Hello MEHA members:

I would like to thank all MEHA members that have helped us foster communication, involvement and contribution to MEHA. Your Board, and the MEHA Committee Chairs are actively engaged in the growth and improvement of our organization. I have been very impressed by the talent among the Board members and Committee Chairs we have working for us in MEHA. Among some of the items that the Board is working on is to continue the development of the MEHA website and to promote the profession by creating an active social network in Facebook.

The Historical Committee under the leadership of Manny Camilon is actively planning for MEHA’s 50th Anniversary in 2011. President-Elect Rob Carper is leading the MEHA strategic planning Team which is making good progress in improving the quality of our organization. We took a hard look at committee charges to assess how they meet the current and future needs of MEHA. With an updated strategic plan for the year and lots of ideas for meeting our goals, the executive board and committee chairs will be working to strengthen MEHA during the coming year. Suggestions from MEHA members are always welcome.

I would encourage all of you to attend the MEHA spring conference. This experience can be rewarding in so many ways – the opportunity to learn about emerging issues in the environmental health field, networking with environmental health professionals from across our nation, and being inspired to do more than just the routine.

**Spring Conference**
May 4-6, 2011
Ruttger’s Bay Lake Lodge
Deerwood, MN

**NEHA Region 4 Conference**
September 14-15, 2011
Kahler Hotel
Rochester, MN
WHO WANTS TO GO TO COLUMBUS, OHIO?

MEHA IS OFFERING A STIPEND TO ATTEND THE
2011 NEHA ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

The 2011 National Environmental Health Association Annual Educational Conference (NEHA AEC) will be held June 18-20 in Columbus, OH. If you’ve always wanted to attend the AEC but haven’t been able to swing it financially, here’s your chance! This year, MEHA will pay for conference registration, coach-class air travel, ground travel, lodging, and meals for one lucky member.

The ideal recipient would be a member in good standing, participated on MEHA committees or the organization and someone who has never attended the AEC (or hasn’t attended within the last 5 years).

In exchange for this tremendous opportunity, the recipient is expected to write a substantial article for the MEHA newsletter—with pictures. The recipient is also encouraged to report back to MEHA about interesting presenters who could be potential speakers for future conferences.

Information about the conference can be found here:
http://www.neha2011aec.org/

Applications are due Friday, April 22 at 1:00 p.m. The recipient (and an alternate) will be informed of their selection by Friday, April 29.

*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 will pay for the conference registration at the early discount, NEHA member rate. This means you must book your lodging at the Hyatt Regency Columbus (Arena District) and register for the conference by May 22 to receive the $50 registration rebate/early 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.

Lodging coverage is for a single accommodation in a standard room, preferably at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, or at a comparable establishment.

For the meals not included in the Conference registration you will be reimbursed up to the CONUS amount for the meeting location.
The recipient of the stipend will be selected based on the information provided in this application.

**Criteria**

The applicant must:

- Be a MEHA member in good standing, and actively involved in the field of environmental health,
- Attach a letter from their supervisor or agency giving them permission to attend the AEC,
- Write a substantial article, including photos, for the MEHA newsletter.

The applicant will be encouraged to:

- Report back to MEHA about interesting presenters who could be potential speakers for future conferences.

Preference will be given to applicants:

- Who have participated on MEHA committees or been active in supporting the organization.
- Who have never attended a NEHA Annual Educational Conference, or have not attended in the last 5 years.

*Incomplete applications will be rejected*

Submit your application form and attachment(s) to
John Weinand jweinand@eminnetonka.com (phone: 952-939-8272)
Lisa Gyswyt lgyswyt@eminnetonka.com (phone: 952-939-8279)
Nichelle Danielson ndanielson@eminnetonka.com (phone: 952-939-8382)
Fax: 952-939-8244

Contact John, Lisa, or Nichelle if you have any questions.

The deadline for receipt is 1:00 p.m. on April 22, 2011.

An e-mail will be sent to confirm that the application form and attachment were received. Submission constitutes agreement to write the article described above.
Applicant Information

Name ________________________________________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________

City: State & ZIP Code _________________________________________________

Employer and/or educational institution
____________________________________________________________________

Email address _________________________________________________________

Phone # _________________________ FAX # _________________________________

1. Describe your participation on MEHA committee(s) and/or contributions to the Association.

2. Have you ever attended a NEHA Annual Educational Conference? If yes, when was the last year you attended?

   NO

   YES ________________

3. Provide or attach a description of:
   Why you would like to attend the NEHA Annual Educational Conference, and
   How this will benefit both you and the Minnesota Environmental Health Association.

   Limit of one page, please.
I was fortunate to receive the MEHA stipend to attend the 2010 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in Albuquerque, New Mexico. My employer (Olmsted County) generously contributed my time, but I chose which sessions to attend based on what I thought would be most valuable to bring back to MEHA.

Local color
The contrast between the Minnesota and New Mexico landscapes was startling—approaching the Albuquerque airport, the prevailing color was brown, with very few lawns and only scattered trees. It was greenest near the Rio Grande River. River water is channeled into open ditches, and from there it can be diverted onto lawns and pastures through smaller channels that have floodgates—areas are flooded until there are several inches of standing water.

Drinking water comes from wells in aquifers that are recharged by vertical flow from the riverbed. Water conservation is becoming increasingly important as the city has grown substantially and is now using water more quickly than the aquifer can recharge.

Albuquerque sits at 5,000 feet above sea level, which can take some getting used to. The terrain is quite flat except for Sandia Peak, which towers over the city and tops out at 10,000 feet. While I did not get the chance to ride the famous tramway that goes to the top, I did visit the nearby Bien Mur (Big Mountain) Indian Market Center. It was a showcase of gorgeous Southwestern art: blankets, pottery, paintings, and jewelry. The building is round to represent a traditional kiva, a place for spiritual ceremonies.

I was also able to visit a traditional adobe home. It had thick walls to keep out the heat and tall ceilings to keep the warmest air above people’s heads. Instead of air conditioning it had a “swamp cooler,” which chills air by evaporation. The floors were brick pavers, which absorb heat during the day and give it off at night when it can be quite cool. Suburban homes are often surrounded by adobe walls whose gates are an art form, using huge timbers, elaborate wrought iron, and hand-made ceramic tiles. The mild climate means people can spend a lot of time outdoors, so there are spacious patios with fireplaces, chandeliers, and, furniture that we would never take outside. The home I visited had both living and dining rooms on its patio.

Patios are often surrounded by gardens, with everything from native cacti to tropical plants. Because there is no hard frost, plants grow amazingly well as long as they are watered—I saw huge rose bushes of every color in full bloom.
The Conference
The conference was impacted by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico—the keynote speaker at the opening session was going to be EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, but she obviously had other things to attend to. She did videotape a short address for the conference.

The speaker who substituted, Dr. Christopher T. Jones, drew an analogy between the scope of environmental health (EH) and crayons. EH used to cover only a small number of issues, just like crayons used to come in a box of 8. Over the years EH has expanded to cover an increasing number of human health hazards, and EH professionals have needed to adjust accordingly over the course of their careers. Dr. Jones thinks we’re at the 96 crayon box level and still expanding. This expansion was reflected in the topic areas offered at the conference, which included EH tracking and informatics, and sustainability.

NEHA’s commitment to sustainability was shown upfront by electronic registration and the elimination of handouts of PowerPoint slides at the Conference.

The Conference had an electronic presence, including its own webpage. I started receiving emails right after registering, and these continued to pour in while I was at the Conference. Presumably, people with handheld devices were able to access those in real time—I only got to read mine after I got back to the office.

By far the most interesting and valuable session I attended was about social networking. The speakers were asking people to send Twitter messages right in the classroom. I was amazed to hear that a local EH department in California sends a post to Facebook when they close a restaurant for non-compliance. I don’t even have a cell phone, which the person sitting next to me couldn’t believe. She joked that I should dump out my purse so she could check. I felt more than a little isolated in the midst of all the electronic chatter.

This session convinced me that MEHA needs an expanded electronic presence, specifically in social networking. This is the main message I brought back to the MEHA Board, and was one of the reasons they decided to update our website and create a Facebook page. I hope you’ve friended us!

I’ve heard it said that you will retain about three of all the new things you learn at a conference. My first was, “MEHA needs Facebook”. The second was a basic—but—vivid explanation of how pool suction outlets entrap people. The third was that the most effective and greenest way to clean is with a damp microfiber cloth. I tried one at home and they’re amazing!

One of the most important reasons we attend conferences in person is to get re-energized by networking with fellow professionals. More than anything, it was inspiring to gather with hundreds of other professionals. I was going to devote a big part of this article to the inspiration I got from Bob Custard’s talk, but I will let him inspire you in person at the MEHA Spring Conference.

I encourage people to apply for the MEHA stipend and bring back at least one idea to benefit our Association.
The **Public Health Law Network** provides legal technical assistance, offers public health law training and educational materials and facilitates personal connections. We are organized into five regional centers and one national coordinating center. Both the Network’s National Coordinating Center and Northern Region are located at **William Mitchell College of Law**. The Northern Region includes Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

There is no charge to join the Network. People who [join the Network](#) gain access to:

- Strategic legal technical assistance
- Public health law resources, including webinars, trainings, fact sheets, legal briefs, a biweekly e-newsletter and more
- A forum to connect with other professionals to share public health law knowledge and experience

Working together with experts across the country, the Network is organized by regions in order to provide dedicated support to all areas of the United States. The Northern Region, located at the Public Health Law Center at William Mitchell College of Law, serves 8 states as you can see below. In addition to serving as the Northern Region, we are also the National Coordinating Center for the Network.

If you would like to keep informed about our work, and have not already joined, please click [here](#) to join the Network. There is no charge to join the Network. If you have friends or colleagues who you think would like to participate in the Public Health Law Network, please feel free to forward this email to them.

If you’re interested, I’d be happy to find a time to give you a call in order to discuss the Network and answer any questions you might have. I would be especially interested to hear about what you see as the most pressing public health challenges in your state. And should you have any immediate needs for legal technical assistance, please feel free to share those with me as well.

**Jill Krueger**  
Senior Attorney  
**Public Health Law Network**, National Coordinating Center  
William Mitchell College of Law  
875 Summit Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55105  
EMail: jkrueger@publichealthlawnetwork.org  
Phone: (651)695-7624
Ania Urban, a 4th year doctoral student working on a PhD in Environmental Health Toxicology, is this year’s recipient of Minnesota Environmental Health Association’s Mary Lauren Olson Scholarship. Ania was recognized at the Winter Conference on Thursday, January 27. Ania is a 4th year doctoral student working on a PhD in Environmental Health Toxicology. Her thesis research focuses on the toxicology of environmental carcinogens, and explores the role of DNA adduct repair in tobacco-specific nitrosamine-derived cancers. She obtained a MPH in Environmental Health from the U of M School of Public Health in 2009, and received a BA in Chemistry and Environmental Studies from St. Olaf College in 2004.

Ania’s background consists of professional experience, as well as many leadership and volunteer activities related to environmental health. She is currently working as a Research Assistant at the U of M Masonic Cancer Center, and also has experience as a Research Scientist at the Masonic Cancer Center, as a Teaching Assistant with the Environmental Studies Department at St. Olaf College and as a Research Assistant at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Ania also has a number of publications, research presentations, professional memberships and honors and awards to her name, and during the 2009-2010 academic year she was awarded the U of M President’s Student Leadership and Service Award. She was a speaker at two MEHA conferences in recent years.

Ania Urban is, and will continue to be a leader in the field of Environmental Health. The Mary Lauren Olson Scholarship is well deserved. Congratulations Ania!

President-Elect Rob Carper and Vice-President Dan Disrud pictured with scholarship recipient Ania Urban at the MEHA Winter Conference in Shoreview.
Several MEHA board positions will be voted on by members prior to the annual meeting. Candidates have submitted the following biographies for your review.

**Kim Carlton**  
*City of St. Paul*  
*Candidate for Vice President*

I am honored to be running for Vice President of MEHA.  

I am a Registered Environmental Health Specialist, and I have been employed by the City of Saint Paul for six years. My primary duty with the City is to conduct inspections of food establishments, including the ever-expanding Saint Paul Farmers' Market. I also assist with plan review for new and remodeled establishments. Prior to working for the City of Saint Paul, I was a Code Compliance Officer for the City of Minneapolis. There, in addition to food inspections and reviewing plans, I conducted food worker training courses in both English and Spanish.

I received my MPH in Environmental Health from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. I earned my BA with a double major in Biology and Environmental Studies, and a minor in Spanish from Gustavus Adolphus College. While in school, I held a number of Environmental Health-related student worker positions and internships: "Team Diarrhea" at MDH, Brown-Nicollet Environmental Health, Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board, and Blue Earth County Environmental Services.

I serve as an alternate member of the Inter Agency Review Council, I am a member of the Sanitarian Registration Advisory Board, and I am a graduate of the Saint Paul Mayor’s Leadership Academy. In my "spare" time I volunteer with the Power Lunch Program of Everybody Wins Minnesota, an early childhood literacy program. I enjoy reading, sewing, gardening, and I try to only spend a little bit of time worrying about how weird my dog will look when we have his cracked tooth pulled.

I have been honored to serve on the MEHA board for the past four years. I have been involved as a member of the Outreach and Technology Committees, and as a liaison to the Student Committee and Registration Committee. I have enjoyed getting to know the members of the board during that time, as well many other MEHA members I might not have met otherwise. Being actively involved with MEHA is a great reminder that there are other professionals in Minnesota who feel as strongly about environmental health as I do. I look forward to continuing my service with MEHA.
Molly Wellens  
City of Maplewood  
Member-At-Large

My name is Molly Wellens and I am a registered sanitarian working for the City of Maplewood as their Health Officer. I have been with the City since 2006. My primary responsibilities include conducting routine and complaint based inspections of the food and beverage establishments, public swimming pools, and lodging facilities within the City of Maplewood. I also investigate public health nuisance complaints and administer the non-community public water supply program. I also worked at St. Paul-Ramsey County as an Environmental Health Specialist.

I live in Woodbury with my husband, Jeff, and am in the thick of raising 3 young kids (ages 8, 5 and 2). I enjoy volunteering in the schools that my daughters attend, being vice-president of the PTO, working out, and spending time with family and friends. I received my MS from the University of Wisconsin, Eau-Claire. I earned my BAS in Community Health Education from the University of Minnesota, Duluth.

I would like to become more actively involved with MEHA as a member at large. I have made many great friends through our profession and would like to expand my circle and serve our professional organization. I believe in the work that we do and enjoy being in the field. I like that every day is different and having the opportunity to meet a variety of people.

Jessica Berti  
City of Bloomington  
Member-At-Large

Hello. My name is Jessica Berti and I am an Environmental Health Specialist with the City of Bloomington. I have been with Bloomington for nearly four years. Before that I worked for NSF International as a Field Services Representative. I have had a wide range of duties in my professional career including investigating public health nuisances, responding to residential neighborhood zoning complaints and inspecting licensed rental dwellings, pools, food establishments and hotels. I have a bachelor's degree in Environmental Public Health from the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and am currently working on my master's in Public Health at the University of Minnesota.

I live in Saint Paul with my fiancé and we are looking forward to our June wedding! In my free time I enjoy being outdoors, travelling, cooking and spending time with family and friends. I also like volunteering and have been a volunteer with the MS society on their fundraising walks and bike rides for the past five years. I have also volunteered with the Huntington’s disease society for the past three years.

While at UWEC I was vice president and president of the SNEHA, the Student National Environmental Health Association. My coworkers will tell you that I am a very outgoing person and like to engage people in conversation. I enjoy being a leader and would be honored to have the opportunity to serve as a member-at-large for MEHA.
Kyle Johnson  
**MDH Director**

Hello my name is Kyle Johnsen. I work as a public heath sanitarian for the Minnesota Department of Health. I am in the Noncommunity Unit of Drinking Water Protection Section. As a sanitarian I collect and test water for contaminants and conduct inspections of drinking water systems to ensure the safety of drinking water. These are places such as: restaurants, churches, resorts, or any other businesses serving the public that are not connected to municipal water supplies.

The territory I cover includes four different counties, consisting of Ottertail, Todd, Wilkin, and Clay. I have worked for the health department for about 5 years. The start of my employment with MDH happened while attending Minnesota State University Moorhead. During one summer I was as employed as a seasonal employee in Fergus Falls. A couple summers later, after I graduated with a Life Science Teaching degree, I was employed for MDH temporarily in St. Cloud and St. Paul. My full time experience started in Rochester and lasted just under a year when I took a transfer to where I grew up near Fergus Falls. I have been in Fergus Falls now for a little over 3 years.

In my spare time I enjoy relaxing at the lake and playing any yard game with friends and family. This last summer I did my first half marathon and plan to do another half this spring. I am also in 3 different leagues basketball, golf, and bowling. For the last two years I have served on the outreach committee. This last year I took over as the chair of the committee. I have enjoyed working with and getting to know the people involved in MEHA. It would be an honor to be elected to serve as the director for MEHA.

Lori Green  
**St. Paul-Ramsey County Secretary**

My name is Lori Green and I am currently working as an Environmental Health Specialist with St. Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health. I have been with Ramsey County since 1994 and my primary duties include food, lodging, pool inspections and nuisance complaints. In addition, I am an NSPF Swimming Pool Instructor and also assist in teaching ServSafe courses for the department. Prior to coming to Ramsey County, I did two internships for the City of Minnetonka and also spend some time volunteering at the City of Brooklyn Park.

I have a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota in Nutrition and Dietetics and worked for the U of M as a food service manager for seven years in one of the dorm kitchens. I have been the editor of the MEHA newsletter for over ten years and really enjoy this job. In my spare time, I have been a girl scout leader for the past five years and a volunteer in my children’s schools for the past seven years. I spend a lot of time with my family at our children’s sporting events and enjoy gardening and riding ATV when I can. I am very committed to MEHA and would be honored to serve as secretary.
Rebecca Caulfield has a BA in Chemistry and Biology. After ten years in the food industry as a chemist/microbiologist, Rebecca took the leap into civil service, spending thirteen years as an Environmental Health Specialist for the City of Minneapolis. She managed board/lodging programs and conducting industry training. From there Rebecca moved to the US Food and Drug Administration as an Investigator and most recently as a Compliance Officer.

Rebecca is a Minnesota Registered Environmental Health Specialist, a certified Seafood HACCP Alliance trainer and a certified FDA Seafood Products Level II Investigator and Performance Auditor. Rebecca is on the FDA Foreign Food Inspection Cadre and is a member of a FDA Course Advisory Group for food inspections and evidence development training. She is a Cadre member for other FDA food commodity courses including Food GMPs, Juice HACCP, and Seafood HACCP for Regulators. It has been her privilege to provide training to international, federal, and state agencies. She has also enjoyed the worldwide traveling that her position requires.

Rebecca and her husband have two daughters, the first one in college and the second one about to graduate from high school. Rebecca’s plans are to not attend any high school events next year, with the exception of the Minnesota High School Hockey tournament.

Previously Rebecca served on the MEHA Legislative Committee. Because of her change in position, moving to the FDA, Rebecca was not able to be involved in MEHA as much as she would have preferred. However, now as a Compliance Officer, Rebecca will be traveling less, and once again be available to fully participate in MEHA activities. Rebecca would be honored to represent fellow MEHA members on the MEHA Board as a Director. Rebecca can be contacted at: rebecca.caulfield@fda.hhs.gov.

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.
MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE
7TH ANNUAL
NATIONAL PUBLIC
HEALTH WEEK

FILM FESTIVAL

APRIL 4-8
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
5PM | DOORS OPEN
5:30PM | SHOWTIME

Grab a snack and visit with representatives from public health organizations and businesses.
Expert film introductions & films to follow.
Q&A post-films.

MON
APRIL 4 MONDAY
WEST 4TH ST.

TUES
APRIL 5 TUESDAY
FOOD STAMPS

WED
APRIL 6 WEDNESDAY
WHO LIVES, WHO DIES,
RATIONING HEALTH CARE

THURS
APRIL 7 THURSDAY
CLIMATE REFUGES

FRI
APRIL 8 FRIDAY
THE TEST & VINTAGE SEX
EDUCATION SHORTS

Coffman Memorial Union Theater (Tuesday)
309 Washington Ave. S. SEU East Bank

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
(612) 624-1100

DESIGN BY SARAH SCHMIDT
April 4-11, 2011
Public Health Week

April 5, 2011
Seafood HACCP Training
MDH-St. Paul

April 27, 2011
Sanitarian/EHS Exam
St. Paul, MN

May 4-6, 2011
MEHA 50th Anniversary and Annual Spring Conference
Ruttger’s Deerwood, MN

June 8, 2011
MEHA 50th Anniversary Mississippi River Boat Tour
Minneapolis

June 18-20, 2011
NEHA AEC
Columbus, Ohio

September 14-15, 2011
NEHA Region 4 Conference
Kahler Hotel
Rochester

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
Minnesota Beef Council
2950 Metro Drive, Suite 102
Minneapolis, MN 55425
952-934-4468
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Announcement: Environmental Public Health Tracking 101

A new CDC online course, Environmental Public Health Tracking 101, provides an overview of the major components of environmental public health tracking. The course is divided into 12 modules within three sections. Topics include how to use the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (http://www.cdc.gov/ephtracking), surveillance and epidemiology, types of tracking data, and geographic information systems.

The online course is available at http://www.nehacert.org. The course can be accessed by entering "Tracking 101" in the search box. Continuing education credit is available at no charge for nurses, health educators, and other health professionals.
Upcoming Training from the Midwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety
School of Public Health-University of Minnesota

Lead Safety for Renovation, Repair and Painting 4/6/2011 --$185.00
http://www.sph.umn.edu/ce/trainings/coursepage.asp?activityId=10268

Confined Space Entry and Retrieval 4/8/2011 --$125.00
http://www.sph.umn.edu/ce/trainings/coursepage.asp?activityId=9628

Respiratory Protection Programs: Features, Facts and Fit Testing 4/28/2011 --$95.00
http://www.sph.umn.edu/ce/trainings/coursepage.asp?activityId=9729

Minnesota Environmental Health Association
50th Anniversary Celebration
1961-2011
MEHA is looking for recipes from members for a cookbook that will be printed in honor of our 50th year.

Please include your favorite recipes, your name, where you work and any other information you would like to share.

Send recipes to:
Molly.Wellens@ci.maplewood.mn.us
Or
Lori.Green@co.ramsey.mn.us
By April 15, 2011
Congratulations to Don Adams, Stearns County, on his retirement!

Congratulations to Mike Nordos, MDH, on the birth of his daughter.

On the Move… Jason Kloss from Nobles-Rock Counties to Southwest Health and Human Services.

Thank you to the following people who contributed to this newsletter: Kim Carlton, Molly Wellens, Kyle Johnson, Jessica Berti, Rebecca Caufield, Laura Scheinoha, John Weinand, Carlota Medus and Joe Hibberd.

Visit our website  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, 2011.

Send to:
Lori Green, R.S.
St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health
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Maplewood, MN  55109-1320
651-266-1172
Lori.Green@co.ramsey.mn.us