

MEHA BULLETIN

Fall Issue 2023

Volume 51, No. 2

President's Address

Greetings, MEHA members!

For those of you who I have not had the opportunity to meet, my name is Jessica Jutz, and I am the current president of MEHA. I have worked in Environmental Health for over 17 years; mostly at the City of Bloomington. I am very excited and honored to be president this year and I hope to connect with you at an upcoming conference or meeting.

First, I would like to congratulate the recipients of the MEHA awards at our 2023 spring conference in May. The emerging professional award went to Adam Kalahar, MEHA merit awards went to David Boberg and Patrick Kuisle, and Joe Jurusik took home the Frank A. Staffenson Environmental Health Professional of the year award. Each of these individuals is a role model through their commitment to improving the EH field and involvement in our organization.

Getting involved in MEHA is an excellent way to meet others and build lasting relationships which I find very rewarding. When you volunteer for a committee or serve on the board, you make connections with professionals, grow your network and make our organization better. We are looking for people to dig in, share your passion and a bit of your time to help grow the organization. We are all volunteers and it's the work we all do that makes things happen. Committee members plan conferences, provide and organize scholarships, and promote environmental health. We also have committees working on the website, e-blasts, the newsletter and legislative issues. There's a job to fit a wide variety of interests and abilities, so please consider serving on the board or becoming part of a committee. If you would like to be more involved, please visit the MEHA website, click on "membership" and log in to update your profile. You may also email me at: president@mehaonline.org.

I was excited to attend the NEHA Annual Education Conference in New Orleans earlier this summer along with over 1,500 other attendees. The agenda covered a wide range of topics including food safety, pools, drinking water, lead, healthy housing, body art and cannabis. If you have never been to a NEHA conference or it has been a while, I highly recommend it! MEHA awards a stipend for a member to attend the NEHA AEC each year covering most expenses, so please fill out the simple application to be considered next year.

Looking forward, I hope to see some of you at the NEHA Region 4 Conference in West Fargo, ND October 17-19. Here is the website for more information: <https://ndeha.org/wp/conferences>. Also, save the date for our MEHA Winter Conference on Tuesday, January 30th at the Heritage Center of Brooklyn Center.

If you are a student, keep an eye out for our scholarship opportunities funding undergraduate and graduate education and please apply!

Have a great day,

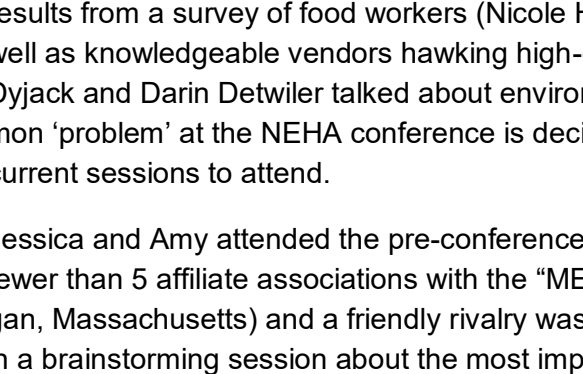
Jessica Jutz

MEHA Awards

Congratulations to Joe Jurusik, Hennepin County recipient of the 2023 Frank A Staffenson Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award. Joe is a Supervising Environmentalist for Hennepin County Environmental Health and has worked there for over 29 years!

The award is presented to the MEHA member who has performed an outstanding accomplishment that significantly contributes to the development, expansion, or advancement of environmental health or performed a service that has produced a positive benefit to the profession as a whole.

Thank you Joe for all your contributions and dedication to our profession!



Pictured David Boberg Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Ryan Lee Washington County & Patrick Kuisle Hennepin County



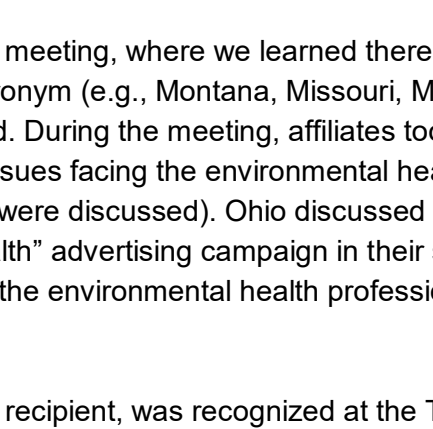
Pictured Joe Jurusik Hennepin County, Ryan Lee Washington County, Amanda Buell Hennepin County & Julia Sellsays Hennepin County

Congratulations to David Boberg, Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Patrick Kuisle, Hennepin County on receiving the 2023 Merit Award!

David and Patrick are Co-Chairs of the MEHA Registration Committee. The Registration Committee also holds the RS Academy where various Public Health topics are presented to assist students and staff preparing to take the RS/REHS Exam.

Congratulations to Adam Kalahar, City of Minneapolis on receiving the 2023 Emerging Professional Award!

Adam has been an inspector with the City of Minneapolis since 2018 and holds the Member-at-Large position with the MEHA Board of Directors.



Pictured Ryan Lee Washington County & Adam Kalahar City of Minneapolis

MEHA at NEHA

Pest tours, plague presentations, and piping hot temperatures – it was one for the books at the National Environmental Health Association's (NEHA) Annual Education Conference (AEC) in New Orleans, Louisiana during July 31 – August 3, 2023. Board members Jessica Jutz (President) and Amy Saupe (President Elect), MEHA conference scholarship recipient Leah Larson, and a cadre of other MEHA members attended this year's AEC.

Conference highlights included excellent presentations by MEHA members on a wide variety of topics, not limited to: processes for temporary events (Holly Batchelor), consultative approaches to HACCP (Cara Pederson), specialized processing guidance (Jim Donovan), and results from a survey of food workers (Nicole Hedeon). There was a large poster session as well as knowledgeable vendors hawking high-quality swag. Keynote speakers like Dave Dyjack and Darin Detwiler talked about environmental health from a 10,000 foot view. A common 'problem' at the NEHA conference is deciding which of many interesting-sounding concurrent sessions to attend.

Jessica and Amy attended the pre-conference affiliate meeting, where we learned there are no fewer than 5 affiliate associations with the "MEHA" acronym (e.g., Montana, Missouri, Michigan, Massachusetts) and a friendly rivalry was initiated. During the meeting, affiliates took part in a brainstorming session about the most important issues facing the environmental health profession (topics like funding, retention, and visibility were discussed). Ohio discussed the launch of NEHA's "Swipe Right for Environmental Health" advertising campaign in their state, which aims to "raise awareness and understanding of the environmental health profession and workforce" (<https://www.neha.org/about-swipe-right>).

Joe Jurusik, MEHA's 2023 Frank A. Staffenson award recipient, was recognized at the Town Hall Assembly conference breakfast as a NEHA Certificate of Merit recipient – congratulations Joe! Additionally, a nice write-up for Karen Casale was displayed at the entrance to the conference as part of memorial wall.

For several of us, the true highlight of the conference was an optional evening "French Quarter Pest Tour" hosted by The City of New Orleans Mosquito, Termite, and Rodent Control Board staff. The interactive tour included several stops and delightfully disgusting information on mosquitoes, rats, and termites. I was particularly grateful we tend not to have Mother's Day swarms of Formosan termites in Minnesota. The Control Board staff also gave several conference presentations, and their passion for pest control and public health was infectious. The tour was a true joy and if you get the chance to hear these folks, you'll be in for a treat.

On Tuesday, MEHA hosted a happy hour for members at the Copper Vine, where it was a pleasure to take a minute to chat with Minnesota conference attendees. Throughout the week, we braved the summer heat to take in various New Orleans sights and experiences, including a NEHA-hosted event that included live jazz and psychic readings.

It was an honor to attend the NEHA AEC on behalf of MEHA, and I encourage all who are able to try a future conference (hopefully somewhere a little less hot!). Next year's AEC will be in Pittsburgh, PA during July 15-18, 2024 with registration open in early 2024 (<https://www.neha.org/aec>).



Amy Saupe
MEHA President Elect



MEHA President Jessica Jutz & MEHA President Elect Amy Saupe



Jim Donovan Dane Huber, Cara Pederson & Marijke Decuir



Nicole Hedeon & Kim Carlton



Sharon Klein & Angie Wheeler

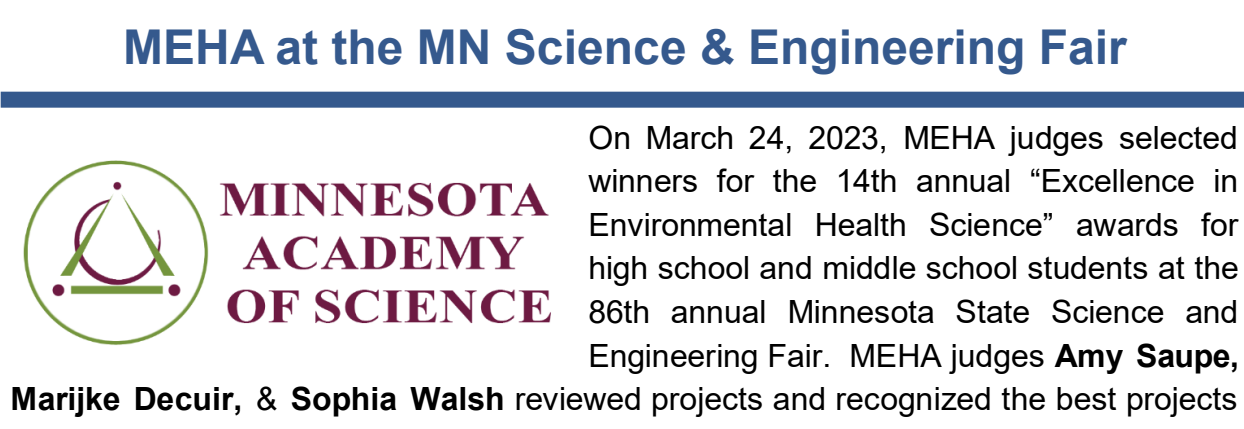


Leah Larson, Jessica Jutz, Cara Pederson, Gretchen Kern, Dane Huber, Jim Donovan, & Amy Saupe



Jessica Jutz, Mike Thissen & Laima Dingley

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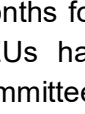
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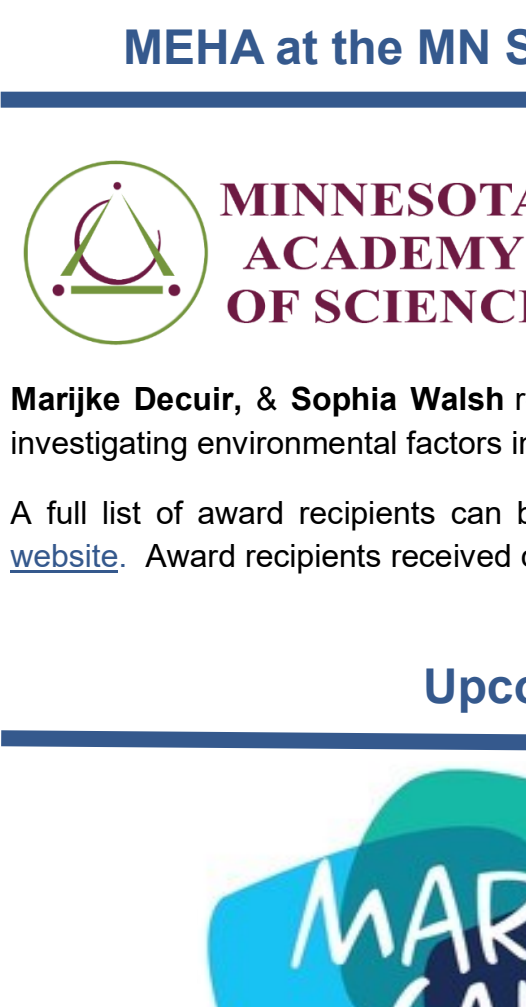
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MEHA at the MN Science & Engineering Fair

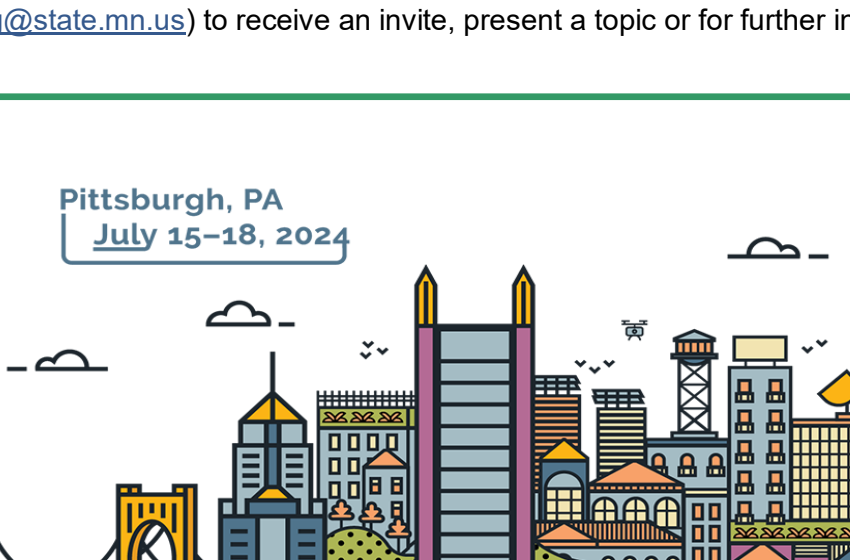


MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

On March 24, 2023, MEHA judges selected winners for the 14th annual "Excellence in Environmental Health Science" awards for high school and middle school students at the 86th annual Minnesota State Science and Engineering Fair. MEHA judges Amy Saupe, Marijke Decuir, & Sophia Walsh reviewed projects and recognized the best projects investigating environmental factors influencing public health.

A full list of award recipients can be found on the [Minnesota Academy of Science website](https://minnesotascience.org/). Award recipients received certificates, awards checks, and MEHA swag.

Upcoming Events



The 2024 MEHA Winter Conference will be held on **January 30, 2024** at the Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center.

The 2024 MEHA Spring Conference will be held on **May 9 - 10, 2024** at the Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids.

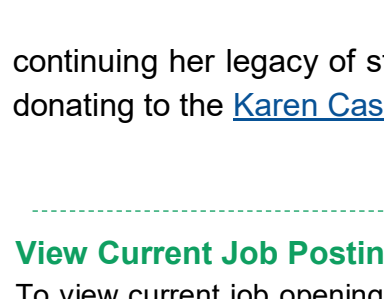
Additional information to follow.



**Pittsburgh, PA
July 15-18, 2024**

87th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition

AEC 2024 Announcements



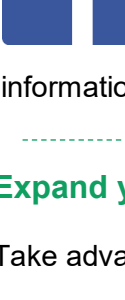
Karen Casale Memorial Fund

Karen was one of MEHA's longest-serving members. There is not a member of the organization who has not benefited from her service, stories, or efforts.

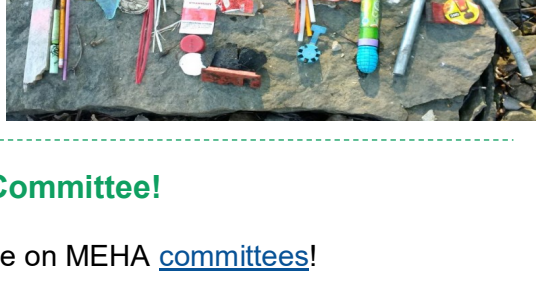
For more than 50 years Karen was the backbone of the MEHA membership committee. Her service over those years helped grow MEHA to the largest it has ever been. Not one to ever stop working, Karen wanted to continue to support new professionals for years to come.

Please join Karen's family and the MEHA Board in continuing her legacy of student involvement and professional membership growth by donating to the [Karen Casale Memorial Fund](https://www.meha.org/karen-casale).

-Thank you-



Follow MEHA on Facebook!
Follow and Like our Facebook page to stay up-to-date with current MEHA news and other pertinent Environmental Health information and news!



Expand your EH Network by Joining a MEHA Committee!

Take advantage of the volunteer opportunities available on MEHA [committees](https://www.meha.org/committees)!

By volunteering and participating in a committee, you will have the opportunity to grow your network in a way that you would not get through your normal work, and you will help maintain an association that supports environmental health professionals in Minnesota.

There are no pre-requisites to be on a committee, just a willingness to help the organization. The committees each determine how often they meet and how they approach their job duties. If any of the committees are of interest to you, please reach out to the [committee co-chair](https://www.meha.org/committees) to find out how to get involved.

What is the benefit to you? People who get involved in MEHA are the people who have demonstrated a passion for environmental health and are the leaders and innovators in this field. Also, we have a lot of fun!

Congratulations to the Newest Minnesota Registered Sanitarians!

Trevor McCliment

Robert Davis

Ian Harrison

Christopher Foster

Jun Wei Tan

Mary Schroeder

Josephine Schmit

Rebecca Thomes

Benjamin Kubus

Member & Staffing Updates

Congratulations to Sam Boysen (MDH-Rochester District Office) on his retirement!

On the Move...Abby Shea from Coon Creek Watershed District to MDH as a Metro Source Water Protection Planner!

Congratulations to Cody Miller (Olmsted County) on his promotion to EH Manager!

Welcome Colleen Fried (Sanitarian Apprentice) to Olmsted County!

Thank you to the following members who contributed to this edition: Jessica Jutz & Amy Saupe.

Request from the Editor

Please send member updates, births, weddings, retirements, honors, events, suggestions and more to:

Angela.Dabu@hennepin.us or Kaitlin.Anderson@olmstedcounty.gov

Deadline for the next issue is **March 1, 2024**