



# Connecticut Environmental Health Association

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## The Environmentalist

### President's Message

This past December the board conducted a survey regarding the hot topic that is regionalization of local health departments. This survey was viewed as a huge success in engaging our membership specifically regarding this proposition. We had over 100 people respond to the survey the day it was activated, and over 150 people total (approximately half our membership). At that time the only information that was available was what was shared with the board from the meetings with Directors across the state. No copies of that proposal were allowed to be circulated and this hindered the response by many agencies. Multiple members choose to leave some or multiple answers blank but we feel that the results we received have given us enough information to draft a response.

Since then you can now access the most recent distribution of the legislative proposals from DPH including regionalization and FDA Model Food Code Adoption that was emailed to members on December 28, 2016. This proposal will remain on our website until any new versions are released. It is the board's position based on your responses that there is a potential for some positive outcomes, however, the bad outweighs the good. Based on your feedback the board does not support this proposal and feels that it will have large negative effects on the environmental health field in the state. These include, but are not limited to: lag time in response to emergencies, reduction in inspections and other services in a timely manner, fiscal strain on residents for lower quality services, and loss of skilled workforce from retirement or leaving the field or state.

The unedited/uncensored report will be published for everyone to view on the website. Despite having some identifying information (i.e. age, employment status, years of experience) the results do not present it in a way that will single out anyone specifically. The board is also watching progress with the FDA Model Food Code and exploring ways to assist our members and partners with this transition. Additionally there is work being done to adopt a model housing code that will have impact on our workforce and additional proposals by state representatives and their constituents. I urge our members to contact us with any suggestions or areas of concerns. This year looks to be an interesting and exciting year and we will do everything to help protect and further this field.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Payne

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### Board Members/Committees

Matthew Payne, President  
Phyllis Amodio, President-Elect  
Jessica Fletcher, Vice President  
Scott A. Cook, Treasurer  
Luigi Sartori, Secretary  
Stacey Herbette, Past President

Debbie Schober, Education  
Elizabeth Kavanah; Legislative  
Maryam Housseini, Membership  
Kevin Elak; Nominations/Elections  
Eloise Hazelwood, Scholarship/Awards  
Heather Oatis, Publicity  
Mindy Chambrelli, Food  
Jeff Polhemus, Subsurface Sewage  
Don Kendrick & John Deckert; Water



## CEHA Merchandise, Facebook, and Twitter

Display your CEHA membership proudly with a new shirt or hat! Now available online at: <https://stores.inksoft.com/CEHA/Products>. We look forward to seeing you at our next event in your CEHA gear. The store will be closed after February 28th, so place your order soon!

Are you active on social media? CEHA is now on Facebook. Be sure to visit: [www.facebook.com/conneha](http://www.facebook.com/conneha)

We are also on Twitter. Find us at: <https://twitter.com/CTSanitarian>

This is where we'll be sharing the most up to date information about our organization and upcoming events for your participation.

We'd also love to share your photos from CEHA events and field work. Send to [heather.oatis@southwindsor.org](mailto:heather.oatis@southwindsor.org) with a description to be shared!

Recently published in the *Journal of Environmental Health* (January/February 2017, Volume 79, Number 6) by the National Environmental Health Association:

The Effect of Inspection Announcement on the Outcome of Food Service Establishment Sanitary Health Evaluations

Paschal Nwako, MPH, PhD, REHS, CHES, DAAS  
Camden County Department of Health and Human Services

## The Effect of Inspection Announcement on the Outcome of Food Service

### Abstract

This study evaluated whether a difference existed between one-hour and one-day notice on inspection announcements versus unannounced inspections on health inspection ratings of food establishments. Three hundred food establishments were randomly assigned into three sections of no announcement, one-hour announcement, or one-day announcement. Certified food inspectors performed routine inspections of these establishments for foodborne illness risk factors. Inspection results were analyzed using chi-square analysis. A significant interaction was found: those who had no notice were more likely to have an unsatisfactory outcome (4%) than establishments that had either one-hour or one-day notice (0%). One-hour notice did not result in a significant difference in outcome when compared with no notification. One-day notice did result in a significant difference in outcome when compared with no notification. This result suggests that one-hour notification is not a significant amount of time to impact the outcome of an inspection, but is sufficient to allow management to logistically prepare for an inspection and still maintain the objective of the inspection process.

The full article can be found at <http://neha.org/sites/default/files/JEH-Feb-2017-Effect-of-Inspection-Announcement.pdf>.

## Joe Hock Honored by the Yankee Conference Board of Directors & CEHA

Joseph C. Hock, longtime member now retired, was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Yankee Conference Board of Directors at the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Yankee Conference on Environmental Health in Mystic, CT this past September. The award was presented to Joe by Steve Maskara and Scott Cook, both representatives to the Yankee Conference Board of Directors for the Connecticut Environmental Health Association. Joe received the award at the Yankee Conference with his wife, Barbara, at his side. The CEHA Executive Board followed up on this honor by officially naming the Yankee Conference Scholarship award the Joseph Hock Yankee Conference Scholarship.

For over 45 years, Joe had been a contributor and leader to the environmental health profession in Connecticut and New England. He started his career in Environmental Health in 1964 with the New Haven Health Department. In 1965 he joined the Connecticut Association of Sanitarians, Inc. (now the Connecticut Environmental Health Association). In 1967, Joe took a position with the Connecticut Department of Public Health, and in 1968, he earned his certification as a Registered Sanitarian. In 1972, Joe Returned to local health as Director of Environmental Health for the Naugatuck Valley Health District. In 1979, he moved over to the Quinnipiac Valley Health District as Chief of Environmental Services. During that time, he taught Introduction to Environmental Health at Quinnipiac College (now Quinnipiac University). He retired from the Quinnipiac Valley Health District in 2002, but continued to work part-time for the Easton and Ridgefield Health Departments until 2011.

Joe was active on the CEHA Executive Board up until 2011 and served as President in 1990. In 1975, he was awarded the Raymond W. Brunelle Award for Connecticut Sanitarian of the Year. In 1980, he was awarded the Robert C. Perriello Award for Sanitarian of the Year through the Yankee Conference Board of Directors. In 1991, he received a Connecticut Mayor's Award from the Town of Hamden for his service to the community. He was Chairman of the Yankee Conference Board of Directors for over fifteen years. He received the Leon A. Bradley Award in 1994, a special award of the Yankee Conference Board of Directors for contributions to environmental health that extend to all New England. Joe was also President of the Connecticut Association of Housing Code Enforcement Officials, Inc. from 1976 – 1977.

Joseph and Barbara Hock are both Honorary Members of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association and currently reside in Danbury, CT.



*Joe and Barbara Hock with others at the 2016 Yankee Conference in Mystic, CT.*

## CEHA Nominations

Please visit: [www.cteha.org](http://www.cteha.org)

to access the nomination form.

Send Nomination Forms to:

Kevin Elak, CEHA Nominations  
and Elections Committee

By Mail:

City of Middletown, Department of Health  
245 deKoven Drive  
Middletown, CT 06457

By E-Mail:

[Kevin.Elak@MiddletownCT.Gov](mailto:Kevin.Elak@MiddletownCT.Gov)

By Fax: (860) 638-1960

## The Time to Get Involved is Now!

Election season for the CEHA Executive Board is here and we are looking for the support of our Membership! Elections are a critical part of the democratic process and provide members a voice in running our organization. Whether you are a seasoned Sanitarian or new to the field, joining the CEHA Executive Board will be one of the best decisions of your career. The Public Health landscape is constantly evolving and there is no better way to stay informed and contribute to these changes than by serving on the CEHA Executive Board.

We are now accepting nominations for the positions of Vice President and Treasurer for 2017-2018. The

position of Vice President is a 3 year commitment. If this is your first experience serving on the CEHA board, this term would be used to become acquainted with what CEHA does and how it operates. The second year you will serve as President-Elect, and the third year you will serve as President. The Treasurer position is a 2 year term and is responsible for maintaining the financial records of the Association and keeping the Executive Board apprised in regards to the Association's financial status. The deadline for submitting a nomination form for the Office of Vice President and Treasurer is May 4, 2017.

## Get to Know the CEHA Board and Committees!



### **Matthew Payne, RS, President**

Matthew is the current President of CEHA. He also assists with the CEHA website and social media accounts. He is an Environmental Health Inspector with the Town of Manchester, CT and has been in Public Health for 9 years.

Matthew is an avid Red Sox and Boston Bruins Fan.



### **Phyllis Amodio, MPH, RS, REHS, President Elect**

Phyllis is a proud graduate of SCSU and UCONN. She is the Chief Sanitarian for the Bristol Burlington Health District where she has worked for 30 years. She has achieved many successes in her career in Public Health, but feels the "best is yet to come"! Phyllis is an advocate for environmental justice and equity. She embraces the future challenges in environmental health.

Beyond Public Health Phyllis is an "all things" Brooklyn, NY fanatic.

## Get to Know the CEHA Board and Committees! (Con't)



### **Jessica Fletcher, R.S., REHS, Vice President**

Jessica Fletcher has a BS in Environmental Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and 30 years of experience as a local health inspector. Prior to 20 years working for the Mohegan Tribe she worked at the Westport/Weston Health District, the Greenwich Health Dept. and the New London Health Dept. Jessica is currently in her 7th year as the Northeast Region local representative on the Conference for Food Protection executive board. She is an FDA Standardized Training Officer and served as the chair of the CEHA Technical Advisory Committee on Food Safety since 2010. Jessica received the Robert C. Perriello award in 2012 for her involvement with the Conference for Food Protection.



### **Scott Cook, RS, Treasurer**

Scott currently works as a Registered Sanitarian for the Plainville-Southington Regional Health District. He has been working in local health for almost 19 years. Scott started with the City of New Haven Health Department as a Lead Poisoning Inspector. He is the Treasurer of CEHA, as well as the Chairman and CEHA Representative of the Yankee Conference Board of Directors. Scott went to UCONN - Storrs as an undergrad and the University of New Haven as a graduate student.



### **Luigi Sartori, REHS/RS, HHS, MPH, Secretary**

Luigi currently works as a Registered Sanitarian in the Willimantic office of the North Central District Health Department. He holds Associates (AS) and Bachelors of Science (BS) degrees from UCONN in Animal science and Pathobiology and an MPH from UCHC (University of Connecticut Health Center School of Public Health). He worked for one year as a food microbiologist at UCONN where his research was published in the Journal of Food Protection. Luigi works to encourage and actively promote a high level of proficiency in the field of environmental health and strive for increased recognition of Environmental Health as a profession rendering services vital to the health and well-being of the public.



### **Stacey Herbette, RS, Past President**

Stacey grew a strong interest in environmental health and becoming a Sanitarian during her sophomore year at Southern Connecticut State University. In the spring of 2012, she obtained an internship with the Wallingford Health Department. There, she had a wonderful opportunity to learn the duties and responsibilities of a Sanitarian. After graduating, she had the pleasure of accepting a contractual position with the Wallingford Health Department and a position with the Chesprocott Health District. After gaining experience with both of these positions, she was able to achieve a part-time Sanitarian position in Wallingford. Stacey is also the Lead inspector/Risk assessor for the department. In May 2016, she graduated with her Master's in Public Health from the University of New England. She had the pleasure to serve as President for CEHA in 2016.

## Get to Know the CEHA Board and Committees! (Con't)



### **Deborah Schober, Education**

Deborah graduated from Southern Connecticut State College. After graduating, she got a job at Central Connecticut Health District for 5 years. She has since been working for the Mohegan Tribal Health Department for 15 years.



### **Elizabeth Kavanah, Legislation**

Elizabeth is the lead Sanitarian for the City of Hartford. She has worked in the field of public health, environmental health since 2001, international health, and clinical and community nutrition.

Elizabeth graduated from university of Saint Joseph with Bachelors and Master of Science degrees in Nutrition Science. She has successfully completed Mediation Training from Quinnipiac University School of Law Center on dispute Resolution. She serves on Connecticut State Employees Association Legislative Action committee since 2012. She appreciates the opportunity to work with the CEHA BOARD and membership in the capacity of Legislative Chair.



### **Maryam Hosseini, RS, Membership**

Maryam is a Registered Sanitarian and the Food Safety Manager for the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation. She has been working for the tribe since September of 1992. Per Maryam's recommendations, the tribe has adopted the FDA Food Code in 2003. She has enrolled the Mashantucket Food Safety program in the FDA Voluntary National Retail Program Standards in 2006. Maryam chairs the Membership Committee for CEHA, keeps track of membership status of members, tracks committee interest from the membership and reports contact info to committee chairs, maintains the policy for remembrances and special occasions for all members of the association. She is also a member of the CT Food Safety Advisory Group.



### **Kevin Elak, Nominations & Elections**

Kevin recently joined the Middletown Health Department staff after working at the Farmington Valley Health District for over 15 years. Having served as co-chair for the CEHA Food Committee in the past, he is excited to be involved in CEHA again serving as the chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee.



### **Eloise Hazelwood, RS, MPH, Scholarship & Awards**

Eloise has been the Director of Health for the Town of Wallingford since 2001. Prior to this position, she was Active Duty, USAF, Enlisted Environmental Health Specialist and USAF Reserve Components, Commissioned 1LT Public Health Officer. In 1997, she joined the CT Air National Guard as Public Health Officer, Major, BSC and retired in 2007.

Eloise is active with many civic organizations including Wallingford Elks Post 1365, VFW Wallingford Post 187, National Military Officers Association (current President of the Nathan Hale Chapter), and a board member of the Masonicare Ashlar Village—Masonicare Committee on Excellence.



### **Heather Oatis, REHS, Publicity**

Heather Oatis has been working in the Town of South Windsor since 2014, most recently as the Environmental Health Officer. Prior to South Windsor, Heather worked in the Town of Manchester and at the Ledge Light Health District. She graduated from Southern Connecticut State University in 2006 with a BS in Public Health. As one of the newest members of the CEHA board, she is very excited to start publicizing the organization and all that the members do to enhance the field of Environmental Health.

## Get to Know the CEHA Board and Committees! (Con't)



### **Mindy Chambrelli, RS, Food**

Mindy is a Registered Sanitarian for the Town of Darien. She has maintained employment in local health since 2003. Recently, she accepted the position with CEHA to chair the Food Committee. The constantly evolving field of public health has fueled her desire to get more involved. She can be contacted by email at [mchambrelli@darienct.gov](mailto:mchambrelli@darienct.gov) or by phone at 20-656-7322.



### **John Deckert, Water**

John graduated from Central Connecticut State College in 1976 with a B.A. in English. On a whim, he went to an Army recruiter to see what options the military might have. There was a military occupational specialty (MOS) for preventive medicine/environmental technician (91S) that sounded pretty interesting. The next thing you know he was at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, June 1977 in boot camp. He spent almost 3 years stationed in Landstuhl, Germany with the 10<sup>th</sup> Med Lab assigned to an Entomology lab. When he was discharged in 1980, he was hoping to find a job in the environmental health field. In the meantime, John ended up working as a psychiatric aide at a state hospital (Cedarcrest Hospital) on a locked ward. Two years and two concussions later, he was hired as a health inspector for the Town of Glastonbury. In 1984, John's son was born and was diagnosed with a brain tumor. He survived surgery to remove the tumor, but due to his various special needs, John left the Town of Glastonbury to be a stay at home dad in order to care for his son. In 1987, he returned to the Town of Glastonbury as a part time food inspector. Thankfully, he was hired back full time in 1997. In 2006 he was promoted to Chief Sanitarian.

**Not Pictured—Don Kendrick, Water & Jeff Polhemus, Subsurface Sewage**

**Would your department like to be featured in an upcoming Environmentalist in our “Local Health Spotlight”?**

Email Heather Oatis, [heather.oatis@southwindsor.org](mailto:heather.oatis@southwindsor.org)!

**Don't miss out on our new CEHA merchandise!**

<https://stores.inksoft.com/CEHA/Products>

**Orders must be placed by February 28, 2017. The store will re-open again later this year for additional purchases.**