

Skillz

# MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION



## ANNUAL REPORTS

# 2020 - 2021

## Order of Business of the Annual Meeting

- a. Meeting Called to Order.
- b. Roll Call of Officers and Directors.
- c. Secretary's Report.
- d. Approval of last Annual Meeting minutes.
- e. Treasurer's Report.
- f. Approval of Annual Treasurer's Report.
- g. Reports of Committees.
- h. Report on Strategic Direction. Lisa as presenter
- i. Unfinished Business.
- j. Outgoing President's Address.
- k. Presentation of Gavel to Incoming President.
- l. Incoming President's Address. Lisa as presenter
- m. Presentation of Past President Award and Gold Bar to Outgoing President.
- n. Report of Election - attached to email-
- o. New Business.
- p. Adjournment.

*The mission of the Minnesota Environmental Health Association is to enhance and maintain environmental and public health throughout the state by providing professional development to its members and information to the community*

## **Annual Committee Reports 2020 - 2021**

### **Awards Committee**

Respectfully submitted by Caleb Johnson

The 2021 Awards Committee members were:

- Caleb Johnson, MEHA 2nd Past President and Committee Chair
- Amy Zagar, MEHA Board 3rd Year Director
- James Noyola, MEHA Member

The committee received nominations for the Merit, Staffenson, and Life Membership awards by the deadline of March 1, 2021. The committee met via Microsoft Teams on March 4, 2021 to review nominations. The Emerging Professional award nomination submission deadline was extended to March 12, 2021 due to lack of nominations. A nomination for Emerging Professional was received by the extended deadline, and the committee discussed this nomination via email on March 18, 2021.

The committee selected the following members for 2021 awards. These awards were presented at the MEHA Virtual Spring Conference on May 13, 2021:

- Staffenson Award: Mark Peloquin
- Merit Awards: David Boberg and Patrick Kuisle
- Emerging Professional: Greg T. Nelson
- Life Membership: Petrona Lee

o A board vote was conducted electronically on 5/13/2021 resulting in unanimous approval of the Life Membership recipient.

The committee chair purchased the Staffenson perpetual plaque name plates for the 2020 and 2021 Staffenson Award winners, as well as honorary plaques for the 2020-2021 Past President, 2021 Staffenson Award, 2021 Merit Award, 2021 Emerging Professional Award, and two MEHA Life Memberships. Plaques have either been shipped or hand delivered to the award recipients.

In addition to the plaques, a series of congratulatory videos were created using VidHug. A link to the video and a video file has been shared with each of the 2021 awardees.

The committee chair provided the name of the Staffenson Award winner to the MEHA President and President-Elect for state affiliate Merit Award nomination at NEHA.

### **Conference Planning Committee**

Respectfully submitted by: Loreena Hilton, Michelle Messer, Nick Koreen

After a board vote, the Spring 2020 Conference at Chase on the Lake in Walker, MN was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. We were reimbursed the deposit of \$500 that was made.

We also cancelled the 2021 Winter Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had not paid any deposits for the winter conference, so the hold for our date was removed and cancelled with the U of M Continuing Education Center.

Our first virtual Spring Conference was held on Thursday, May 13, 2021. The meeting was held via WebEx using MDH as a host. We had 172 attendees. Expenses totaled only \$418.29, while registration fees brought in \$3,590.00. Net profit for the conference was \$3,191.71.

### **Communications Committee**

Respectfully submitted by Angie Wheeler, Lori Green, Caleb Johnson

31 E-blast newsletters were sent out from April 11, 2020 through May 17, 2021. Two newsletters were published online. The content for these newsletters includes the President's Message, photos from MEHA events, member updates, calendar of events, annual election candidate biographies, and Sustaining Member advertisements along with other content that the co-chairs feel is appropriate. Please remember to submit newsletter items to the committee co-chairs throughout the year.

### **Finance Committee**

No report

### **History Committee**

No report

### **Legislative Committee**

No report

### **Marketing and Publicity Committee**

No report

### **Membership Committee**

Respectfully submitted by Karen Casale and Dan Disrud

The Membership Committee consisted of Karen Casale, Dan Disrud, Ryan Lee, Lisa Schreifels, Eric Freihammer and Nate Kelly.

Renewals are primarily online with the option of completing fillable form applications which are still available online for all membership categories. New memberships and membership renewal activity has been proportional to the reduced number of association events this past year. Student membership is gratis with proof of full-time student status. The legacy database is maintained to preserve membership history and provide a back-up electronic record source.

The Committee recruiting activities during the year included personal contact with prospective new and lapsed members. The recruiting efforts this year resulted in twenty-one (21) new members being accepted into the Association during the period May 12, 2020 through May 21, 2021. Eighty-one (81) have lapsed memberships. Our current membership is three hundred fourteen (314); two hundred fifty-eight (258) active members; two (2) honorary members; three

(3) lifetime members; three (3) sustaining members; nineteen (19) retired members; twenty-one (21) student members and eight (8) junior members.

We wish to express our personal thanks to all who assisted in the membership recruiting efforts and to the Committee members.

### **Nominations Committee**

Respectfully submitted by Michael Melius

The candidates for the 2021 MEHA ballot were an excellent group. Ballots were electronically mailed to the membership on March 22, 2021 via SimplyVoting online results dated April 7, 2021.

The following candidates were on the 2021 ballot:

Vice President:

Jessica Jutz

Patrick Kuisle

First Year Director:

Sagar Chowdhury

Nicklaus Koreen

Member-at-Large:

Nicole Skatrud

Secretary:

Bill Kass

The election closed on April 5, at 23:59 US/Central Time. Ballots received on or before that date and time were electronically counted. A total of 294 electors were provided the opportunity to vote, and 128 (43.5%) ballots were cast. The 1st Past President presented the certified election results to the MEHA Board at the April 14, 2021 meeting. The Secretary will provide a report on the election during the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The following MEHA members were elected as indicated:

Vice President:

Jessica Jutz

First Year Director:

Nicklaus Koreen

Member-at-Large:

Nicole Skatrud

Secretary:

Bill Kass

## Outreach Committee

No report

## Registration Committee

Respectfully submitted by David Boberg and Patrick Kuisle

The registration committee is the advisory committee to the MEHA Board of Directors on matters pertaining to registration of Environmental Health Specialists/Sanitarians in Minnesota, and on national registration as it pertains to members. This committee also provides study sessions for candidates preparing for the Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian registration exam.

Members:

- Patrick Kuisle, R.S., Co-Chair Patrick.Kuisle@hennepin.us | 612-543-5214
- David Boberg, R.S., Co-Chair David.Boberg@state.mn.us | 612-289-1846
- Doug Edson, Committee Member | Douglas.Edson@state.mn.us | 651-201-3659

The primary ongoing activity of the MEHA Registration Committee is preparing candidates for the NEHA RS/REHS exam, which consists of 250 multiple choice questions from current content areas. The Committee members conducted study sessions each month, which have been rebranded to the RS Academy and expanded to offer CEUs. Attendance went from about 10-15 candidates to around 40+ participants. The topics covered vary depending on the needs of the participants and available subject matter experts. No fees are charged for the study sessions at this time and the committee is working on ways to promote MEHA membership if attendees are not MEHA members.

There are currently minor changes coming to the NEHA RS/REHS exam that will be implemented in Fall 2021. In addition, there are also some minor changes being proposed by the RS/REHS Advisory Committee. These items will be monitored, and the Board will be notified of any issues that arise.

## Resolutions Committee

No report

## Scholarship Committee

Respectfully submitted by Julia Selleys, Nick Koreen, Stephanie Stark

Due to COVID-19 and lack of in person conferences the scholarship committee did not have opportunities to raise funds with event such as bags, golf, trivia, and raffle.

The Mary Lauren Olson scholarship endowment has grown to a point where it is self-sufficient based on the growth of the account. The principal value of the endowment as of May 19, 2021 was \$67,596 with a payout rate of 4.5%. The Northstar Scholarship received contributions from member donations in order to fund this year's scholarship.

At the 2021 Spring Virtual Conference two scholarships were awarded. This year's recipient of the Mary Lauren Olson scholarship was Puleng Moshele for an amount of \$3000. Northstar scholarship recipient this year was Madison Swenson for an amount of \$2000. The applicant pool was lower than normal, we believe that this was due to COVID-19 and lack of in person marketing.

Due to the cancelation of the in person 2021 Spring Conference the Scholarship Trustees are looking for alternative fundraising opportunities and membership events later in 2021 along with asking the board to help fund the Northstar Scholarship to ensure we can provide a scholarship in 2022.

### **Student Committee**

No report

### **Technology Committee**

Respectfully submitted by Ryan Lee, Sophia Walsh, Casey Kipping

The Technology Committee is charged with developing and maintaining the technology needs of the Association, including web pages, online services, and social media accounts. The MEHA website (<http://www.MEHAonline.org> and <http://www.MEHAonline.com>) provides members and the public with news, announcements, information about MEHA and Environmental Health, membership materials, information and the election platform for the Board of Directors and Committee Chair, contact information, conference pages, upcoming events, and job postings. The Wild Apricot service (<http://meha.wildapricot.org>) is used for online membership renewals, online conference registration, and mass emails to the membership, including weekly "E-Blasts." The private listserv serves as the primary communication channel for the Board members and committee chair. The MEHA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/MinnesotaEnvironmental-Health-Association/160272054003203>) and MEHA Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/MEHAOnline>) provides, photos, links and videos to members the public, and promotes the activities of the organization and the field of Environmental Health.

In response to increased threatening activity to the membership and Wild Apricot log in integrated application was added to sensitive areas of the website allowing members to log into these areas while keeping nonmembers out. This is the same username and password that our members already use for Wild Apricot which we hope will keep password fatigue down.

Results from Google Analytics showed that the most visited page from May 1st, 2020, to May 1st, 2021, was the Careers page, with 1329 views. Other popular pages included the Spring Conference page. Total page views under the mehaonline.org domain was 14387 a decrease from the same period last year. During the same time period, 24 job listings were received and posted on the website. For the 2021 Board of Directors, 128 votes were received from a possible 294 elector votes, for a total of 43.5% participation in the voting process, the lowest voting turnout from the past four years.

In 2021 we look forward to reviewing are digital security and providing feedback on that item to the board of directors.