



MEHA BULLETIN



President's Address

Submitted by President Disrud

Time flies when you are having fun!

This is already my last newsletter address to my fellow members as President. First, thank you for your faith and trust in allowing me to represent and be of service to you. Second, my wish is to plant the idea that this may be the year for you to take a more active role in MEHA. Your participation can take many forms, and the more you get involved, the more rewarding your association with MEHA will be.

The primary purpose of this edition is to further introduce the professionals in our ranks who have agreed to the suggestion that it is their turn to shift involvement within our association. Please go out of your way to thank them. And our gratitude is also due to Laura, Angie, and Nicole, whose faithful hard work can only be replaced by the unique talents and dedication that these profiled candidates offer.

In the past decade, our membership elected to Vice President a state health guy, then a city health guy, then a county health guy, then a different county health guy, then a city health guy, then an industry health guy, then a county health guy, then a city health gal, then a state health gal, and now we are fortunate for the opportunity to elect a great candidate to a future President position who the Nominations Committee thought was a state agriculture guy. If there is a perception of imbalance in the current presidential succession, I am first in line to discuss and defend against any bias on our board. Support from those we work for is crucial, but the administration of our paycheck does not define MEHA or our mission, objectives, and direction.

A new flavor comes with every new board due to unique individual backgrounds, perspectives, and interests. But board transition and associated change is unnoticed by the majority of us because education continues to be MEHA's focus and the high level of training quality and diversity is constant.

How much education and training should be required of us? For those of us with RS/REHS requirements, this is defined. But maybe the better question is: How much education should we require of ourselves and of those who work for us? Registration requirements are minimums and we should strive to have all the education needed to be competent to perform the tasks for which we are responsible. Wouldn't it be frustrating if

**President
Dan Disrud**

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Workshop Flyer**

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those we work for, work with, or consult/regulate operated by doing minimums? We are blessed to have found ourselves employed in Environmental Health and the awareness that we will be students of this broad profession through our entire career. Our bucket of expertise will never be full.

I guess that I lost count after two but will leave you with: please be active with your association and at a minimum take the time and spend a stamp to vote; for those considering more, please contact me as I know the right committee chair to connect you with and will have the new board responsibility of proposing the 2014 ballot; despite how many CEUs you have saved, please join us on May 9-10 for our premier annual education event; and finally, MEHA involvement includes relationship building and investing in the future of our profession – please join me on May 8th regardless of your golf expertise (I will be with the group on the high-score list but at least we are getting our money's worth).

IN MEMORY OF JACK CALDWELL



A longtime MEHA member, Jack Caldwell, died Jan. 24, 2013. Jack was an early-on industry member who brought strong managerial talents to the table. So much so, that in 1975, MEHA asked him to serve as chairman of the NEHA Annual Education Conference held in Minneapolis that year.

By all accounts, that conference was a great success. Later in the 70s, when I joined NEHA, people from affiliates across the country would tell me that the Minneapolis conference was one of the best organized they had attended. After the conference, Jack established a fund from the proceeds.

That investment fund, known as the Caldwell Fund, is still active and in use to for speakers and educational programs for MEHA conferences.

Jack also served on the committee which set up the Mary Lauren Olson Scholarship fund at the U of M School of Public Health. Mary, the daughter of MEHA past president Steve Olson, died from injuries sustained in a daycare setting in 1988. The scholarship was one of the first offered in the Injury Prevention Program at the School of Public Health.

Jack served on the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee for several terms. He gave a lot to MEHA and set a good example for other volunteers.

Rest in peace, friend.

Dora May Coleman, MEHA Past President

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



Jim Topie
Candidate for
Vice President
Minnesota Department
of Health

Greetings. My name is Jim Topie and I am honored to be running for Vice President of MEHA.

I am a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and have been happily employed in the Environmental Health profession for 34 years. I work as a Planner Principal for Minnesota Department of Health. At MDH, I am in the Food, Pools and Lodging Services Section; Partnership and Workforce Development Unit. There I coordinate, further develop and conduct food safety training for MDH staff, delegated agencies and other stakeholders. Prior to MDH, I worked for Minnesota Department of Agriculture as an Agriculture Consultant – Food Safety and was a certified Seafood HACCP Alliance trainer. I have also worked for the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and a private laboratory testing food and water.

I have an A.S. in Forestry and a B.A. in Environmental Studies from UMN - Duluth. I am a 2011 fellow of the CDC, Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute. At the 2012 NEHA AEC, I presented as a MDH, MDA and UMN Extension team on “Many Agencies - One Voice”. Ten collaborative fact sheets were developed by our team on emerging issues in food safety to include “Safe Use of Salad Bars in Schools”, that is now used nationally. I am a lead instructor for the International Food Protection Training Institute and conduct nationwide food safety training. I am past President of the Duluth Parks and Recreation Commission. I live in Duluth with my wife, and enjoy canoeing, running half marathons and cross-country skiing. I have two sons, both that are graduates of UMN, and are employed in Environmental Health (MN and CA).

I recognize there continues to be both an ongoing and increasing need to control our environmental conditions (e.g., soil, air, water, sewage, food, recreation, institutions, lodging, housing, nuisance, consultation, and education). As Environmental Health Specialists, we protect and maintain the health, safety and sense of well-being of the citizens of Minnesota and address contributing factors to our global environment. To continue to make advancements, it is important that we have a solid, active and growing membership at MEHA. If elected to MEHA's Board of Directors as Vice President, I will advance and promote our collaborative efforts as public health professionals with the management of these environmental conditions in relation to Environmental Health.



Jeff Luedeman
City of Bloomington
Candidate for Secretary

Environmental Health Program Coordinator
City of Bloomington Environmental Health

I received a BS (Biology) from NMU in 1989 and an MS (Entomology) from UMN in 1993. I have worked in various fields of Environmental Health since 1994.

I have worked for the City of Bloomington for 11 years in the areas of food protection, public pools and recreational water, wells, and foodborne illness outbreak investigations. I have held my RS with the State of Minnesota since April 2000, and I have previously served a three-year term on the MEHA Board of Directors.

Save the Date...

MEHA Spring Conference May 9-10, 2013
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Mike Osterholm



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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.



Sharon L. Smith
Candidate for Director
Minnesota Department of Health

From my start as the first sanitarian in a rural Minnesota county to my current position as a Non-community Unit Supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Health Drinking Water Protection Section, I have work experience in many areas of our profession. Since attending my first MEHA conference I have enjoyed the collaboration with other professionals who understand the day to day challenges that environmental health practitioners face.

I've been active in MEHA and currently co-chair the Conference Planning Committee. Other roles I have filled include; newsletter co-editor, scholarship trustee, co-chair of Professional Development and Outreach, VP and the Presidential succession. Primarily I've served in non-voting positions but as a Board member I would welcome the opportunity to represent you.

Outside of work I serve on the board of the Underwood Community/Education Foundation, as a volunteer with the Fergus Falls Center for the Arts, and as Treasurer for my church. I enjoy travel and last summer took a road trip to Montana.



Kristofer Keller
Candidate for Member-At-Large
Washington County

Hello, my name is Kris Keller and I am running for the Member-at-Large position. I am a Registered Sanitarian and work for Washington County as an Environmental Program Coordinator. Here I have spent the last eight years working with many areas of environmental and public health including; inspections, licensing, enforcement, outbreak investigations, public health nuisances, and other various job duties. Prior to Washington County I worked as a Code Compliance Officer inspecting food establishments with the City of Minneapolis. I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire Environmental Health program. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my wife and two boys. We enjoy camping, biking, paddling, hiking, snowshoeing and just being outdoors.

I have had the opportunity to work with many other great environmental health professionals in various groups and committees over the years including; the Code Consensus Committees, Food Code Advisory Committee, Food Safety Partnership, emergency preparedness committees and various other work groups. I am passionate about environmental health, would like to become more actively involved in MEHA, and believe I would be a good addition to MEHA's board. It would be an honor to be elected to serve as MEHA's Member-at-Large.



Nichelle Manchester
Candidate for Member-At-Large
City of Minnetonka

For the past 7 years I have enjoyed working as an Environmental Health Specialist for the City of Minnetonka. Previous to that, I worked as an Environmental Health Specialist for Central Valley Health District out of Jamestown, ND for a year, and prior to that for 3 years as a Microbiologist for Abbott Laboratories in Chicago, IL. I received my Bachelor of Science in Microbiology with an Emphasis in Environmental Health from Montana State University, Bozeman, MT. I live in Golden Valley, MN with my husband, Will and our 2 Pomeranians, Romy and Teddy.



Jeff Brown
Candidate for Member-At-Large
City of Edina

My name is Jeff Brown, and I am an Environmental Health Specialist for the City of Edina Health Division. I am submitting my name in consideration for the member at large position on the MEHA Board. I have been working as an EHS for 10 years, at three different agencies. I have been a MEHA member (at least when I remember to submit my dues) for my entire career.

I started my career at Brown-Nicollet Environmental Health in St. Peter, first as an intern during my senior year at Gustavus Adolphus College, and then as a full time employee after graduation. I worked at Brown-Nicollet for 2 ½ years, passing my sanitarian exam and learning a lot from various local health department sanitarians as well as MDH staff from the Mankato District Office.

In 2004, I transitioned to the Hennepin County Health Department as a Sanitarian. I worked at Hennepin County for another 2 ½ years, inspecting both MDA and MDH type facilities, which broadened my experience and exposure to unique situations.

In 2007, I began my current position, as Environmental Health Specialist for the City of Edina. I am currently responsible for inspections in the Food, Beverage, and Lodging program, plan review, foodborne illness complaint investigation, and some additional City of Edina code requirements.

Starting my career right out of college, I have always thought I should be learning from more experienced professionals, working toward developing a knowledge base that would be an asset to my colleagues as well as to public health. I am very fortunate to have worked in diverse communities; from largely rural areas in Brown County, to the 1st ring suburb of Edina, and many places in between throughout northern and western Hennepin County. Along with the variety of establishments and operators, I have made many valuable professional contacts during my career, who I often call on when a unique situation arises. Hopefully, I am now at a point where I can also provide some contribution to our Environmental Health community.

Certified Food Manager Renewal Online Course Options

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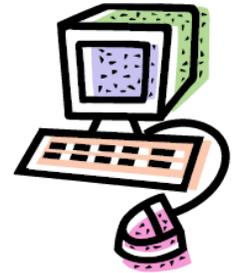
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For Questions

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2013 Schedule

Cost: \$250.00

February 20 - 21	8-5:30pm - Bloomington, MN
March 13 - 14	8-5:30pm - Eagan, MN
March 19 - 20	8-5:30pm - Duluth, MN
March 27 - 28	8-5:30pm - Eden Prairie, MN
April 10 - 11	8-5:30pm - St. Paul, WI
April 10 - 11	8-5:30pm - Eau Claire, MN
April 17 - 18	8-5:30pm - Chaska, MN
April 23 - 24	8-5:30pm - Baxter, MN
May 8 - 9	8-5:30pm - St. Paul, MN
May 8 - 9	8-5:30pm - Bemidji, MN
May 14 - 15	8-5:30pm - St. Cloud, MN
June 12 - 13	8-5:30pm - St. Paul, MN
July 10 - 11	8-5:30pm - St. Paul, WI

Looking for additional education?

Check out our Horizon Advanced Aquatic Education Seminars at www.aaeseminars.com or email aae@horizonpoolsupply.com



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April 1-5, 2013



MEHA has partnered with the U of M School of Public Health to bring you a *free* film about the lasting effects of the Union Carbide gas disaster in Bhopal, India in 1984.

Thursday,
April 4th

A VAN MAXIMILIAN CARLSON FILM
BHOPALI
THE BHOPAL DISASTER DID NOT HAPPEN. IT IS HAPPENING.



5:00 P.M. Doors open | 5:45 P.M. Expert Introductions Q & A Post-Film

Mayo Memorial Auditorium, 425 Delaware St. SE, Minneapolis

For more information check out

www.sph.umn.edu/filmfest



ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
July 9-11, 2013 ♦ Washington, DC

MEHA's 2013 Opportunity of a Lifetime!

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) holds an Annual Educational Conference (AEC) and this year, it's in Washington, DC from July 9-11, 2013, and one lucky person has the opportunity of a lifetime because they are a MEHA member! As a MEHA member, in good standing and actively involved in the field of environmental health, one lucky recipient may receive a stipend from the Minnesota Environmental Health Association to pay for one conference registration, coach-class air fare, ground travel, lodging and meals*.

In order to be considered for this stipend:

- complete the application and essay and submit by April 10, 2013
- be an active member of MEHA,
- attach a letter from your supervisor or agency giving permission to attend the AEC

Applicants who have participated on MEHA committees or have been active in supporting the organization are given preference. A member that has never attended a NEHA AEC or has not attended in the last five years also receives some preference.

In exchange for this fantastic environmental health travel and educational opportunity MEHA:

- Expects a **substantial article**, including photos for the MEHA newsletter after the conference.
- Encourages a report about interesting presenters who could be potential speakers for MEHA conferences.

More information about the NEHA conference can be found at: <http://www.neha2013aec.org/>

Previous articles can be found at: www.MEHAonline.org in the newsletters.

Applications are due Wednesday, April 10, 2013 by 1:00 p.m. The recipient (and an alternate) will be informed of their selection no later than April 17, 2012 in order to be able to book your accommodations before the early bird deadline ends. Submit completed application to Laura Huseby (laura.huseby@state.mn.us).

*This is the same level of reimbursement the MEHA President and President-Elect get when they travel to the AEC. Because we are a frugal organization there are some limits:

The stipend pays for conference registration at the early discount, NEHA member rate. This means you must book your lodging as early as possible to receive the discount. If you're not currently a NEHA member, you need to join at your own expense or be responsible for the difference between the two rates.

The Board expects the recipient to purchase their airline ticket in a manner and timeframe that minimizes cost.

Lodging coverage is for a single accommodation in a standard room, preferably at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport or at a comparable establishment.

Shuttle-type ground travel between the airport and the hotel is covered, unless it's provided by the hotel.

For the meals not included in the Conference registration you will be reimbursed up to the CONUS amount for the meeting location.

Calendar of Events

April 18, 2013
Sanitarians Exam
St. Paul

May 9-10, 2013
MEHA Spring Conf.
Ruttger's Bay Lake
Lodge
Deerwood, MN

May 8, 2013
Mary Lauren Olson
Memorial Scholarship
Golf Tournament
Ruttger's
Deerwood

July 9-11, 2013
NEHA AEC
Washington DC

**September 23-27,
2013**
NEHA Region 4
Conference
LaCrosse, WI



For the latest information and educational materials about Food Irradiation, Beef Safety, Modern Beef Production, and Consumer Topics relating to Beef contact:

www.mnbeef.org
www.beeffoodservice.com

Colleen Zenk
Director of Consumer
Information

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2950 Metro Drive, Suite 102
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MEMBER UPDATES

Our Sympathy... to the family of James “Jim” Riley who passed away on February 6, 2013. Jim had a long public health career beginning in Nebraska and with most of his career in Minnesota. Jim had a MPH degree from the U of MN and worked several years as a sanitarian at the University before joining the St. Louis County Health Department and then the EPA lab in Duluth. Jim built a home on Clark Lake in Nisswa, MN where he enjoyed the retirement activities of the area.

On the Move... Gary Edwards from MHD to the City of St. Paul in his new position as Environmental Health Manager.



Lowell Rushmeyer, retired Director of Stearns County Environmental Services, enjoying his stay at Merece Tus Suenos resort on the southern Pacific coast of Mexico. Lowell was the lucky winner of this trip at the 2012 MEHA Spring Conference. This vacation was generously donated by owners of the resort, Craig and Marianne Gilbertson. Craig is a Planner for the Drinking Water Program at MDH. Thanks to the Gilbertson’s for their generous donation! Visit their website at

www.merecetussuenos.com

Thank You to the following people who contributed to this newsletter: Dora May Coleman, Kent Reese, Sharon Smith, Kim Carlton, Dan Disrud, Jim Topie, Jeff Luedeman, Nichelle Manchester, Kris Keller, Jeff Brown, Angie Cyr and Rob Carper.

Visit our website at www.mehaonline.org

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

June 1, 2013

Send to:

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651-266-1172