expand on the concept of "spirit and intent" for the newsletter, so here goes:

An Interpretation of "Spirit and Intent"

By Bonnie Holz

Don Coynis, of the Organization White Bison, spoke to CHS conference attendees as the keynote presenter at the fall, 1992 Community Health Services Conference in northern Minnesota. A couple of his stories not only resonated with some of us EH folks, but became proverbs and principles by which to lead better professional...and personal...lives.

Don told a personal story to illustrate the principle that chores and actions go much, much better if they are done--not as a consequence of duties to be endured--but in a "big picture" spirit of generosity and willingness to be helpful.

Don had waited a long time to become a father, and when his daughter was born, he was overjoyed. Years passed quickly and as the child grew, Don's professional life also expanded, and he became very busy. After a period of long work hours, he promised his toddler, that they would have a special time together--a wonderful evening—just the two of them. On the day for this scheduled 'daddy-date', Don received an important and lengthy document in the mail. [After 23 years, I can't remember the exact type of document, but I believe it was something critically interesting, like edits to a manuscript, or maybe a contract.] Don told us that while he still looked forward to the evening with his wonderful child, he had in the back of his mind "oh boy, as soon as I get my sweet baby to sleep, I can sink my teeth into this paper I've been waiting for!"

The story goes on. As he played with his child, he hurried things along, and finally it was bedtime story time. As he was laying on the bed, reading to his precious child, she looked at him and said, “Daddy! You don’t want to be reading with me!” He sat very quietly for several moments, stung by the true accusation and marveling at the perception of his small child. And his mind went back, back, back to how long he had waited for this child, and her birth, and her first wonderful moments, and the first time her little fingers encircled his work-worn fingers. As a feeling of gratitude and peace came over him, she turned a beaming face up to him, then laid her head on his chest and said “OK Daddy! NOW you can read to me.”

This story brought tears to the eyes of most of the conference attendees—we’d all been there in our careers—not only times when work superseded precious time with our families, but also times when we’d gone about activities out of duty, instead of pure joy.

Don, then expanded on the concept of “Spirit and Intent”, telling us that the way we go about our work and lives impacts the results. What a concept! He acknowledged that there are parts of any job/profession/career that might seem boring, unproductive, and even distasteful. But if we go back, back, back to the reasons behind the job, and think deliberately and intensely about our own motivation, we will be able to move ourselves into the right frame of mind and the right attitude to do the job. And when we do our job activities from a positive spirit, the intent of our work will come through to those we work with, and they will, in turn, be in a better frame of mind to receive our consultations.

Putting this in action in our work lives, way back in the 1990’s meant two new things for our EH work.

First, if we were dreading the day’s work—like an inspection or a politically-charged meeting—we tried to always take time to back up and think of the reasons for the activity. Maybe we would, through an inspection, uncover an unsafe situation that might have resulted in someone’s great grandma’s getting fatally sick after her 90th birthday bash at her favorite restaurant. Maybe we could make a restaurant owner proud to cooperate with the health department, instead of being defensive and hostile, dreading our next visit. Maybe we could make the meeting attendees also see our ‘big picture’ and find reasons to agree and come to consensus.

And second, if we couldn’t think ourselves into right frame of mind, taking the 40,000 foot view of our work; if we were just too cranky to take on the activities in the right spirit, we should change course and either take the day off, or do paperwork, or catch up on professional reading.

Another story of Don's has stayed with me all these years.

Years ago, he had been driving across the southwest to an important meeting. This was long before cell phones. He stopped at a phone booth in a small town in New Mexico, where he got out his wallet to find the phone number of his Arizona contact, made his call, and went on his way. Over an hour later, he decided to stop for a snack, and, oh man! He realized he'd left his wallet 60 miles away in that isolated, dusty phone booth. The ride back seemed much longer than 60 miles, as he agonized on what he'd probably lost: cash, credit cards, cherished photos, and the contact information he needed for the culmination of his trip. What were the odds?

He pulled up to the phone booth, awash in sweat and anxiety. The wallet was there! Intact and untouched. Don told us of the immense relief he experienced, a wave of joy and satisfaction. He called it the "Attitude of Gratitude". We've all been there haven't we? Finding lost car keys in a snow bank, finishing our tax returns to find we're getting refunds, greeting a family members after they needed to drive home during a snow-storm....

Don went on to ask the audience, why the heck don't we have that wonderful relief and joy every day???? Every day that we DON'T lose our wallets, our keys, our phones? Every day that our loved ones arrive home safely—nice days as well as stormy days? Every day we have a job, and good colleagues, and a steady income?

So—the advice from Don—via Bonnie and other old-timers, is: Try to remember to be grateful for things you haven't lost. And go about your days and your lives with the right spirit, and with the intent to do things for the right reasons. It's pretty likely that your days and your lives will go more smoothly, thus forming a beautiful circle of things getting better and better and better....

Several MEHA board positions will be voted on by members prior to the annual meeting. Candidates have submitted the following biographies for your review.



***Nicole (Koktavy)
Hedeem
Candidate for
Vice-President
Minnesota
Department of
Health***

I am very excited to be running for the position of MEHA Vice President!

A little about myself: I have been working as an Epidemiologist at the Minnesota Department of Health for almost 5 years. I spend the majority of my time working on a program called EHS-Net (Environmental Health Specialists Network), which is funded through the Center for Disease Control. I help develop research studies and collect and analyze data to identify risk factors contributing to foodborne illness in restaurants. I also conduct foodborne outbreak investigations, inspect food, pool and lodging establishments, and provide support for the Partnership and Workforce Development Unit at MDH.

My qualifications include: Registered Sanitarian certification in 2011; Masters of Science in Environmental Health at the University of Minnesota in 2010; and a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 2007.

In my free time, I enjoy traveling, reading, and spending time outdoors: fishing, biking, and running.

I am currently a committee member for both the MEHA scholarship and student committees. I served on the board as the Member-At-Large from 2012-2013 and I'm looking forward to getting even more involved in the organization.

I believe MEHA is outstanding professional organization, providing education and networking opportunities to those in the Environmental Health Community, and it would be an honor to serve as a member on the MEHA board. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicole Hedeem (Koktavy)



Greg A. Abel
U.S. Food and Drug
Administration
Candidate for
Member-At-Large

I am employed with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a Retail Food Specialist providing leadership towards achieving effective, uniform implementation of the national retail food safety program. I provide guidance and assistance to a multitude of federal, state, local and tribal regulatory agencies with the goal of reducing the occurrence of foodborne illness and enhancing the technical competency of food safety professionals.

I have worked for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for 20 plus years. Prior to my current position; I served as the FDA District HACCP Specialist working with active food safety management systems; oversaw the FDA District Interstate Travel Program conducting conveyance inspections, developing guidelines for conveyance certification and agency policy regarding conveyances and professional sport teams. I spent ten years in the field as an FDA Investigator enforcing the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and its related laws working collaboratively with several U.S. enforcement and protection service agencies.

Prior to FDA, I worked for the North Dakota Health Department as a sanitarian, and managed the state's mosquito control program.

Outside my profession; I have a bachelor's degree in Biology from North Dakota State University, am a resident of Minneapolis, Minnesota, have three children whom I adore, downhill ski race with the U.S. Ski Association's Masters series and love to freshwater fish. For the past ten years, I have been serving as the President of and directing the non-profit organization, Raising Our Celiac Kids (R.O.C.K.) Twin Cities, Inc.

Throughout my career I have worked with governmental agencies, the private sector, special interest groups and academia in a variety of undertakings with decisive goals in mind. These experiences have taught me that success comes by means of building collaborative working relationships so individuals can work together through an integrated approach to effectively achieve these goals. I find being part of this systematic approach to reach the group's successes as the most influential.

I am intrigued with the enthusiasm I see with MEHA members and the organization's successes it has had in sustaining, as well as progressing the environmental health profession. I'm a newer member to this organization and am looking forward to becoming more involved. I am excited to have the opportunity to run for the Member-at-Large position as part of the MEHA Board.



Jason Newby
City of
Brooklyn Park
Candidate for
Member-At-
Large

Hello, my name is Jason Newby and I am running for the Member-At-Large position on the MEHA board. I am currently the Code Enforcement & Public Health Manager at the City of Brooklyn Park. I have been a member of MEHA since I began here at the City in 2002.

In 2001, I began my career in environmental health at the Minnesota Department of Health as an intern and continued with the City of St. Louis Park later that year. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from South Dakota State University and have a certificate from the Humphrey Institute in Leadership Management.

I have worked in various fields of Environmental Health, with an emphasis in Code Administration, Food Protection, Public Pools and Housing. Having experience working at both the state and local levels, I understand the importance with maintaining connections between all of the environmental health professionals across the state. The MEHA organization does an excellent job providing networking and educational opportunities to help foster these relationships.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wife and three kids, golfing and coaching soccer. It would be an honor to serve as a member on the MEHA board. Thank you for your consideration.



Amy Zagar
Hennepin County
Candidate for
Member-At-Large

It's truly an honor to run for Member at Large.

I am a Registered Environmental Health Specialist, and I have been employed by Hennepin County for three years. My primary duties with the County are to conduct inspections of food establishments and plan review. I also have been responsible for managing our beach sampling program for the last two years, teach food safety courses and edit a quarterly newsletter -Food Digest.

Prior to joining Hennepin County Environmental Health Unit, I graduated with honors from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Public Health.

While in college I was very active with student leadership, Student National Environmental Health Association and worked as a student Sustainability Coordinator.

In my downtime I coach track, mountain bike, explore national parks and museums. I enjoy art and dabble in painting and graphic design. I recently found a passion for growing my own food and consider myself an aspiring foodie. I enjoy a healthy sampling of diverse food combinations as well as appreciate the local molecular gastronomy movement.

In the last year, I have been delighted to be Co-Chair of the MEHA Outreach Committee and member of the Marketing Committee. I have been enjoying getting to know members and working on enhancing the image of MEHA. I look forward to contributing my talents and service to MEHA. Thank you for your consideration.



Jodie Burke
Winona County
Candidate for
Director

Thank you for considering me for a three-year Director position on the MEHA Board of Directors. I have been employed with Winona County as a Sanitarian for almost 8 years, passing the RS exam in 2009. I graduated in 1996 from Viterbo College (La Crosse, WI) with a Bachelor of Science in Community-Medical Dietetics, and earned the RS credential in 2009.

I have a variety of responsibilities with Winona County (an MDH delegated program), including plan review of food, beverage, and lodging establishments (FBL's); licensure, inspection, and complaint investigation of FBL's, swimming pools, manufactured home parks, recreational camping areas, and special events; water sampling; response to healthy housing questions and concerns; and investigation of potential public health nuisances. I had a unique experience during my first year of employment, when I assisted in flood response activities for Winona County. And during my first 4 years of employment, I assisted in the County's household hazardous waste program with intake and sorting, in addition to inspection and complaint responsibilities.

Past work experience includes a Dietary Department Manager and Registered Dietitian for a long-term care facility, and then as a HACCP Auditor/Dietitian for a major food distribution company with meat processing facilities. I have experience writing and implementing SOP's, SSOP's, meat and seafood HACCP plans, and corrective action plans; creating and presenting employee food safety trainings; and acting as a liaison between USDA meat inspectors, third party auditors, and restaurant chain quality assurance departments.

Outside of work, my husband Michael and I, and 3 children (grade school age), enjoy camping, travel, golf, music, and watching a variety of sports. I am currently a member of the Food Code Revision Advisory Committee.

MEHA has proven to be invaluable for opportunities to learn and network in the field of environmental health. In 2014, I was the the recipient of a stipend to attend NEHA's educational conference, which was incredible. I look forward to collaborating more with MEHA's members and board, while contributing to the continuous improvement efforts and success of environmental health in Minnesota.



Valerie Gamble
Minnesota
Department of
Agriculture
Candidate for
Director

Hello, my name is Valerie Gamble and I am running for the three year Director position on the MEHA board. I have greatly enjoyed serving in the Member-at-Large position on the MEHA board during the past year and would very much like the opportunity to continue as a board member. Serving on the board has highlighted the benefits and wonderful opportunities available to MEHA members and I look forward to continued professional collaboration, increased involvement and education.

I currently work for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Dairy and Food Inspection Division as a Food Inspection Supervisor and also have the opportunity to work with our partners at local agencies on a regular basis. Prior to working as a supervisor I was a field based food inspector for MDA working in and around the Twin Cities. During my time as an inspector I participated in IFPTI's Applied Science, Law and Policy: Fellowship in Food Protection and gained a greater understanding of food safety and environmental health and protection at the national level. I received my Masters in Science in Geological Sciences from the University of Minnesota prior to working for MDA. Before that I spent five years working in northern California in organic and conventional agriculture doing extension work and outreach.

I enjoy spending time with my ten month old daughter Lidia and my husband, and also with our two cats who are still adjusting to life with a baby in the house.

I am very committed to environmental health both in Minnesota and at a national level and would consider it an honor to be selected to continue as a MEHA board member. Thank you



Ryan Lee
Minnesota
Department of
Health
Candidate for
Secretary

Hello, my name is Ryan Lee and I am excited to be a candidate for the Secretary position on the MEHA Board. 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 consists of portions of the City of St. Paul.

Prior to joining MDH, I was a quality assurance specialist for Lorentz Meats, a local organic/specialty USDA-inspected meat processing plant in Cannon Falls, MN. I received my Bachelor of Arts in 2011 from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD, with a double-major in Biology as well as Government and International Affairs. During my studies I was awarded a Gillman Scholarship from the U.S. State Department to study at the University of Salzburg, Austria, for a semester.

I currently reside in Roseville, MN, and in my spare time I enjoy baking, painting, biking, camping, 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

2015 Mary Lauren Olson Scholarship Recipient

2015 Mary Lauren Olson Scholarship Recipient



This year's recipient of the Mary Lauren Olson Memorial Scholarship is **Navneet Baidwan**. Navneet is currently a 1st year PHD student in the Occupational Injury Prevention Research Training Program, in the department of Environmental Health Sciences, at the University of Minnesota.

She began graduate school at the U of M School of Public Health in 2012 and recently defended her Master's project which pertained to hospital-treated injuries associated with assaults at the workplace.

Navneet is interested in the field of injury prevention and is currently contributing to the field by working as a Research Assistant on a project related to violence against women. She is also working on a grant for a study that would look at child bystander injuries associated with agricultural operations. Navneet was highly recommended for this scholarship by Susan Goodwin, an Injury Prevention Professor at the U of M who wrote "It is evident that Navneet is a very intelligent and highly competent student with demonstrated leadership qualities that are essential to Environmental Health Science and to public health."

This year's scholarship amount was \$1500. The Mary Lauren Olson Memorial MEHA scholarship fund is a permanently endowed scholarship for students enrolled in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. The scholarship was established in memory of Mary Lauren Olson, daughter of Steve Olson, former president of MEHA and Paula Olson. Recipients of the scholarship are selected based on scholastic merit, community service, and involvement in the field of injury research.

2015 MEHA Northstar Scholarship

2015 MEHA Northstar Scholarship

The MEHA scholarship committee is pleased to announce this year's MEHA Northstar scholarship recipient is **Johnathan Boettcher**. Johnathan is an undergraduate student majoring in Environmental and Public Health at UW-Eau Claire and he has been an intern with the City of Minneapolis Environmental Health unit for the past two summers. Johnathan received the Northstar scholarship because of his excellence in the classroom and as an intern, and because of his dedication to becoming an Environmental Health Professional. Johnathan had over two decades of experience working in the hospitality industry before changing career paths and deciding to go into the field of Environmental and Public Health. Johnathan commutes between the Twin Cities and Eau Claire for his education; all while helping to support his family at the same time. In addition to his professional and academic achievements, Johnathan is a member of MEHA, SNEHA (Student National Environmental Health Association), and is a volunteer firefighter.

This year's scholarship amount was \$1000, provided through the MEHA general fund. The scholarship is intended for recognition of undergraduate students from NEHA Region IV schools, who are contributing to Environmental Health in the State of Minnesota and who are likely to become professionals that will continue contributing to Environmental Health in the State of Minnesota.



2015 MEHA Winter Conference

2015 MEHA Winter Conference

University of Minnesota
University of Minnesota



President Jim Topie addressing the MEHA membership at the winter conference. This was a record setting crowd of over 200 people!



Excellent panel presentation "Six Things I Wish I Knew Before I Started". (L to R) Moderator Tom Sobolik, Dale Schroeder, Aggie Leitheiser, Steve Roy, Craig Hedberg and Bonnie Holz.

2015 MEHA Winter Conference

2015 MEHA Winter Conference

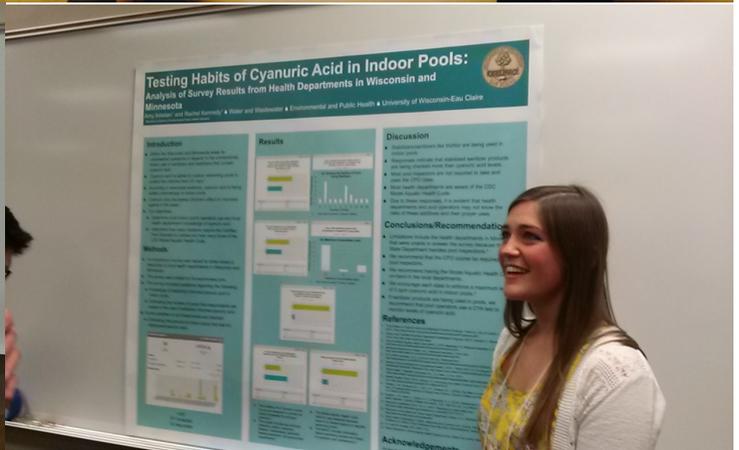
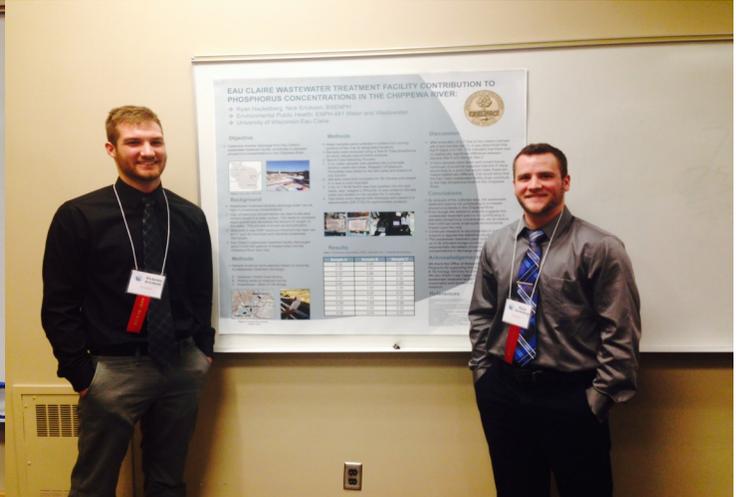
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Presentation on
“Emerging
Infectious
Diseases in the
Modern World: a
Perspective” by
Michael
Osterholm, PhD,
MPH of the
University of
Minnesota Center
for Infectious
Disease Research
and Policy



2015 MEHA Winter Conference Student 2015 MEHA Winter Conference Student Poster Session



2015 MEHA Winter Conference Student 2015 MEHA Winter Conference Student Poster Session



Students from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Environmental Public Health



Mentoring luncheon with students and environmental health professionals

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEHA Spring Conference

*Arrowwood Resort and Conference
Center*

May 13-15, 2015

NEHA Region 4 Conference

Sullivan Brothers Convention Center

Waterloo, Iowa

October 7-8, 2015

NEHA AEC

Orlando Florida

July 13-15, 2015

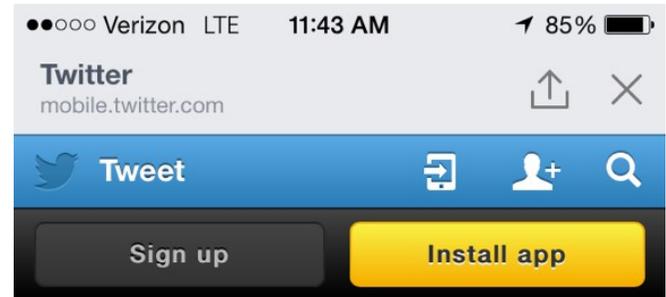
[Stipend for AEC in Orlando](#)

MEHA will be sending one member in good standing and actively involved in the field of environmental health to the conference. The recipient will receive a stipend from MEHA to pay for conference registration, coach-class air fare, ground travel, lodging and meals*.

Visit www.mehaonline.org for more information & an application

Calendar of Events

**MEHA is on Twitter-
Check us out!**



MEHA
@MEHAOnline



Dr. Michael Osterholm, closing the conference with "Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Modern World: a Perspective."

pic.twitter.com/8zdWDVVYv4

3:38pm - 29 Jan 15



facebook

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 Raffle Prize at Merece Tus Suenos Resort Mexico

Joan Peterson and her husband, Tim, traveled to Mexico to enjoy a week at Merece Tus Suenos resort which Joan won at the MEHA Spring Conference raffle for the Mary Lauren Olson Scholarship fund. The week was donated by Craig and Marianne Gilbertson, web site www.MereceTusSuenos.com .

The resort is just outside the small fishing village of Troncones Mexico. It was a beautiful resort and we enjoyed the food, did some fishing, took a kayaking tour of a bird estuary, watched baby turtles released to the ocean and watched many beautiful sunsets on the ocean.



In Memory of Sherry Engelman



On Saturday, November 8, 2014, our colleague and friend, Sherry Engelman passed away surrounded with the love of her family and friends after a brave battle with cancer. A native from Wisconsin, Sherry lived and worked here in Minnesota in the field of public and environmental health. Still, she was very close to her family, friends and church in the little town of Pittsville, Wisconsin.

Sherry attended UW Stevens Point, earning a BS degree in Biology and Math and acquiring a teaching certificate. She worked as a Health Inspector for the City of St. Louis Park, MN for 30+ years and then served the City of Edina, MN as Community Health Administrator for 8 years before retiring in October, 2013 due to health. Sherry loved the outdoors year-round and could be found in Duluth with her marina friends, boating on Lake Superior. Quality time was also spent with her beloved dog Murphy, cross country skiing and hiking together. Annual vacations were spent enjoying the fall colors in Door County and attending the EAA Air Show with friends and family.

Sherry also was very active in MEHA and served as President of MEHA. Before and after her term as president, she continued to support MEHA through her participation on several committees and activities!

As a co-worker of Sherry, I remember her daily exuberance she gave her “family” at St. Louis Park by starting new employee programs, supporting the employees’ rights and instigating fun for the employees, usually after hours! Just as important, she deeply cared for the owners of her licensed food establishments, their staff and the overall success of their businesses. In return, she had many well-wishers when the news of her bout with cancer was made known!

When you work that close with someone for those many years, you both can’t help but become like a brother-sister relationship in the work family environment. She kept me on the straight and narrow as I did to her also! She will be missed but not forgotten ever.

For those who could not make the funeral in Wisconsin, a Minnesota tribute to Sherry in the form of a memorial tree planting will take place in the Spring, 2015. More information on a date will be provided.

Manny Camilon
City of St. Louis Park
Retired, Feb 2015

Guess Who's Retiring?

Manny Camilon

City of St. Louis Park

In our field of Environmental Health each day, week, month, and year seems to go by quickly for all of us. But for one of our own, Manny Camilon, the days of going to work will soon change. On February 27 Manny will be retiring from the City of St. Louis Park, a city he has faithfully served for 37 years. Over the past 37 years Manny has seen the many changes to the city and the field of Environmental Health.

Manny originally started with the City of St.

Louis Park under the CETA program (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) in approximately 1977. He was officially hired as an inspector 1/Sanitarian in February 1978. He has had various job titles over the years: Property Maintenance Inspector, Sanitarian, Environmental Health Specialist, Environmental Health Official, etc. Most importantly the unofficial job title that everyone at SLP knows him as, is the "Go To Guy" if you don't know what to do with it or who can help you with it – Manny always know! The City of St. Louis Park and the field of Environmental Health will lose a very important "Go To Guy" when Manny Camilon retires and moves to Arizona.

In addition to his job at SLP, Manny Camilon has been an active member of MEHA since 1993 and was always the one to be there whenever help was needed. He has served in many areas but most recently on the history committee. He also was involved with skits or entertainment for training and banquets and worked at the MEHA booth for different events. He helped keep track of supplies and used his love of antiques to start a collection of environmental health items used throughout history. Manny's enthusiasm and energy inspired others to be involved whether it was for a professional presentation or networking after work. He has brought many talents to MEHA. We will miss his enthusiasm but also wish him the best in his retirement.



Manny and former coworker Joan Peterson



Robert Servian, Manny & Oren Larson at a MEHA banquet



One of Manny's displays of Public Health historical pieces

MEHA Dollars Well Spent

Paul Allwood, the 1994 winner of the Mary Lauren Olson Memorial Scholarship has been appointed Assistant Commissioner for the Health Protection Bureau of MDH. Congratulations Paul!

Message from Commissioner Ehlinger: Paul Allwood accepts appointment as Assistant Commissioner for Health Protection Bureau

Published 2/3/15 3:15 p.m.

It is my pleasure to announce that Paul Allwood, who served in the Environmental Health Division at MDH from 1999 to 2007, will be returning to the agency as the Assistant Commissioner for the Health Protection Bureau.

Paul is coming to MDH from the University of Minnesota, where he served as Assistant Professor and Adjunct Professor of environmental and occupational health, Assistant Director of Environmental Health and Safety, and Director of Occupational Health and Safety. While at the University, he was responsible for protecting the health and safety of over 60,000 staff, faculty, staff, students, visitors and volunteers. He also taught graduate-level courses in public health, and advised students regarding academic and career opportunities.

During his time at MDH, Paul served as Environmental Health Supervisor and Senior and Principal Epidemiologist. As part of his duties, Paul served as an expert adviser to the commissioner on food safety issues, developed a foodborne illness outbreak investigation protocol to facilitate cooperation between sanitarians and epidemiologists in conducting investigations, and directed foodborne outbreak investigations and food-related emergency response activities. Paul also has local public health experience having worked in the City of Bloomington's Environmental Health Division.

Paul's training, experience, expertise, and perspective will add a greatly to the MDH leadership team.

MEMBER UPDATES

Congratulations to Steven Diaz who is the new manager of the Food, Pools and Lodging Services Section within the Environmental Health Division at the Minnesota Department of Health. Prior to becoming the manager, Steven was the supervisor for the Business and Finance Unit at MDH and had previously served as the sanitarian supervisor for the metro district sanitarians at MDH.

Welcome to Mandi Mallet, City of Minnetonka. Mandi is new graduate of the University of Wisc. Stout

Welcome to the following people to Hennepin County: Opeyemi Adesida, Aaron Arvold, Patrick Kuisle, Eduardo Mardones and Mailee Moua

Welcome to the following people to the City of Minneapolis: Amanda Lee, Roe Reinberg and Jeremy Schields

Welcome CDC Fellows to the City of Minneapolis: Anthony Johnson & Anthony Nixon

Welcome to Jamie Stowell to Morrison County

Welcome to Kimberly Shermo to Waseca County

On the Move..Dan Disrud from MDH Metro District Office Food, Pools, and Lodging Services (FPLS) Sanitarian Supervisor to MDH FPLS Business and Finance Operations Supervisor

On the Move..Mike Nordos from MDH Rochester to the FDA

Congratulations to Bill Phillips, Scott County on the birth of his 7 lb., 12 oz. daughter

Congratulations to Jesse Harmon, Brown Nicollet Environmental Health on the birth of his daughter

Congratulations to Nicole (Koktavy) Hedeem, MDH, on her recent wedding

Congratulations to Pete Kischel on his recent retirement

Congratulations to Manny Camilon, City of St. Louis Park, on your retirement. Best of luck to you and your wife as you begin this new venture in your life. You will be greatly missed!

Our deepest sympathy to the family of Sherry Engelman, formerly of the City of St. Louis Park and the City of Edina

Thank You to the following people who contributed to this issue: Jim Topie, Kim Carlton, Sharon Smith, Angie Cyr, John Weinand, Nicole Hedeem, Manny Camilon, Joan Peterson, Greg Able, Jason Newby, Amy Zagar, Jodie Burke, Valerie Gamble, Dan Disrud, Laura Suppes and Ryan Lee.