President’s Message

I am writing this as I prepare to speak to the Environmental Health Training class at Southern Connecticut State University. When Dr. Faracals invited me, I let my Director know the date and time I would be out of the office. As I explained the reason for my absence, he became thoughtful and paused a moment before telling me that he was a member of that very same SCSU class years ago and vividly remembers the CEHA President’s address because it is when he decided on a career in Environmental Health and subsequently joined CEHA. He was a little fuzzy on who it was that spoke, but it clearly made an impression on him. I was intrigued by his story and decided to research who it might have been and by my calculation, it was probably Dave Boone, retired Director of Health for the Glastonbury Health Department. I had the privilege of serving for a few years on the CEHA Board with Dave before he retired and I know what a good speaker and spokesperson he is. Yikes! Can you imagine inspiring someone in their career choice? I feel a bit of pressure now to say something really exciting to the students! As I contemplate this, I think about the many interesting issues and projects I have undertaken over the years in this field and must admit that it has never been boring. At parties, when people ask what I do for a living they are full of questions like, “what is the grossest thing you ever saw in a restaurant kitchen?” and, “what’s the weirdest complaint you ever received?”. I have some pretty interesting stories to share, like when I discovered, during a routine inspection, a Carvel Ice Cream Shop owner living in the basement walk-in cooler (it was turned off and had a padlocked door). Or the tenant who complained to the health department about a landlord keeping exotic pets. When I visited the property, I discovered a basement full of screeching monkeys. In my experience, the average citizen seems to have a vague understanding of what we do every day in our health departments and districts. We are known for inspecting restaurant kitchens and other places where people gather, like public pools or town beaches. We are pretty well known to homeowners who have a well or a septic system. Someone I met recently said to me, “Oh! You’re a health inspector? Thank you for the work you do to help keep us all healthy.” It felt nice to be appreciated. We should not hesitate to take pride in this important and sometimes crazy work we do every day, especially when it comes to inspiring the next generation of Environmental Health Professionals. Take the time to reach out and share some of your knowledge and experience with the younger folks in your health departments. Sharing our knowledge and working in cooperation and collaboration with each other is a good way to ensure that our profession, Environmental Health, continues growing and developing to serve the needs of our communities. I am not as talented nor am I as entertaining as Dave Boone, but I am definitely feeling inspired to encourage the SCSU students to consider an interesting and rewarding career in Environmental Health.

-Jessica Fletcher, CEHA President
Next Executive Board Meeting, May 8th, 2019
Middletown South Fire District, 445 Randolph Road, Middletown, CT 06457
Please email Jessica Fletcher, if you plan to attend!

CEHA Committee Report

Nominations - Let’s get involved

Be active and become a board member of CEHA. Be part of a growing organization, get to meet fellow coworkers and make a difference in the Environmental field. To learn more about the CEHA board, which meets once per month, attend an executive board meeting. Contact any current board member or check the CEHA website (https://ceha.wildapricot.org) for more information. There are currently three vacant positions: Treasurer, Vice President, and Nominations & Election committee. If you are interested please contact

-Debbie Schober at dschober@moheganmail.com, 860-862-6064.

Memberships

There are still some members who have not renewed their memberships. There are many benefits in continuing your CEHA membership. If you would like to attend future training or events at discounted rates and be actively involved in the field of environmental health please consider renewing your membership as soon as possible. -Maryam Hosseini

CEHA Secretary: Chuck Motes (Retired Director of Health from Bristol-Burlington Health District)

Chuck assumed the duties of Secretary following the October, 2018 Annual Meeting and has been compiling and printing monthly Board meetings for distribution to the Board and filing on the Website. Also filed each month is an attendance sheet to accompany the minutes. Printed copies of minutes and attendance sheets are kept in permanent files by the Secretary. Chuck currently also serves as the Past President of the North Central Connecticut EMS Council and Chair of its Communications Committee.

Save the Date!

- CEHA Summer Meeting - July 19
- Soils Workshop - October 23 + 24
Education

As the new chairperson of the CEHA education committee, I’d like to thank all the presenters and attendants who participated in my first educational offering on 4-9-19. The seminar theme was non-drinking water topics (i.e. pool regulations, pool/spa chemistry, beaches, algal blooms, Legionnaires’ disease, mosquito breeding & rabies). Based on feedback it was a success in satisfying the needs of our membership.

Planning is underway for a personal services conference with emphasis on inspections of various types of salons (tattooing, tanning, manicuring, pedicuring, haircutting, piercing, waxing, etc…). Look for a save the date announcement!

Please contact me with any suggestions about topics of interest for future meetings, presenter suggestions and/or venue options. My goal is to offer informative sessions on environmental health issues where training is not regularly provided. All input is welcomed and appreciated.

“Make voyages. Attempt them. There is nothing else.”

-Dianne Harding   dharding@fvhd.org

Legislative - January 9, 2019 – June 5, 2019

The session started off with hundreds of proposed bills, which we prioritized, discussed and drafted comments on the bills referenced below, then sent or delivered testimony. A one day seminar presented by CPHA reviewed strategies and tips for legislative advocacy. My goal is to assemble advocacy strategies in a folder for membership and I hope you will find it useful.

CEHA provided public testimony on bills that ended up in the Public Safety and Security (PSS), Public Health (PH) and Government Administration and Elections (GAE) Committees. To read the testimony, go to https://www.cga.ct.gov, tab to Committees, add the bill number, go to Public hearings then Public Testimony.

PH 1058 Tattoo technicians - this bill modifies licensure requirements

PH 7133 This bill generally lowers the threshold for blood lead levels in individuals at which the Department of Public Health (DPH) and local health departments must take certain actions.

GAE 6742 establishes licensing requirements for estheticians, nail technicians, and eyelash technicians

PSS 6955 To adopt the International Property Maintenance Code did not proceed out of committee

-Liz Kavanah
Body Art and Personal Services Ad-Hoc Committee:

We have formed partnerships with various organizations to facilitate licensing and a standardized inspection approach for these industry professionals. We also partnered with the CT Association of Public Health Nurses (CAPHN), to offer a training at the 1st of the year in Meriden. Along with the legislative chair, we have been feverously tracking all bills that include licensing of nail techs, estheticians, eyelash techs and tattoo technicians. Of those, we are paying especially close attention to Bill #6742 and #1058, testimony was submitted on behalf of CEHA. This committee has discussed the need for a comprehensive sanitarian training, we are looking to offer something in the Fall. There has been tremendous media coverage surrounding salons and also licensing, many of those current stories are circulated within the committee. We have also placed an emphasis on sharing best practices, current trends and discoveries noted during routine health inspection some include; formaldehyde, eyelash tinting dye and makeup (lipstick) reuse.

Respectfully submitted,

-Mindy Chambrelli, RS, REHS

I am tracking Bill 1058 “An Act Concerning the Licensure of Tattoo Technicians” and Bill 7133 “An Act Concerning Blood Lead Level Requirements” and will provide further testimony as needed as the Bills make their way through the legislative process. Additionally I am speaking today to the undergrad program at SCSU regarding best available practices and safety in Body Arts. This includes tattooing, body piercing, and cosmetology/barbering. CEHA is also preparing to provide further Education for our members in this area in the fall.

-Brian Falkner, RS

Subsurface Sewage

The CEHA Subsurface Code Advisory Committee met on March 28th 2019. The five major topics were the October 23-24th soils training (offering a new track for experienced sanitarians), proposed Bill 1013 (granting jurisdiction for subsurface sewage up to 10,000 gallons per day to CT DPH and removing the funding requirements for DPH to regulate alternative treatment), CT DEEP revising their general permit for food related wastewater (processing plants, wineries and breweries), possible changes to the January 2021 Technical Standards (1-2 bedroom designs and select fill for preparation of unsuitable lots) and the Northeast Onsite Wastewater Short Course in Mystic (April 2-4). The next meeting is scheduled for May 16th at the Portland Library, and all are welcome to attend and discuss!

-Ryan McCammon, RS, REHS
Private Well Water Group

Steve and I have been meeting quarterly with the Private Well Workgroup which consists of various stakeholders from state and local government, private industry such as builders, well drillers, water treatment companies, private labs, etc. The current topic of concern has been proposed changes to 19-13-b51 in concert with the proposed changes to DCP’s well drilling code. Steve and I also participate in the Sodium Chloride Stakeholder workgroup and will be attending the meeting in June. The topic of concern is road salt intrusion into wells.

-Don Kendrick

Work on going for Treasurer & Food Safety Committee…
2019 Scholarship 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

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
2019 Award Opportunities

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

This award, established in 1971 by the CEHA Board, is presented to a deserving member in recognition for outstanding service. This high honor is also referred to as the "Connecticut Sanitarian of the Year" award. Raymond Brunelle was a dedicated sanitarian, the first president of CEHA, and did a great deal to promote environmental health throughout Connecticut. It is a privilege to receive this high recognition for outstanding service and be honored by one’s peers.

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: OCTOBER 1ST, 2019

Robert C. Perriello Award - Download Nomination Form Here

This award, established in 1970 by the Yankee Conference Board of Directors is presented in tribute to Robert C. Perriello for his many years in public health and academic service in Rhode Island and New England. This award recognizes the professional achievements made by a registered sanitarian and local affiliate (CEHA) member. This most prestigious award is given by the Yankee Conference Board of Directors to an individual who first must be chosen by their own affiliate's Board of Directors. This is a highly respected honor and is presented to a most outstanding member for their contributions to CEHA, the Yankee Conference, and environmental health.

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: AUGUST 1ST, 2019

Please send all completed applications and nominations to:

Erica Mikulak
CEHA Scholarship and Awards Chair
Bristol-Burlington Health District
240 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010
(860)584-7682
Check out our CEHA shop!

https://ceha.wildapricot.org/Sys/Store/Products/14878

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!