



MEHA BULLETIN



President's Message

Submitted by Nicole Hedeem

Greetings!

We have almost survived another Minnesota winter! Spring is near! Soon we can start replacing our parkas and snow boots with sunglasses and sunscreen. I do not mind the snow and cold but I am definitely looking forward to the end of the flu and norovirus seasons. What a year! My hands feel like two, very dry, and well-used, scrub pads from constant handwashing! And speaking of winter, this year was extra busy for many agencies with Minnesota hosting Superbowl 52. I know many metro agencies are finally taking a breath from all of the activity and planning that surrounded the event. Kudos to all involved.

Thank you to those who were able to attend the MEHA Winter Conference. The conference was a success and we received rave reviews about the venue and the feature speakers: Bill Marler from Marler Clark law firm in Seattle and Sybil Dunlops from Greene Espel Law Firm. I hope we can have both speakers back at some point in time to speak at a future conference. Now that the winter conference (and winter in general) is behind us, the conference planning committee is busy planning the spring conference! The MEHA Spring Conference will be held at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge May 9-11, 2018 (<http://ruttgers.com/>) and will feature two presentation tracks; one specifically pertaining to food safety and the other track will be on general environmental health (e.g., wastewater, pools, air quality). Watch the website and E-blasts for announcements regarding conference registration, draft agendas, and social events (golf, beanbags, and raffle). In addition, save the date for the MEHA Fall Conference, which will be held at the Wood Lake Meeting Center in Rochester on October 4, 2018. The event will be a joint conference with the MN Association of Housing Code Officials (MAHCO) and a great opportunity to mingle and network with other environmental health professionals.

Springtime means new faces for the MEHA Board! In this newsletter, you will find several great candidates running for open board positions. Thank you to all the individuals who were willing to step up and run. Members will be receiving electronic ballots in the next few days so please take a couple minutes to review the bios for the candidates and to vote. This is YOUR association, so please take an active role in choosing whom you want to represent MEHA! And please

President

Nicole Hedeem

Spring 2018 Issue

Volume 46, No. 1

IN THIS EDITION

Candidate Bios

**MEHA Winter
Conference**

**Photos and Award
Recipients**

**MEHA Winter
Conference**

**Student Poster
Session**

**Calendar of
Events**

Member Updates

consider running for a board position in the future. If you aren't ready to fully commit to a board position, getting involved with a committee is a great way to get your feet wet and learn more about all the amazing things we do as an organization and to meet the wonderful people who work behind the scenes. Please take a minute to update and edit your member profile online <https://meha.wildapricot.org/>, review the full list of committees, and select which committees you might be interested in participating in. The board will review the member profiles and reach out to those who are interested in getting involved.

Spring also means I will be passing on the gavel to the new President, Caleb Johnson! I cannot believe how fast this year went! I feel very fortunate and grateful to have served as MEHA President over the last year. Our Association was incorporated in 1961, and when I look back at the long list of past presidents, I am truly humbled by their vast experience and the small role I have played in comparison. The Association was created to develop a standard of excellence for the environmental health profession, and now at over 400 members strong and still growing, we have done just that and so much more!

Again, thank you for the privilege of serving as President. I'm looking forward to the next year and what it holds for MEHA!

Sincerely,

Nicole Hedeon

(651) 201-4075

President.meha@gmail.com



MEHA attended the University of Minnesota Job & Internship Fair at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Feb. 26.



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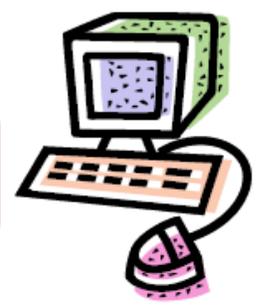
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Minnesota Environmental Health Association

www.MEHAonline.org

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



Ryan Lee
Candidate for
Vice-President
Washington
County

I'm Ryan Lee, and I'm running for MEHA Vice President. I'm asking for your support and your vote for Vice President. In this five year term, I would promote our group throughout the state and work to maintain the professionalism and quality of the organization.

I began my work in public health in 2011 at Lorentz Meats as an in-house inspector for their meat production and the coordinator for their HACCP plans. Since then, I have worked as a health inspector at the Minnesota Department of Health as well as Washington County's Public Health and Environment Department.

I joined MEHA in 2013 and began working on the Technology Committee and later ran for Secretary in 2015. While on the Technology Committee, I've helped save the organization thousands of dollars a year by moving the MEHA website to technology committee control. I was recognized for my contributions to MEHA with the young professional award.

Additionally, in 2017 I was elected Chair of my local state senate district, where we plan conventions and caucuses for neighbors to engage with their government officials. My experience running this organization will help me coordinate and communicate with the many officers and committees in MEHA.

My wife and I live in Roseville, Minnesota, where we bought a house in 2017. We stay busy by brewing beer, exploring our local parks, and delving into dungeons to defeat mighty dragons with our friends.



***Nick Koreen
Candidate for
First Year Director
Minneapolis
Environmental
Health***

Hello, my name is Nick Koreen and I am excited to be running for the position of First Year Director on the MEHA board. Since joining the environmental health community, I have had the pleasure of working for both the Minnesota Department of Health and the City of Minneapolis as a Health Inspector specializing in food safety, recreational water safety, and lodging safety.

I currently participate in the conference planning committee and am a scholarship trustee. As an active MEHA member, I enjoy participating in our volunteer projects, planning and going to conferences, and getting to know our members throughout the organization.

When not diving into environmental health concerns and opportunities you can find me around my Ham Lake home, gardening, canning, teaching my son how to cook, nervously watching Minnesota sports, or playing billiards.

If allowed the opportunity to serve as First Year Director, I will continue to grow our membership and our influence throughout the state and nationally. I also plan to advocate for inclusion of Environmental Health professions beyond the food, lodging and pools focus from delegations and industries statewide. I believe that by exploring our interconnectedness with those who work in other sectors of Environmental Health, we will amplify the positive public health outcomes we all work toward. It would be an honor to represent you and work toward these goals as MEHA's First Year Director.



David Boberg
Candidate
for
Member-At-Large
Minnesota
Department of
Agriculture

Greetings colleagues!

I am David Boberg and I'm running for the MEHA Member at Large position.

I have been working as an Environmental Health Specialist and Sanitarian in various aspects for about 12 yrs.

I graduated from UW-Eau Claire in 2005 with a BS in Environmental & Public Health. Later on, I was able to continue my education by obtaining a MS in Public Safety specializing in Emergency Management.

I started out my career with an internship at the City of Bloomington then a full time job at Morrison/Todd Counties for a year conducting food, pool and lodging inspections. Then back working for the City of Bloomington for over 9 years primarily in code enforcement (residential/commercial properties and rentals) among other duties, such as radon outreach, website development, spill response, well inspections and food, pool, & lodging inspections. About 2 years ago I moved over to the MN Department of Agriculture and have been conducting retail food inspections in the Northern Metro area.

In my spare time I enjoy doing house projects, being outdoors and spending time with my wife, 2 energetic children, and lazy dog. I look forward to the opportunity to assist in advancing the great work that MEHA does!



Amy Zagar
Candidate for
First Year Director
Hennepin County
Health

It's truly an honor to run for Director of MEHA.

I am a Registered Environmental Health Specialist, and I have been employed by Hennepin County for over six years. My primary role with the County is to conduct inspections of food, pools and lodging establishments as well as review plans for new or remodeled restaurants. In the past six years, I have been involved in many aspects of environmental health including collaborating with other units within the county to enhance the services we provide, teaching food safety courses, editing a quarterly newsletter- [Food Digest](#), and providing outreach and education to youth and aspiring environmentalists.

Prior to joining the county, I graduated 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 by participating in the Student National Environmental Health Association, and worked as a Sustainability Coordinator.

In my downtime I enjoy mountain biking, camping, traveling, exploring national parks and the local music scene. I constantly expand my skills in the arts through painting and graphic design. I enjoy a healthy sampling of diverse food combinations as well as appreciate the local slow food and molecular gastronomy movement.

In the last four years, I have been delighted to be Chair of MEHA's Outreach Committee and a member of the Marketing and Legislative Committee. I have been enjoying connecting and networking with members, organizing many volunteer experiences, fostering new partnerships with MEHA and working on promoting the image of MEHA through social media (be sure to follow MEHA on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!). I look forward to contributing my talents and service to MEHA as Director. Thank you for your consideration.



Nicole Skatrud
St. Paul-Ramsey
County Environmental
Health
Candidate for
Secretary

Hello! My name is Nicole Skatrud and I am running for the MEHA secretary position. I recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Public Health. During May of 2016 to March of 2017, I had an internship at the Saint Paul – Ramsey County Health Department. During my internship, I conducted swimming pool inspections, temporary food events, and vending machine inspections. After my internship, I worked as a temporary employee at Ramsey County for six months until I became a permanent employee in November of 2017. I have been conducting food inspections, pool inspections, lodging inspections, mobile home park inspections, plan reviews, and public health nuisances.

I have been a member with MEHA for the last 3 years. As a student, I participated in two MEHA mentorship programs and I presented at the 2017 winter conference poster session. My research was on the presence of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in intensive care unit sink water. Also, I received the NorthStar Scholarship at the 2017 winter conference. The scholarship is given to students in the environmental health field who have leadership qualities and a strong connection or desire to work in Minnesota.

In my downtime I enjoy traveling, spending time outside with friends and family, playing with my dog, and watching re-runs of my favorite T.V. shows.

Thank you for your consideration.



Jacob Neuharth
Anoka County
Candidate for
Secretary

My name is Jacob Neuharth and I am excited to submit my name in consideration for Secretary of the MEHA Board. I joined MEHA about seven months ago in July 2017 when I moved to Minnesota from Seattle. I am an Environmental Health Specialist for Anoka County and joined MEHA almost immediately upon starting because I know how important it is to start growing roots when you move somewhere new. MEHA has given me opportunities to volunteer in my community, develop further into my career, and meet new friends and colleagues in this great state I now call home. I am running for the position of Secretary with MEHA because I want to be further involved in an organization that has already given so much in the little time I've been here.

I graduated from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA with a BA in Public Health. After graduation, I joined the Peace Corps and was sent to Kenya as a high school chemistry teacher. Upon my return to drizzly Washington from the tropics, I began volunteering with the Environmental Health Service of Joint Base Lewis-McChord. ON JBLM, I was exposed to a large variety of EH programs, not only the standard restaurant inspections but also drinking water, entomological surveys, and medical waste management. A year later I accepted a position as a Public Health Sanitarian with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services as an inspector for the Wisconsin Dells area and southwestern Wisconsin. A few summers of inspecting the "Waterslide Capital of the World" left me homesick and I returned to Seattle to accept a position with Trident Seafoods as a regulatory compliance officer managing environmental permits of seafood processing plants all over the Gulf of Alaska. Now I have returned to environmental health in the Midwest and am looking forward to seeing what adventures await.

I live in downtown Saint Paul, only a short walk from the Freeman building. In the summer, I rode my bike along the Mississippi and in the winter, I explore town through the skyway. I love being outside and while I enjoy snowshoeing, I'm excited for spring so I can experience more of Minnesota's state parks. And as my coworkers in Anoka County can attest, I'm also partial to cats and vegetables!

MEHA has provided me so many opportunities to develop myself and I am honored to have this opportunity to continue its mission to "improve the environment in order to create a more healthful environment and quality of life in Minnesota". Thank you for your consideration in voting me as Secretary.



Rebecca Prestwood
Candidate for
Member-at-Large
Minnesota
Department of
Agriculture

Hello, all!

My name is Rebecca Prestwood and I'll be running for the Member at Large board position for MEHA this year. I've been an active member of MEHA for 4 years now and my membership started when I was just a junior in college. I've played a role in numerous MEHA volunteer activities over the last few years and would love the opportunity to serve the association even further.

During the day I work as a retail food inspector for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, but when I'm not working I enjoy reading, rock climbing, exploring the outdoors with my three-legged dog Kirby, and traveling as much as possible! I'd love the opportunity to serve as more than just a member of MEHA and I hope you'll consider me for the position!



2017 Mary Lauren Olson Scholarship Recipient

Melanie Firestone found her public health calling during an undergraduate trip to Nicaragua to conduct a community health census. She holds a Master of Public Health degree in epidemiology from Columbia University, and worked as a researcher at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene on a variety of public health topics, including injury prevention. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Minnesota working on foodborne diseases research.



2017 NorthStar Scholarship Recipient

Paige Mushinski is an Environmental Public Health major at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. She spent the summer of 2017 interning with the Minnesota Department of Health's Foodborne Diseases Unit on "Team Diarrhea", where she participated in outbreak investigations and diseases surveillance activities. She participated in the MEHA mentor program and attended last year's winter conference. She is currently applying to the University of Minnesota School of Public Health for a Master in Public Health degree.

MEHA \$500 Scholarship Recipient (not present)

Nikita Orndorff is completing her degree in Environmental Public Health at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. Her interest in public health was piqued while she was a Rotary student ambassador working with underserved communities in Chile after high school. She is the Vice President of the campus National Environmental Health Association Club, participates in MEHA's mentor program, and presented a poster on algal blooms at last year's winter confer-

MEHA Winter Conference-2017 University of Minnesota



MEHA Scholarship Recipient

Mark Houle is an Environmental Science, Policy, and Management major at the University of Minnesota with a minor in Water Science. He is a researcher with the Karwan Lab of Watershed Hydrology at the U, working on issues impacting soil erosion and water quality. He also interned as a Water Resources Technician with the Capitol Region Watershed District in summer 2017. Mark also serves as the President of the Environmental Student Association.

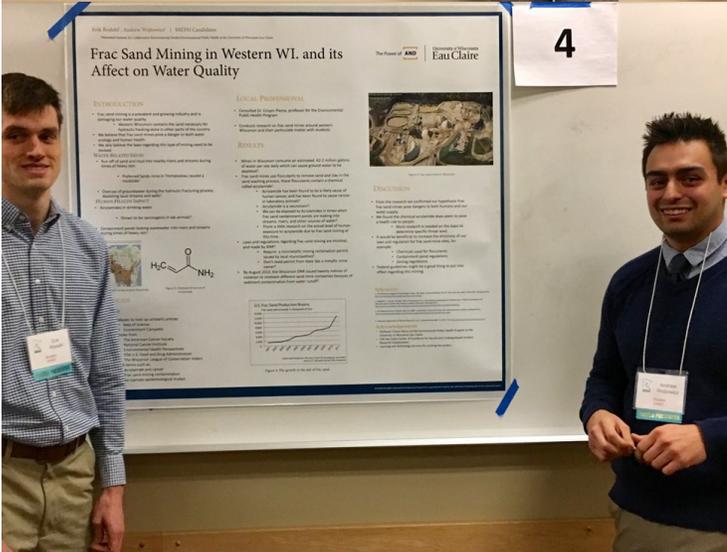
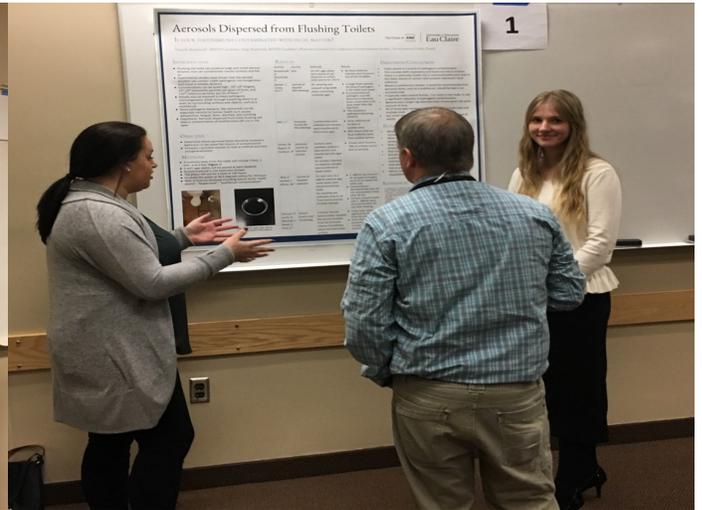
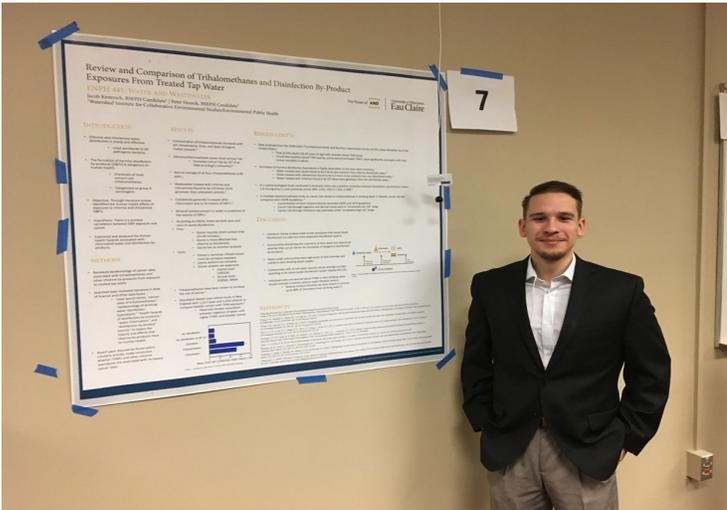


Keynote speaker Bob Marler addressing the MEHA membership at the winter conference

MEHA Winter Conference-2017

University of Minnesota

Student Poster and Networking Session



Minnesota Environmental Health Association

www.MEHAonline.org

MEHA members recently participated in a volunteer event at Open Arms of Minnesota. Open Arms is a nonprofit that cooks and delivers free, nutritious meals to people living with life-threatening illnesses in the Twin Cities. April Bogard, formerly of MDH, is a Sr Director of Programs and has 20 years experience working in food safety and public health.

MEHA members packaged 370 Beef and Barley soups, chopped 75 pounds of green beans and peeled 20 pounds of sweet potatoes!



MEHA Spring Conference

Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge

Deerwood, MN

May 9-11, 2018

MEHA Fall Conference

Wood Lake Meeting Center

Rochester, MN

October 4, 2018

Joint Conference with MAHCO

**(MN Association of Housing Code
Officials)**

Calendar of Events



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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.

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Congratulations to Hank Schreifels

Hank Schreifels, Stearns County Environmental Health Supervisor recently reflected on his nearly 40-year career. It was a unique opportunity for both of us to take on the roles of interviewee and interviewer. We've enjoyed the last 10 years as both spouses and colleagues. As Hank gets ready to retire, we're looking forward to what the next decade will bring.



Tell us a little bit about the man behind the legend...

I'm the oldest of eight. All of us were born and raised in St. Cloud and have stayed in the area. I've lived in Stearns County my entire life. I'm a St. Cloud State graduate with a Biology degree. I love to kayak, canoe, hunt, fish, trap shoot, spend time at our cabin, travel, and am a St. Cloud State Men's Husky Hockey fan. My family includes my wife Lisa, step kids Ben and Abby, along with Dudley the dog and cats Milo and Cosmo.

What jobs did you have before starting at Stearns County?

I've only had two other employers. For the St. Cloud Times I was a newspaper carrier, mailroom employee and route driver. When I was 24, as a demonstration of defiance, unity and youthful stupidity I walked off the job with all the other route drivers after contract negotiations hit an impasse. I would remain unemployed throughout the winter.

Tell us about your career at Stearns County...

I was hired as a seasonal worker in 1978 when I was 25. My job was to do shoreland and septic inspections. The county decided to make it a full-time position so I was kept on.

In 1984, Stearns County got the food inspection program from MDH and created the Environmental Health Division which I became a part of. It included food, beverage, lodging, septic and solid waste. Sometime soon after I joined MEHA. In 1995, I became team leader. Since 2000 I've been the Environmental Health Supervisor.

What are you most proud of?

Receiving the 2009 MEHA Frank A. Staffenson Award for Environmental Health Professional of the Year

Implementing online food safety training using an FDA grant

Bringing in over \$1,000,000 over four years to upgrade septic systems to protect groundwater

What advice would you give to someone just starting out in environmental health?

We deal with the public. It's important to listen to people and put yourself in their shoes. Take time to explain the regulations and why they are important.

Come join Hank retell the tales of inspections gone bad at Howie's Bar & Grill in downtown St. Cloud on Friday, March 23 from 4:30 pm onward.

Congratulations to Karen Swenson



Karen Swenson has been with Brown-Nicollet Environmental Health since the fall of 1987 with primary responsibility for food, beverage, and lodging programs. In December 2002 became the Director of Brown-Nicollet Environmental Health and in 2003, she added the responsibility of Public Health Preparedness Coordinator for Nicollet County.

Karen has been a great advocate for Environmental Public Health. This is evident by her participation and involvement in MEHA, LPHA and the EHCIB. Karen and her contributions to the work we do will be greatly missed.

Karen received numerous awards and recognition for her work in environmental public health and her commitment to building partnerships with other departments, establishment owners and her local and state environmental public health colleagues.

The two awards she is most proud of are the *Environmental Health Association Professional of the Year Award* she received in 2000 and *The Jack Korlath Partnership Award* presented by the Commissioner of Health in 2016 at the Community Health Conference.

Known for having “fun” at all MEHA events, Karen will move on to host fabulous get-togethers and enjoy living by the lake with her family and many friends. Gardening will keep her busy, as she is planning to begin studies to become a Minnesota “Master Gardener” next winter.

Karen would like to send you a sincere “thank you”. Her quote for us to remember is.... "None of us got to where we are alone. Whether the assistance we received was obvious or subtle, acknowledging someone's help is a big part of understanding the importance of saying thank you." – Harvey Mackay

Congratulations to Mark Clary

St. Paul-Ramsey County Environmental Health

Mark Clary will retire from his position as Community Environmental Health Supervisor on April 6, 2018 after 23 years with Ramsey County. Mark has worked as a sanitarian for the county and was promoted to EHS Supervisor in 2006. Mark served as MEHA Treasurer for nine years and received a merit award from MEHA in 2010 for his "sound leadership and astute financial management as treasurer for MEHA."



Mark was responsible for the food, beverage and lodging programs, swimming pools, manufactured home parks, public wells and public health nuisances. Mark has served on many committees with both state and local partners along with his involvement in emergency management at the county level for many years.

Mark is very well respected amongst his peers and coworkers and has a deep commitment to public health. His easy-going personality and positive attitude will be missed. We wish him the best of luck as he begins this new chapter in his life and wish him lots of luck on the golf course!

John Curtis Haag

MARCH 28, 1943 ~ FEBRUARY 17, 2018 (AGE 74)

OBITUARY

SERVICE DETAILS

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John Haag, 74, of Bemidji, MN died Saturday, February 17, 2018 at Sanford Bemidji Medical Center.

Funeral Services will be 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at St. Philip's Catholic Church with Fr. Chuck Huck officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to the Olson-Schwartz Funeral Home, Bemidji.

John Curtis Haag was born March 28, 1943 in Norwood, MN to Hilary and Olga (Krienke) Haag. He attended a one room school house where all of the students' last names were Haag. John graduated from Norwood Young America High School as its valedictorian in 1961. He entered the U.S. Navy and spent 2 world tours on the USS Enterprise. After the navy he attended Minnesota State at Mankato majoring in biology. He taught school for 6 years prior to going to work for Martin County as a health inspector. He then moved to Bemidji where he would serve 7 counties in NW Minnesota always seeking to help restaurants and resorts keep their doors open and not come across as a heavy handed inspector. He retired from the state in 2013. He also worked as a greeter at Wal-Mart. He enjoyed watching Minnesota professional teams, fishing, gardening and spending time with his grandkids, whom he loved more than anything else. His sense of humor and love of people brightened the lives of so many. John will truly be missed.

He is survived by his wife, Paulette Ann Haag of Bemidji; daughter, Heather (Daniel) Walden of Bemidji; w grandchildren, Jacob and Gabriela Walden; siblings, Pearl (Gilbert) Stuedemann of Gaylord, Mike (Judy) Haag of Norwood Young America, Veronica (Fred) Wiebe of Shakopee, Fred (Gayle) Haag of Belle Plaine, Malinda (Joseph) Honerman of Litchfield, Kenneth (Janice) Haag of New Ulm, Herman Haag of Belle Plaine, Charlotte (Sean) Laughlin of Eagan and Stanley Haag of Chaska.

He was preceded by his parents and brother, Hilary Haag.

Online guestbook at www.OlsonSchwartzFuneralHome.com

MEMBER UPDATES

Congratulations to Jessica Jutz, City of Bloomington, on the birth of her twins!

Congratulations to Dr. Laura (Suppes) Hamre on the birth of her daughter.

Welcome to Brian Smith to the MDH DWP-St. Cloud

Welcome to Kaylie Prochaska to St. Paul-Ramsey County Environmental Health

Welcome to Ty Riihiluoma to MDH Bemidji

Welcome to Ryan Miller to Brown-Nicollet Counties

Welcome to Scott Gullicksurd to MDH Bemidji

Congratulations to Brian Golob, Vision Ease Lens, on his retirement

Congratulations to Kyle Johnsen, MDH, on his upcoming wedding

Our sympathy to Joan Peterson, MEHA member, on the loss of her mother

Thank You to the following people who contributed to this edition: Nicole Hedeem, Caleb Johnson, Dr. Laura Suppes, Jeff Luedeman, Lisa Schreifels, Jesse Harmon and Sharon Smith.

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

October 1, 2018

Send to:

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