

The Environmentalist Winter 2014

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Promoting Environmental Health in Connecticut since 1954



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Marco Palmeri, CEHA President

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President
MARCO PALMERI
Publicity
JEFF CATLETT
Editor
MIRA LAMI

I started my environmental health career more than 25 years ago, as a summer intern in the Environmental Chemistry Division at the DPH Laboratory, where I had the opportunity to analyze all sorts of samples submitted by local health sanitarians. Although I didn't honestly know what a "sanitarian" did, or even that the name existed, I knew it was an important job. So it wasn't long before I became intrigued about the profession and inquired about job openings in local health. Shortly thereafter, I was very fortunate to be offered a job at Chesprocott Health District which, at that time, served the towns of Cheshire, Prospect, Wolcott and Watertown. Since the district was diverse, I was able to experience the many aspects of the job, but it was my extremely committed and experienced coworkers who taught me the moral responsibilities, commitments and principles that are expected of a sanitarian. Although it's been a few decades, health departments and grey hairs since that job, I'm still working as a sanitarian and STILL enjoying the everyday responsibilities, new challenges and, most importantly, the satisfaction of knowing our hard work improves the quality of life in the communities we serve.

Over the last decade, I've had the honor to hold a few positions within the association and experienced, firsthand, how embedded CEHA truly is within Connecticut's environmental and public health arenas. Whether it's putting on training sessions, meeting with regulators or promoting good environmental and public health practices, CEHA truly is a key partner in improving the overall health of our citizens while ensuring Connecticut's environment and natural resources are protected.

(President's message continued from page 1)

CEHA is also the major stakeholder in maintaining, at its highest educational and ethical standards, the state's environmental health workforce. As the fields of environmental and public health evolve, so must the state's professional workforce. It's a challenge preparing for these novel "issues" that seem to be constantly placed on our laps, fortunately, as a typical sanitarian, we rise to the occasion and do our part to investigate, educate and mitigate whatever comes our way. Let's face it, that's why we come to work each day, but the day isn't getting any longer and there is still so much to we need to do.

I envision CEHA continuing its leadership in educational and professional development programs for Connecticut's environmental and public health workforce, and to explore improving the maintenance of our professional registration/certification processes. Lastly, I believe CEHA, collectively as an association, is a wealth of experience, knowledge and ideas that hasn't been used to its potential. I'm confident we can be of greater service to ourselves, our colleagues and to the citizens of this state if we become a more accessible resource through our website and the many social media outlets available. CEHA's executive board is currently working on all of these endeavors, as well as maintaining our usual involvement in the areas of food, septic, water and housing/lead, but we need your help.

So, on behalf of CEHA and our Executive Board, I encourage all of our members to become more actively involved within our association and assist us with our pursuit to further advance the professional development of our members, increase the recognition of our association and strive for the best environmental and public health practices, policies and standards available. Help CEHA promote and advance your environmental and public health careers by getting involved in the only professional association that represents you. As CEHA's President, I want to thank all of the past presidents and board members for their commitment to the association, its members and to the field of environmental health. It was their passion, knowledge, and the respect they received from their peers, that spurred my interest to become an active member of CEHA. So contact us, so we can spur your interest.

**The 2013-2014 CEHA Executive Board is as follows:
(Log onto: cteha.org for more contact info.)**

Marco Palmeri, President

Steve Civitelli, President Elect

Amanda Clark, Vice President

John Deckert, Past President

Dave Rogers, Secretary

Scott Cook, Treasurer

Phyllis Amodio, Nominations/Elections

Dave Boone, Legislative

Eloise Hazelwood, Scholarships/Awards

Vicky Carrier, Education

Maryam Hosseini, Membership

Matt Payne, Publicity

Jeff Catlett, Publicity

Brian Falkner, Housing/Lead

Jessica Fletcher, Food Safety

Don Kendrick, Water

Steve Knauf, Water

Don Mitchell, Subsurface Sewage

Jeff Polhemus, Subsurface Sewage

Come join us on the CEHA Education Committee!

The Education Committee met on November 14, 2013 in New Britain and reviewed training events for the year. The calendar year 2013 was generally very successful in terms of the actual training events and finances. We are on non-profit organization so the aim is not making money but whenever we do on a particular training event, it goes to offset other events that have traditionally been subsidized as give-backs to members such as the summer and the annual meeting.

During the meeting, we talked about potential upcoming events as follows:

- * Pool inspection in March
- * Housing topic in April, May or June
- * Something on private wells- the discussion centered on waiting for the DPH private well position to be re-filled
- * Food topic – no month discussed
- * Summer meeting- a brief food topic is typical
- * Lab tours- to be resumed depending on lab availability

At the board meeting in December 2013, a request for a RS/REHS review class was also discussed. I am currently researching this topic with the hopes of having a proposal to the board at the next meeting on February 5, 2014.

You've heard me urge you to become involved before but that won't prevent me from saying it again! Join the committee, attend or next meeting or provide us suggestions for potential training topics!

It is also time to let you about a small change on the Committee. Amanda Clark and I were co-chairs last year. Amanda is currently Vice-President so she can't officially hold two positions which leaves me as Education Chair. On the plus side, Amanda has kindly agreed to keep helping with the committee as she did last year (and I could not do it without her!).

I wish all of you the best for a happy and healthy 2014. Thank you.

Local Health and DPH Roles in Regards to
Childcare Facility Inspections
December 3rd and 10th, 2013 New Britain, CT



The attached photo includes the following speakers: Left to right Pam Scully, Amanda Clark, Valerie Bryan, Vicky Carrier, Lisa Bushnell, Kevin Mattia and Sue Rosen. Missing: Ellen Blaschinski, Mandy Smith, Cindy Costa, Krista Veneziano, Gayle Pagoni.



Past President, John Deckert and New President, Marco Palmeri

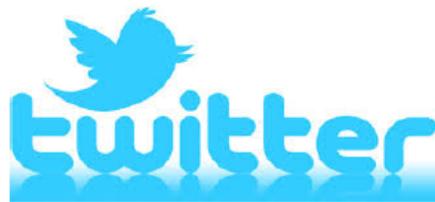


Connecticut Sanitarian of the Year, Matthew Payne

Odds and Ends

CEHA is now on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/CTSanitarian>



January is National Radon Month

<http://www.ct.gov/dph/site/default.asp>

<http://www.epa.gov/radon/>

Monthly Executive Board Meeting

Please consider attending a monthly executive board meeting. Every CEHA member has the right to attend and bring a topic for discussion.

Website

Check out our new and improved website

www.cteha.org