President’s Message

As summer winds down and we get ready for what the next season brings I hope everyone had an enjoyable and eventful summer season. I had the privilege of attending the 2017 NEHA Annual Education Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. The event was full of training opportunities ranging from bioterrorism, food, septic, lead, wells and more. But the added value was in the social aspect of meeting our fellow environmental health staff and sharing experiences. The truth is that although we are all in different states with different codes we are all fighting the same battles and facing the same obstacles.

Opening remarks by Congress woman Brenda Lawrence were passionate and motivational. The opening session topic was on aiming for equality. Inequality is something that we may not think about when it comes to our daily tasks in environmental health but it is present. During the panel discussion Dr. Marcus Cheatham said “we are our biggest barriers.” He then went on to elaborate about those restaurants where we know what it is going to be like before we walk in the door. That we feel we could review the last few inspections, see the repeat violations, and even predict everything that is going to be out of compliance. I thought about conversations I have had with colleagues back here in CT and how these ideas are not farfetched at all.

Yes our job is to go and identify code violations and achieve compliance but that isn’t the only thing. We need to push our establishments, the owners, the managers, and the staff to want to do better. We need to empower them to not settle for good enough and to really buy in to food safety. Some days this may not be an easy task and language barriers remain a large challenge. Attending these conferences and speaking with your colleagues is a valuable resource. I urge all members to have active conversations about attending these conferences in the future. Our neighbors to the east will be hosting this year’s Yankee Conference and this could be a good start.

Sincerely,
Matthew Payne
CEHA Merchandise, Facebook, and Twitter

The CEHA merchandise store will be open again shortly. We received some feedback about other items you’d like to see available. We will send out a notification once it is open!

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

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

This is where we share 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@southwindson.org with a description to be shared!

Recertification

In lieu of the annual Food Inspector Recertification Training, this year the FPP will provide a classroom training on the FDA Food Code. All currently certified food inspectors who wish to become certified to enforce the FDA Food Code beginning July 1, 2018 are required to attend this training even if they completed the FDA Food Code classroom course as this training will include Connecticut specific topics. The plan is to offer 5 sessions of the course to accommodate all certified food inspectors. Training dates and locations will be announced soon.

Are you preparing for the FDA Code adoption?

FDA requires that inspectors complete an online training curriculum. This training is free but is available only to those with a government email address who are employed as a regulator for a state, local, or tribal regulatory food protection program. The courses are numerous and take some time to complete (approximately 70 hours according to FDA), but provide a foundation in the subject matter areas necessary to understand and enforce the FDA Food Code. Most include questions in each section and a final quiz that must be passed in order to receive a certificate of completion for the course.

To register for these courses, please visit: http://www.fda.gov/Training/ForStateLocalTribalRegulators/ucm120925.htm. The curriculum includes topics on microbiology, communication skills, HACCP, epidemiology, emergency management, and statutes, regulations, and ordinances. To see the detailed list of courses to be completed, please reference EHS Circular Letter #2017-20.
Tattoo License Concerns

Over the past two years I received countless phone calls inquiring about tattoo regulation and changes within the Connecticut Public Health Code. Earlier this month my cell phone rang later in the evening and on the other end of the line was several very concerned licensed tattoo technicians, seeking my input and requesting help. The issue is a tattoo school is opening in Connecticut and the product being provided to the “students”. Traditionally, a prospective tattoo apprentice seeks out an artist who has the proper licensure to provide instruction and the appropriate training needed to satisfy the licensing requirement of the Department of Public Health. The individual and artist develop a working relationship, more times than not, the interested person gets tattooed and learns the basics of the establishment. Once a mutual agreement is made an apprenticeship begins. The apprentice must apply to the State of Connecticut licensing division for a tattoo apprentice licensure. 2000 hours of oversite by the Licensed Technician is requited during the apprenticeship. Forms completed by the technician documenting the hours completed by the apprentice are submitted to the State Licensing Division for review.

This new School offers what they call an accelerated program where upon completion the individual will receive a “certification”. The curriculum is based on 64 classroom hours a month for roughly a year and 40 hours of onsite shop instruction. Based on this schedule the course would account for 800 hours of the 1200 hours shy of the State of Connecticut mandate.

If an inspection is conducted, it is important to recognize the requirement for any individual practicing tattooing to either hold a State of Connecticut Tattoo “Apprentice” or “Technician” License. These are the only two approved certifications when practicing tattooing within the State of Connecticut. If artists are not found to be in compliance after a cease and desist is issued, inspectors should refer to the State of Connecticut DPH Licensing Division for further action or advisement.

Brian Falkner
Save the Date

Soils Training Workshop
October 18 and 19, 2017

Presented by the CT Environmental Health Association in conjunction with the Department of Public Health

Time: 9:00am - 4:00pm (lunch provided both days)
Location: DEEP’s Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area
Fee: $80.00 for CEHA members and $125.00 for all others
2017 Summer Meeting Photos