

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

“PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN CONNECTICUT SINCE 1954”

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President's Message

By Stephen Civitelli

I started my environmental health career in 2005 as a summer intern from (SCSU) which was then the Old Saybrook Health Department. There, I had the great opportunity to learn what a Sanitarian's daily functions were and was very much intrigued. I must say this is one of the strong points in our profession, in that individuals from health departments do an amazing job and invest quite a bit of time showing newcomers the "ropes."

Based on the experience obtained from my internship I was fortunate enough to obtain a position with the Meriden Health Department as a Sanitarian. I spent 6 great years learning more about our profession in Meriden and gained great real world knowledge in the field from my coworkers. During my time in Meriden I accepted a part time position inspecting food service facilities in for the Wallingford Health Department. I spent 4 years in both positions before accepting a fulltime position in Wallingford. In my time in Wallingford I began to learn more about CEHA and how it functioned as an organization.

Over the years I have attended and benefited from many trainings offered or cosponsored from CEHA. I felt it was time to jump in with two feet to see if I could make a positive impact on such a great organization. In attending the board meetings, I was impressed with how they were run and the informative dialogue that took place. I learned about other current public health issues that may not have been discussed in the department which I was currently working. With the ever changing public health arena there is much that can be learned through interaction amongst the membership. CEHA's current involvement with the hoarding statewide workgroup along with the State of Connecticut potentially adopting the FDA model Food code, now is a very important time for our membership. With that in mind, CEHA is always looking for active members to attend meetings and take over leadership roles for the organization in various aspects of environmental health. I look forward to working with all our members and if there are any potential training opportunities or concepts that may be beneficial please contact members of our board.

Update on the Conference for Food Protection

By Jessica Fletcher, Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee on Food Safety

The 2014 Biennial Meeting was held last May in Orlando, FL. Three Councils deliberated on a total of 92 food safety issues submitted by regulators, industry and academics. After deliberations, the Assembly of Delegates, attendees representing 47 states, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, voted on and accepted 88 of the Council recommendations. Cindy Costa, representing CT DPH (½ vote) and I, representing CT DCP by proxy (½ vote) were proud to represent Connecticut in this process. Prior to voting we made sure to thoroughly discuss and weigh the merits of each issue to insure that CT received a full vote for each issue.

According to Conference Procedures all final recommendations requiring a change to the Food Code were conveyed in a letter to the FDA who had 60 days to respond. The resulting 13 changes to the Food Code represent definition modifications, language updates and new requirements. You can see all of the issues submitted along with the results of the voting and the FDA response letter at the CFP website: www.foodprotect.org, click on "Previous Biennial Meetings", "2014 Biennial Meeting".

Additionally, the Conference Chair, John Luker, responded to a submitted issue and subsequent vote by the delegates. He sent a letter last September to Congress and the House of Representatives on behalf of the CFP opposing proposed legislation that would legalize the interstate sale of raw milk. Interestingly, the letter provoked a written response from Kentucky Senator Rand Paul. In his letter he thanks the CFP for explaining the organization's views, but he also makes it clear that he opposes the depth and breadth of FDA's regulatory authority and states that he is working on ways to curb FDA's "overreach and abuse of power". This is quite interesting because despite his reminding the CFP that he is a physician, he never reveals his opinion on the consumption of raw milk!

The next Biennial Meeting is scheduled in the Pacific region in Boise, ID, April, 2016. The Executive Board travels there this April to look at the site and make advance preparations with the local arrangements committee. Committees formed as a result of submitted 2014 issues are currently meeting and working on committee charges. One committee I am involved in, the "Plan Review Committee", is updating the FDA Plan Review Guide, a document that many of us use when reviewing restaurant plans. We meet monthly via conference call and share opinions as well as draft documents. Another committee I participate in is called the "Ice Machine Cleaning Committee", charged with gathering information on: 1. how health departments enforce with regard to cleaning and sanitizing of food service ice machines and 2. What ice machine manufacturers recommend in owner's manuals for cleaning and sanitizing ice machines. A great resource for additional guidance documents resulting from committee work by your fellow food safety professionals from around the country can be found on the CEHA website under the food committee tab or on the CFP website home page.

Stay tuned for more updates from the Conference for Food Protection!

Odds and Ends

We are seeking individuals to join the Board of Directors. Presently there are 2 openings:

- Education Chair
- Legislative Chair

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](https://twitter.com/CTSanitarian)

National Environmental Health Association: www.nehacert.org

2014-2015 CEHA Executive Board

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