



Connecticut Environmental Health Association

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

Volume 47, Issue 1

Winter 2019

President's Message

Happy 2019! It's hard to believe the new year is already here and all I can think is, what happened to 2018?! Our annual meeting held in November at Anthony's in New Haven was well attended with 90 registrants and a total of 84 attendees. The presentations covered a wide range of topics and were interesting and informative. Also in November, a highly successful Chloride Workshop was held at the State Lab in Rocky Hill where the latest information on chloride levels in wells as a result of "road salting" was shared, including speakers from CT DPH, DEEP, Department of Transportation, a local Public Works official and academics from ECSU and UConn. Stay tuned for more information on chlorides.

The Executive Board met in December and I am happy to report that we are fully staffed with chairs and co-chairs for all committees including a mixture of newer members, experienced members and a couple of retirees as well. In response to inquiries about licensing, training and inspection of facilities performing cosmetology, body arts and other related services, we voted to assemble an ad-hoc committee to assess the best information available on these subjects. Health Departments throughout CT differ in the ways they address the public health aspects of hair salons, nail salons, massage, tattooing and a host of other related "personal services" springing up in retail areas. The goal of this ad-hoc committee is to bring together all interested parties in order to stay informed on legislation and provide the latest information on best practices to CEHA members as a way to both protect the public and promote good business practices. This is one of the ways CEHA would like to further the objectives of our organization, by encouraging and promoting educational development, standardization of practices and striving to increase recognition of Environmental Health as a vital and worthy profession. If you feel you might have something to contribute to this new committee or if you want to be involved in these objectives, please contact me at jfletcher@moheganmail.com.

(Continued on page 2)

BOARD MEMBERS/COMMITTEES

Jessica Fletcher, President
Mindy Chambrelli, President-Elect
Kevin Elak, Vice President
Scott A. Cook, Treasurer
Charles Motes, Jr., Secretary
Phillis Amodio, Past President
Elizabeth Kavanah, Legislative
Maryam Hosseini, Membership
Debbie Schober, Nominations/
Elections
Erica Mikulak, Scholarships/Awards
Dianne Harding, Education
Heather Oatis, Publicity
Rick Peterson & Norma Jarrett, Food
Brian Faulkner, Housing/Lead
Jeff Polhemus, Subsurface Sewage
Don Kendrick & Steve Knauf, Water

In This Issue

- Election Results
- Scholarships Awards
- CEHA 2018 Pictures
- Announcements

President's Message (Continued)

In addition, 2019 is a big year for CT regarding food safety with the adoption of the 2017 FDA Food Code, changing the way health departments manage their food safety regulation and enforcement systems. I cannot hide the fact that food safety is my particular area of interest so I want to give you a brief update on some of the things going on with regard to the Food Code in and beyond CT. As many of you know, the FDA Food Code is a Model Code that is updated and maintained by a nation-wide, non-profit organization called The Conference for Food Protection. As your representative in this organization I am happy to report that in April at the Biennial Meeting in Richmond, VA, our region had several new participants in the process. Amanda Valden from CT DCP along with Christine Applewhite from DPH voted for CT in the Assembly of Delegates. Mike Pascucilla from the East Shore District Health Department presented an Issue to Council I on Food Allergens. Cathy Feeney from the RI Department of Health was appointed our region's new state regulator representative and Christine Applewhite, who chaired a committee gathering information on Mail Order Food Safety starting in 2016, is the new co-chair of Council III. Be sure to check out the CFP website: www.foodprotect.org.

I am honored to be your president in 2019 and excited to get to work with this talented and capable executive board. CEHA is YOUR professional organization so I urge you to check out our website: <https://ceha.wildapricot.org/> and remember that our strength lies in the diversity of our ideas and experience.

- Jessica Fletcher

Next Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 13, 2019; 12pm

Middletown South Fire District, 445 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457

Please email the president, Jessica Fletcher, if you plan to attend!



Jessica Fletcher, President

Upcoming Trainings

- CEHA Non-Drinking Water Topics 4/9
- Special Processes at Retail Training FD312 5/19 & 5/20
- Lead Refreshers (check CT Train for dates and locations)



Election Results

I am pleased to announce the new CEHA Executive Board members for this year:

Vice President is Kevin Elak, RS, REHS, CP-FS who works for the Middletown Health Department. Secretary is Charles Motes, Jr., MS, MPH, RS, who is a retired Director of Health. Education chair is Dianne Harding, RS, who works for the Farmington Valley Health District.

Co-chairing the food Safety Technical Advisory Committee is Rick Peterson, RS, also retired and Norma Jarrett who works for the Stamford Health Department.

CEHA recently convened a new ad-hoc committee for Body Arts and Personal Services co-chaired by Mindy Chambrelli, RS from the Darien Health Department and Brian Falkner, RS from the New Britain Health Department.

We are currently seeking members with an interest in the Housing/Lead Technical Advisory Committee so please contact Debbie Schober at dschober@moheganmail.com, 860-862-6064 if you would like more information.

-Deb Schober

Announcements

Calling all CEHA Members:

We are currently forming a body art & personal services ad hoc committee to discuss concerns and ways to mitigate those concerns. We will discuss service topics ranging from manicure/pedicures, to body art, massage therapy, barbering, cosmetologists, and estheticians. If you or a colleague are interested in participating in a growing dialogue, please contact the chair of this newly forming committee Mindy Chambrelli, RS, REHS at mchambrelli@darienct.gov or at 203-656-7322.



CEHA Scholarships

2018 Marvin L. Smith Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Charlene Swink, Ledge Light Health District

Charlene is currently furthering her education by pursuing an MPH degree at Southern Connecticut State University. Her experience in environmental health has really impacted her career decisions because she wanted to continue her education in public health. As an undergraduate student in Spring 2016 at Southern Connecticut State University, Charlene interned at Ledge Light Health District (LLHD) in the Environmental Health Department. Fortunately, after graduating, LLHD offered her a position as an Environmental Technician with responsibilities including beach water sampling, following up on various complaints, and inspections (cosmetology, lodging, day-cares, pools & lead). After getting food certified in Fall 2016, Charlene was promoted and moved to Sanitarian I with additional responsibilities of food inspections, foodborne outbreak investigations, and food safety training. In Fall 2018, she successfully passed the REHS/RS exam and got promoted to Sanitarian II.

2018 Joseph Hock Yankee Conference Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to Laura Miller, City of Milford Health Department

Laura has been a public health practitioner for over 25 years. She is currently the Chief Sanitarian at the City of Milford Health Department and directs the Environmental Health Division in Milford and supervises both environmental health and case management. She is currently pursuing a Certificate in Public Health which she will then apply to her MPH degree.

2018 Raymond W. Brunelle Award, *Connecticut Sanitarian of the Year*

Congratulations to Laurie Brennan, Farmington Valley Health District

Laurie has been in the field of Public Health for over 30 years. Before recently retiring, she has been the head of the Food Safety/ Protection Program for the Farmington Valley Health District. She has had the responsibility of covering 10 towns in the State of Connecticut while also working closely with restaurant/food establishment owners to ensure compliance with the food code. Laurie has also worked closely with the state agencies to ensure smooth relations and data gathering. Laurie has been able to teach and provide information and education to her staff, the regulated community she oversees and the people living in the community that she serves. She has trained numerous staff on applicable rules and regulations and has also held classes monthly for any establishments that wanted to learn about food safety and the right steps on how to be proactive in the community. As her career progresses, Laurie took it upon herself to understand both the public health principles and practices and the interdisciplinary nature of public health in general. Laurie's hard work and dedication to the field of public health has been tremendous throughout the years and is strongly recognized.

2019 Scholarship and Awards Opportunities

Are you looking to further your education? In the process of earning your undergrad or completing an Environmental certification program? CEHA has awesome scholarship opportunities for you!

Marvin L. Smith Scholarship, Current Award \$1500.00

Joseph Hock Yankee Conference Scholarship, Current Award \$1000.00

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: JUNE 30th, 2019.

How to Apply for CEHA Scholarships:

Go to our website, <https://ceha.wildapricot.org/ScholarshipsandAwards> and download the application to become a member of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association. Once membership application is submitted you can then download the application packet and apply to the scholarships applicable to you. Please take a moment to view the listing of past recipients on the website, along with scholarship criteria. All applications will be reviewed and scored based solely on the information you provide. Now is your time to wow us! Do you deserve to be the next 2019 Scholarship recipient? Do not wait until the last minute, start working on your application today. Good Luck!

Awards

Two awards are given for excellence and give the highest recognition to professionals in the environmental health field of public health. Individuals whom have received these awards have been recognized and nominated by their peers.

Raymond W. Brunelle Award - [Download Nomination Form Here](#)

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: OCTOBER 1ST, 2019

Robert C. Perriello Award - [Download Nomination Form Here](#)

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: AUGUST 1ST, 2019

Erica Mikulak
CEHA Scholarship and Awards Chair
Bristol-Burlington Health District
240 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010

CEHA Annual Meeting 2018 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven, CT

November 1, 2018





Health Department Spotlight

Do you want to have your Health Department featured in the next issue of the CEHA newsletter? Contact [Heather Oatis](#) for more information!