

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

"PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN CONNECTICUT SINCE 1954"

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President's Message

By Marco Palmeri

Well, I guess it's that time of year when my term as President comes to an end and I pass the gavel, literally, on to our new President, Steve Civitelli. My time as President has been nothing less than an honor, and at the same time, a challenging and humbling experience as well. I can't offer enough praise or be anymore grateful to our Executive Board. Folks, you're an awesome group of professionals, colleagues and (hopefully I can still call a few of you my) friends. You truly care for our members, the association and the field of environmental health. I am proud and honored to have had the opportunity to represent CEHA. The challenging aspect is due to the fact that we have so many passionate, talented and exceptionally smart members, that I found it difficult at times to meet all of the expectations, especially since our Past Presidents set the bar so high. The humbling experience is from seeing the results of all our hard work, dedication and commitment to ensuring our members are offered the most current educational and training opportunities available so they can maintain the highest level of knowledge, integrity and professionalism in the field of environmental health. Basically, that's what CEHA is all about and has been doing since 1954 which, coincidentally, brings up another topic that's been brewing for the last few years. Is it time for CEHA to branch out, evolve and take on a bigger role in the field of environmental health and, dare I say...Public Health? Or do we remain status quo, as we have for the last 60 years and just stick to our meat and potatoes and occasionally tackle a hot topic from time to time? (Cont. pg. 2)

President:

*Marco
Palmeri*

Publicity

Chairs:

Jeff Catlett

Matt Payne

Editor:

Jeff Catlett

We've talked about it. I'm up for it, and I believe our members are certainly up for some new challenges as well, but we can't do it alone. We, the CEHA Executive Board, are all volunteers. We all have real full time jobs and lives beyond CEHA (or at least most of us do). Some of us are even students as well. So perhaps it's time we explore having a paid staff member, such as an Executive Director, who can dedicate his or her time to do some of the things the Executive Board is doing now, as well as some of the other things we would like to do. Or, perhaps we share the expense of an Executive Director with another association or associations with similar goals, objectives and visions. I believe CEHA should also seek out and apply for pertinent grants and other funding sources which could help sustain a paid employee and ensure the association remains fiscally strong.

These are just some of my ideas and there are many other great ideas as well, but neither I, nor anyone else on the Executive Board, have the time to explore or implement these ideas, in addition to our existing obligations to CEHA. So I'm asking our members: are any of you willing to volunteer your time, skills and knowledge to CEHA, the association that remains a leader in furthering the educational and technical skills of environmental professionals, not just in CT, but throughout New England? Do you want lawmakers to have the most accurate and up to date information available? Do you want to ensure the health of CT's people, our environment and natural resources? If so, offer to become an active member of our board; or chair or co-chair an existing committee; or offer to form a new committee and tackle an environmental issue your passionate about; or help us seek alternative funding sources. Whatever it is, regardless of your level of commitment, we want your help. Contact a board member and join our team.

In closing, I am excited about the future of CEHA and have the utmost confidence of our upcoming President and Executive Board to elevate CEHA, its membership and our status in the Environmental Health and Public Health arenas, higher than it has been before. My role with the Executive Board and commitment to CEHA doesn't end at the completion of my Presidency, and I'll do my best to complete any unfinished business as well as assist in any way I can. I thank you all for letting me represent you and look forward to working with you all, as well as meeting new faces.

Ciao,

Marco Palmeri

Food Safety Advisory Group (FSAG)

By Maryam Hosseini, Membership Chair
Food Safety Manager, Mashantucket Pequot Tribe

The Food Safety Advisory Group (FSAG) was developed in December of 2013. It consists of 23 members: Federal and State agencies, local health departments, tribal governments, industry, academia and CEHA. The mission of the group is to discuss issues related to food safety regarding regulations, procedures, special issues and concerns and make recommendations to the Food Protection Program.

One of the issues currently being discussed is adoption of the FDA Food Code. After lengthy discussions of the pros and cons of adopting the FDA Food Code, all FSAG members voted in favor of adopting the Food Code.

Another topic discussed was to re-develop the current uniform inspection program used statewide. This can be accomplished by meeting Standards 2 and 4 of the FDA Voluntary Retail Program Standards. Program Standards are 9 standards that encourage regulatory agencies to improve their existing program by focusing on factors that cause and contribute to foodborne illness with ultimate goal of reducing the occurrence of those factors. Standard 2 addresses the training requirements for the food inspectors. Standard 4 refers to the jurisdiction's internal policies and procedures to ensure uniformity among regulatory staff in interpretation of regulatory requirements, program policies and compliance/enforcement procedures. The hope is this will add to uniform procedures in regards to the quality and frequency of the inspections among the regulatory staff.

Adopting the Food Code means a new set of regulations, re-training the food inspectors, new inspection forms, etc. Of course, there will be some challenges during the transition period. The members of the Food Safety Advisory Group will be conducting a presentation at the CEHA Annual Meeting on November 7th to provide you detailed information and answer any questions you may have.

As we all know, the CT 19-13-B42 regulations are outdated, and it is time to get on the same page with the current national standards. The DPH Food Protection Program has issued a proposal to the legislature to adopt the FDA Food Code. Let's keep our fingers crossed!

Odds and Ends

*The CEHA Executive Board would like to invite you to get involved. Is there something you would like to see changed or an issue you believe CEHA should be addressing? Let us know.

*Have you checked out the new and improved website www.CTEHA.org?

CEHA is on Twitter @CTSanitarian

National Environmental Health Association
Welcome to NEHA E-Learning
www.nehacert.org/

Executive Director
National Environmental Health Association
Denver, CO

NEHA President Dr. Carolyn Harvey invites the NEHA membership to seriously consider this opportunity for qualified members to apply for NEHA's Executive Director position. The Board search committee is making good progress in working with the executive search firm of Waters & Company, and expect to have a selection of excellent candidates within the next three weeks. "The Board would be remiss if it did not look to our membership for either potential candidates or referrals of individuals who might be NEHA's next Executive Director."

The essential responsibility of the Executive Director is to act as a focal point for administering the policies of the Board of Directors, while managing a professional staff to implement those policies. The Executive Director represents NEHA in all interactions with individuals and organizations. The Executive Director makes recommendations to the President and Board regarding policies and procedures, activities, goals and all other aspects of the Association.

Date Posted: October 27, 2014

Application Deadline: Open until Filled

Salary: Competitive

No. Hours/Week: Full time

ABOUT THE POSITION

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is a national professional society with over 4,500 members across the nation. NEHA, now located in the Denver, Colorado, area was initiated in California and incorporated in 1937. The original impetus behind the creation of a national professional society for environmental health practitioners was the desire by the professionals of that day to establish a standard of excellence for the emerging profession.

NEHA is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership in annual elections. The Executive Director is an Ex Officio, non-voting member of the Board of Directors. Daily activities of NEHA are managed by an Executive Director and a Chief Operating Officer under direction and policies of the Board of Directors. NEHA is a member-supported organization and has a staff of 30 professionals an annual budget of \$1.8 million, with \$3.0 million in grant activity. NEHA

additionally receives revenue from federal grants, membership fees, tuition for educational programs and credentialing fees.

The NEHA Board is seeking a highly motivated self-starter with strong experience in the principal areas of focus. No particular professional background is presupposed; while a background and record of success in Environmental Health is welcome, the primary selection criteria is service at the key executive level in larger not for profit organizations, or some combination of similar professional background will considered. The position requires a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in a field related to business, public administration, not for profit management or a similar field and a minimum of ten years of experience in managing complex organizations and relationships. A graduate degree in business, not for profit management or public administration or a related discipline is preferred. The Board of Directors may consider a combination of work experience and education on a case-by-case basis, assuming an appropriate demonstration of professional success and achievement.

HOW TO APPLY

Qualified candidates please submit your resume online by visiting our website at www.waters-company.com/recruitment. This position is open until filled; however, interested candidates are encouraged to apply no later than November 21, 2014. Following the first review date, resumes will be screened in relation to the criteria outlined in the brochure.

For more information or a detailed brochure, contact Chuck Rohre at crohre@waters-company.com, Direct line 214.466.2436, Mobile phone 214.608.7477, or by visiting our website at www.waters-company.com.

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