New President’s Message

I am both excited and honored to serve as your Connecticut Environmental Health Association President. Throughout my 30 year career in the field of environmental health I have always been proud to be part of CEHA. Over the years, I have had the honor to hold several positions within the association and have worked with many talented individuals. I have been fortunate to witness firsthand how embedded CEHA truly is within Connecticut’s environmental workforce and have experienced the hard work that is done to promote the highest educational and ethical standards for those engaged in the field of environmental health.

As an association we have a very busy year ahead of us with the adoption of FDA food code in CT. and the 2018 revisions to Technical Standards for septic systems. In addition, we are looking into the creation of a new technical advisory committee for Body Arts and cosmetology.

One of my goals for CEHA this year is to increase networking and sharing of best practices within our profession, related to not only the implementation of the FDA food code but including other aspects of the work we do within our health departments.

I believe the work that we do in our diverse and expanding field of environmental health, is vital to the health and wellbeing of the public in CT. This is one of the many reasons I will be working toward a day of recognition for our profession through a proclamation from the Governor’s office. I will work hard for our members to increase the recognition I strongly believe we deserve as professionals rendering public health services. I want us to be the best in all we do!

As many Presidents before me I will continue to encourage those working in our profession to become active members of CEHA. We provide educational trainings, networking and professional development opportunities, leadership opportunities, awards and scholarships and I believe we can achieve even more by working together. It is my goal as well as the goal of the National Environmental Health Organization to increase networking, and look for ways to “strengthen channels for environmental health professionals to connect, and share ideas. . .” (Continued on Page 2)
CEHA Merchandise, Facebook, and Twitter

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for CEHA merchandise!

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’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@southwindson.org with a description to be shared!

President’s Message (Continued)

In the November issue of the Journal of Environmental Health there is a fantastic article titled “What is the Value of Membership“. In it the author wrote “I believe that the true value of membership is finding a group of people who understand how you spend your days and encourage you to seek growth“

I could not have better expressed the value I have given to my CEHA membership.

A few weeks ago, while watching the American Music Awards (AMS’s) I was overcome with pride for our profession. I have always loved the power of how music moves us, connects us to our past, as well as unites communities during times of tragedy. Over the last year, we have witnessed some of the most devastating weather related disasters. At the beginning of the AMA show they acknowledged a group of volunteers that were part of first response teams. I was proud of our profession when I noticed there was a Public Health Officer included in this group. It not only reiterated the important role we have in emergency preparedness but reminded me of how important it is for our profession to continue to adapt as the needs of our environment change. I believe CEHA plays an integral part of providing our members with educational and training opportunities to meet the ever changing needs of the public health sector.

There is a strong positive energy within our CEHA board this year and I am thrilled to be part of this amazing group of professionals who volunteer their time and work tirelessly for all our CEHA members.

Phyllis Amodio, MPH, RS, REHS
Friday, November 3, 2017

Anthony’s Ocean View, New Haven

Topics:

Next Steps: FDA Food Code

The Conference for Food Protection and Its Role in Promoting Retail Food Safety

Special Processes

Swearing in of New President & Awards

Food Safety in the Age of Social Media
Raymond Brunelle Jr., Award “Sanitarian of the Year”

The “Sanitarian of the Year” is awarded to a deserving individual for achievements in the field of environmental health and in recognition of outstanding contributions to CEHA along with a persistent tradition of excellence in the field.

This year’s recipient is Jeff Polhemus, Chief Sanitarian, Eastern Highlands Health District. Jeff has been very active in CEHA and serves as the co-chair of Subsurface Code Committee, which requires a strong knowledge of current regulations and the ability to put forward constructive thought and review of any proposed changes. The following is an excerpt from the nomination application, “Jeff is very intelligent but also very approachable which makes him an ideal sanitarian; he excels not only in his knowledge of the public health code and the technical standards but also in his practical ability to apply both (in the field); Jeff stepped forward to lead as co-chair of the CEHA Subsurface Code Committee and took on the bulk of the work arranging meetings and coordinating with both local and state stakeholders; his pleasant and affable personality create an atmosphere where all can contribute and learn; Jeff is respected by colleagues, engineers, installers and really anyone who crosses his path—he is exceptional.”

The CEHA Executive Board whole heartedly endorsed the Committees recommendation. Congratulations!

Respectfully,
Eloise Hazelwood, RS, MPH
Past Committee Chair, CEHA Scholarship and Awards Committee

2017 Marvin L. Smith Scholarship

The Marvin L. Smith Scholarship is open at all CEHA members, spouse and/or a child of a CEHA member. The intent is to encourage members to continue with formal education and to engage all members in active participation of CEHA.

The scholarship committee reviews the applications and grades them using a numerical score. For example, applications receive up to 2 points for academic standing and up to 2 points for clearly stated career goals within the essay portion of the application.

Congratulations to this year’s recipient - Liz Davidson! Liz has been a CEHA member for the past 15 years. Liz is working on her MPH and is currently employed by the Chatham Health District as a Sanitarian III. In her application, Liz gives credit specifically to her past co-worker, Jeff Catlett (and current Manchester DOH), for “his strong voice of encouragement”. Her essay reflects a true sentiment and desire to continue to work in local health while at the same time emphasizing the role of mentors. As CEHA members, we should ALL be mentors to those new in the field or those like Liz, who are pursuing higher education so that she may further her career in local health. Congratulations Liz! I’m sure the $1,500 scholarship will buy at least 2 books!

The “Joe Hock/Yankee Scholarship” was not awarded this year. It’s important to note the review committee adheres to the grading criteria, and strongly encourages everyone who submits an application for either scholarship, to review the criteria. It’s important that future applicants make sure the narrative they provide supports the intent of the scholarship.

For more information, please visit the CEHA website, [www.cteha.org](http://www.cteha.org).

Eloise Hazelwood, RS, MPH
Past Chair, CEHA Scholarship and Awards Committee
Get to Know the Ledge Light Health District!

(Town Served: North Stonington, Stonington, Groton Town, Groton City, Ledyard, New London, Waterford, East Lyme, Old Lyme

Population: ~151,000

Annual # FSE Insp: 910

Annual Temp Events: ~100

Annual Itinerant Vendors: 77

Annual # Septic Insp: 180

Annual # Lead Cases (EBLL): 2

Annual # Complaints: 310

Annual # Daycare Insp: 16

Annual # Pool Insp: 49

Annual # Cosmetology Insp: 181

Annual # Lodging Insp: 96

In addition to a fully staffed environmental department, LLHD also staffs a communicable disease prevention specialist and public health nurse, a full-time epidemiologist, administration and finance department and a fully staffed health education department.

Www.llhd.org
(860) 448-4882

(L-R Standing) Patricia Myers, Estelle Harrison, Cindy Barry, Wendy Brown-Arnold, Carolyn Wilson, Kimberly White, Jennifer Muggeo, Kerensa Mansfield, George Calkins, Catherine Dragoo, Chris Seery, Ryan McCammon

(L-R Kneeling) Russell Melmed, Stephen Mansfield, Katie Baldwin, Charlene Swink

Missing from Photo – Gabriella Watstein, Kristin Magnussen, Danielle Holmes, Michael Bibens, Mary Buckley-Davis, Tyler Do-Taylor

Steve Mansfield, Director of Health

Steve has a BA and MPH in Public Health. Steve began working at LLHD as an entry level sanitarian in 1998 and has worked as their Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Supervisor of Environmental Health, and Deputy Director. He was appointed Director of Health in 2015. Steve’s credentials include being a Registered Sanitarian, certified food inspector, lead inspector/risk assessor, and subsurface sewage phases 1 and 2 certified. Steve enjoys racing single speed mountain bikes, windsurfing, hiking, and camping. Steve’s proudest accomplishments are being a part of a happy family, working with a great group of public health professionals at LLHD, climbing Kilimanjaro, and hiking all 48 of New Hampshire’s 4000’ peaks. After college, Steve spent 8 years building wooden boats and sailing for a living. Steve has been married to Zeke Newbury for 23 years and is father to Emily Mansfield.

Jennifer Muggeo, Supervisor Admin, Finance, & Special Projects

Jen has worked in public health for almost 13 years! She earned her MPH in 2013. Prior to working at LLHD, Jen managed the operations of a small creative staffing agency in Seattle, WA. She enjoys family time, renovating their 200-year old house, doing community service, reading, and her trademark multi-colored hair. She is most proud of her three amazing kids.
Get to Know the Ledge Light Health District (Con’t)

**Ryan McCammon, Supervisor, Environmental Health**
Ryan has worked in public health for 20 years, spending the last 13 at LLHD; despite deciding that he did NOT want to work in public health after working for a county health department in college. He has a BA in Biology with an Environmental emphasis and minor in English from the University of Northern Iowa. He also has the Accelerated Route to Teaching Certification for Biology and General Science for Grades 7-12. Ryan’s credentials include being a Registered Sanitarian, certified food inspector, lead inspector/risk assessor, subsurface sewage phases 1 and 2 certified, Servsafe Instructor/Proctor, Healthy Homes Specialist, NEHA Radon Measurement, and ARC GIS I & II. He enjoys getting outdoors with his family, creating a motivated public health workforce for the 21st century, encouraging others to share the same values toward their peers and future staff, and craft beer. Ryan lives with his wife, son, daughter, and an old dog with no tail.

**Katie Baldwin, Supervisor, Regulated Facilities and Housing**
Katie has worked in public health for 9 years, since starting at LLHD as an intern. She has a BS in Public Health from SCSU. Katie enjoys running, her dog, traveling, being the fun aunt to her 3 nephews, attending concerts, and cheese and wine. She is a Registered Sanitarian, Registered Environmental Health Sanitarian, Healthy Homes Specialist, subsurface sewage phase 1 and 2 certified, lead inspector/risk assessor, certified food inspector, ServSafe Instructor/Proctor, and the Lead and Healthy Homes Coordinator for LLHD. Katie has completed the Hartford Half Marathon two times and has gone on 16 cruises in the past 6 years!

**Wendy Brown-Arnold, Supervisor, Land-Use Activities**
Wendy has worked in public health for 13 years – 3 years at LLHD, 7 years at the CT River Area Health District, and 3 years at the Essex Health Department. She has a BA in Biology and MS in Marine Sciences. Wendy worked as a database manager and oceanographer prior to her public health career. She is a Registered Sanitarian, Registered Environmental Health Sanitarian, subsurface sewage phase 1 and 2 certified, lead inspector/risk assessor, certified food inspector, and RRP certified. Wendy enjoys home renovations and repairs, sailing, and cycling. She is most proud of teaching herself to ride a unicycle and of roofing her house and barn in Maine solo! Wendy’s family includes her husband Chet and two kids, both college graduates in their 20s.

**George Calkins, Senior Sanitarian**
George has worked with LLHD for the past 11.5 years, but in public health for 48.5 years! George has a BA in Bacteriology and minor in Zoology from UConn, as well as an MPA from the University of Hartford. George started his career with the CT Department of Public Health in 1969 and has since worked for the East Lyme and Lyme Health Departments in addition to LLHD. George is Registered Sanitarian #192, certified food inspector, lead inspector, and subsurface sewage certified. George was on the CEHA Board of Directors from 1975-2008, specifically serving as President in 1982, Secretary/Treasurer 1980-81, 1989-91, 1996-2001, and Treasurer from 2002-08. He served on the Yankee Conference Environmental Health Board of Directors as Director and Secretary. George enjoys hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting sports. George will be (semi) retiring soon and hopefully spend more time with his wife, kids, grandkids, and Woodford Reserve (his Brittany dog).

**Danielle Holmes, Sanitarian II**
Danielle has worked for 5 years in public health, working the past 6 months at LLHD. She has a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Science and Policy. Danielle is subsurface sewage phase 1 and 2 certified, certified food inspector, lead inspector, Registered Sanitarian, and Registered Environmental Health Sanitarian. She enjoys hiking, biking, traveling, recycling/reducing global footprint, spending time with family and friends, and dog lover. She is an East Hampton Lake Pocotopaug Conservation Lake Commission Member. Danielle lived in Sydney, Australia for 5 months in 2009. She loves being an aunt, as both her older sisters welcomed their first child this year.
Get to Know the Ledge Light Health District (Con’t)

Michael Bibens, Sanitarian I
Michael has worked in public health for 4 years. He is a graduate of Johnson & Wales, certified food inspector, subsurface sewage phase 1 certified, and certified in dietetic services. In addition to LLHD, Michael works for the State of CT Department of Correction. He has been there for 23 years, 10 of which he has worked as the Director of Food and Nutrition Services. Michael enjoys playing drums, golfing, boating and anything outdoors. He is most proud of his 2 children.

Chris Seery, Sanitarian I
Chris has worked in public health for 2.5 years. He has a BS in Biological Sciences and MPH from Uconn. He is a certified food inspector, ServSafe Proctor/Instructor, and subsurface phase 1 and 2 certified. Chris is interested in public health, emergency preparedness, and environmental health. He can name every US President in chronological order!

Charlene Swink, Sanitarian I
Charlene has worked in public health for 1.5 years. She has a BS in Public Health and will be completing her MPH in 2019. Charlene is a certified food inspector, lead inspector/risk assessor, ServSafe Proctor/Instructor, and subsurface phase 1 and 2 certified. She enjoys traveling, trying new foods, and spending time with her dog. Charlene swam with whale sharks!

Gabriella Watstein, Environmental Technician
Gabriella has worked for LLHD for a month, the start of her public health career. She interned with the East Shore Health District. She has BS in Public Health with a focus on environmental health. Gabriella has completed subsurface sewage phase 1. She enjoys hiking, finding new reads, and discovering international music curators. Part of Gabriella’s family comes from the province of Caserta (Italy) while the other part of her family came from Russia and practice the Jewish faith. Gabriela is good friends with the first ever employee of Subway.

Patricia Myers, Environmental Technician
Patricia has worked in public health for 5 years, 4 of those with the Old Lyme Health Department before the town joined LLHD. Prior to working in public health, Patricia was a paralegal for two CT law offices, a bookkeeper/admin assistant at Action Airlines, and a Graduate Services Coordinator for the CT Center for Massage Therapy. In addition to LLHD, she is a bookkeeper/admin assistant for a pile driving/marine construction company. Patricia is subsurface sewage phase 1 and 2 certified. She enjoys gardening, hiking, animal rescue, travel, and spending time with her family and friends. Patricia has two sons.

Kristin Magnussen, Supervisor, Communicable Disease Prevention
In addition to the role listed above, Kris is also the PHEP Coordinator and MRC Coordinator for LLHD! Kris has had a varied career over the past 44 years that has included being the charge nurse of the Duke Trauma Unit; Clinic Manager/Educator at the King Abdul Aziz Hospital in Saudi Arabia (where she met her Norwegian husband, Jan); Critical Care Nurse in Norway; Assistant Director of Nursing and Infection Preventionist. She has also been a clinical nursing instructor for Northeastern University and UCONN, has taught graduate nursing courses at the University of Hartford (her alma mater), and was recognized as a Luminary in Environmental Health by the Luminary Project. Kris was one of the last recipients of the US Public Health Services Scholarship that paid for her undergraduate work at Boston University. Kris enjoys reading, traveling and getting to know people. She has been happily married for 33 years and is most proud of her son Thor. Although, her grandson Kai is reported to be cuter and smarter than his father.
Get to Know the Ledge Light Health District (Con’t)

Russell Melmed, Epidemiologist, Supervisor, Health Education/Community Outreach
Russ has worked in public health for 16 years, 7 years of that with LLHD. He was formerly a Senior Research Associate for the American Red Cross in Biomedical Services Transfusion-Transmissible Disease. Russ has his MPH from UConn, which was quite an accomplishment while working full time and starting a family! He enjoys hiking, back-packing, international travel, mixed martial arts, and the NFL. Russ prefers tricks to treats and forces trick-or-treaters to watch him perform a magic trick before getting their candy!

Mary Buckley-Davis, Senior Health Program Coordinator
Mary has worked for 12 years in public health at LLHD. She has an AS in Respiratory Therapy and BS in Business Administration and Economics. Before working at LLHD, she worked at L&M Hospital as a staff therapist, instructor/trainer in CPR, facilitated the COPD support group (Better Breathers), taught outpatient classes and provided in-service education. Mary is a Registered Respiratory Therapist with a Neonatal and Pediatric Specialty, certified lead inspector/risk assessor, and certified food inspector. Mary enjoys knitting, traveling, and wine making. She is a UConn men’s basketball fan. Mary’s family includes her husband Rich, their son Kellen, their daughter Lauren, son-in-law Jerry, and their yellow lab Sam.

Carolyn Wilson, Health Program Coordinator II
Carolyn has worked in public health for 7 years. She has a BS in Exercise Science and an MPH with concentration in Behavioral Science and Health Promotion. Carolyn is a Certified Personal Trainer (ACSM-CPT), Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES), Master Tobacco Treatment Specialist (CTTS-M), and Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS). She enjoys hot yoga, animal rescue, food cooperatives, and community activism. Carolyn is proud for her work with helping Sound Community Services, Inc. in securing the competitive SAMHSA Million Hearts Grant in 2012 and working with them to implement health promotion activities in their peer-led clubhouse. She has a black cat, Se7en, named after the scary movie and the lucky number; black cats are sometimes seen as bad luck and often last to be adopted at shelters due to the superstition.

Kerensa Mansfield, Health Program Coordinator II
Kerensa has been working in public health since 2000. She has a BS in Public Health specializing in Health Education from SCSU. She has her CHES, CPS, and is a certified food inspector. She enjoys the beach, hiking, her three children and jumped out of an airplane in college!

Estelle Harrison, Project Assistant
Estelle has worked in public health for 5 years. She has an AS in Business Management. She enjoys indoor and outdoor gardening, doing her part to help clean the air. Estelle is in charge of updating LLHD’s website, social media sites, and assisting all LLHD programs with their marketing projects. If you hum a song, she can probably name that tune!

Tyler Do-Taylor, Administrative Assistant
Tyler is new to public health, having worked at LLHD for 4 months! Prior to starting with LLHD, he was a teacher (TESOL – Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and CELTA – Certificate to Teaching English Speakers of Other Languages) and has been working in the restaurant industry since moving to America in 2014. Tyler loves to cook and eat, watch comedy and horror movies, and travel. He has been a Britney Spears fan since “Baby One More Time”!

Would your department like to be featured in an upcoming Environmentalist in our “Local Health Spotlight”? Email Heather Oatis, heather.oatis@southwindsor.org!