



Connecticut Environmental Health Association

CEHA Annual Meeting November 1, 2019 Saint Clements Castle 1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd, Portland, CT

Call to Order: Jessica Fletcher, President 9:00 am. Opening Remarks. Review of the year, request for members to become involved in the Association, Summary of the day's activities.

Deputy Commissioner Susan Roman, Department of Public Health. Her career in children's health makes her aware of the importance of environmental health impact on health at the local level.

9:30 am Speakers: Shannon Pociu of DEEP and Brian Toal of DPH: Subject is PFAS (perfluoro- and polyfluoro- alkyl substances). Shannon gave a summary report on the characteristics of the many isomers, and its uses and dangers to the environment and humans. She spent time reviewing the release of PFAS on Jun 9, 2019 at Bradley Field and the effects downstream, with attention to the human reactions and concerns by the citizens of Windsor, CT. Shannon also gave a short report of the outcomes of PFAS firefighting foam following the B-17 aircraft crash and fire, with the efforts to contain the material. Brian discussed the effects on multiple systems at parts-per-trillion levels and EPA and state Action Levels. He discussed the emergency and risk communications efforts and successes of the state and local Departments of Health in making the communities and state informed of risks and studies to evaluate the effects and extent of the spills. Brian discussed questions concerning absorption and accumulation of the materials and persistence in animals and humans.

10:45 am Speaker: Kirby Stafford, CT Agriculture Experiment Station: Subject: Ticks and tickborne diseases. With an emphasis on Connecticut, but also a general discussion. Noted that there has been an increasing risk from mosquitoes and ticks in the United States, possibly related to global warming. The biggest incidence of tickborne disease is Lyme Disease, caused by the Black-legged Tick. Overall in the United States there are sixteen tick-associated disease, seven of which are transmitted by the Black-legged Tick (*Ix. Dammini*). Other diseases are vectored by the American Dog Tick, Lone-Star Tick, and Woodchuck Tick. Ticks are "three-Host" ticks, requiring blood meals at each molt and for the female (except for one species) to lay eggs. Sylvatic hosts are mice, birds and deer. Humans become infected at a later time. Onset of the disease in humans generally peaks between June and August, but can occur throughout most of the year. Ehrlichiosis, vectored by the Lone-Star tick is slowly creeping northward from the Southern states into Connecticut and Cape Cod Massachusetts. There is no human vaccine on the market although attempts are being made to bring one through FDA testing and approval. Tick management is by Integrated Pest Management. Cover, host and pesticide, with varying results.

11:30 am Speaker: Robert Powitz on the History of Sanitarians. Mr. Powitz gave a detailed summary of events and persons responsible for the development and naming of the term "Sanitarian", responsible for Environmental Health practices. Mr. Powitz listed a number of environmental health milestones in practice, and the establishment of Boards of Health. He noted that the US Civil War was a signal time for the advancement of environmental health practices, and that at the end of the war the soldiers brought those practices back to their communities. Mr. Powitz noted the establishments of organizations important in the field of environmental health: the FDA in 1906, the term "Sanitarian" in



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1930, the National Association of Sanitarians in 1937, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in 1946, NAC EHC in 1967 and NEHA in 1970. In 2000 the federal government established a Standard Occupational Classification of 19-2041 for Sanitarians.

During Lunch, President Fletcher opened the Business Meeting portion of the day, during which she gave the President's Report for the year, followed by the Treasurer's Report by Scott Cook, and the Legislative Committee Report for the past state legislative session.

Awards and Scholarships followed

Erica Mikulak: Smith Scholarship, Yankee Conference Scholarship, Brunel Sanitarian of the Year Award and Honorary Membership to Suzanne Blancafors.

A President's Award was presented to Scott Cook for his work during the past year.

The Report of the Nominating Committee was presented. The VP Position remains open.

The Committee Chairs were introduced.

Afternoon session:

Larry Ramdin, NEHA Region 9 Vice President spoke of National matters and the importance of being active in the Association.

The FDA Update was given by Steve Natrass of FDA, concerning changes and updates to the Code.

Tracey Weeks of DPH FPP gave updates on the Food Protection Program.

Thomas Hennick of the CT FOI Commission gave a presentation on matters to be aware of in the area of Freedom of Information in Connecticut.

The Business Meeting was resumed at 3:05, with the new President, Mindy Chambrelli being Sworn in with her remarks on assuming the Presidency.

The Raffle was conducted at 3:05

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Charles I. Motes, Jr., Secretary