



Connecticut Environmental Health Association

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

Volume 48, Issue 1

Winter 2020

President's Message

CEHA Members, Colleagues and Friends,

Happy New Year!

So much has happened in 2019, this is the perfect time to reflect and set some goals for the New Year.

I am honored to serve as your CEHA President for the next year and represent this collective body. I do not take this role lightly, and hope to live up to your expectations. For those of you who were unable to attend our Annual Meeting on November 1st, I would like to tell you some of the statements I made. First off, I want to commend the group of working professionals we have leading our Association. They are diligent, respectful and responsive toward each other and to concerns of our membership. Thank you all for what you do behind the scenes and with volunteering your time to make a difference. I encourage all CEHA member to not be afraid to reach out to any chair or committee with a question, concern or suggestion.

The start of a new decade should bring about change and vision for the future! I would like to work on strengthening our Association recognition program and make sure we deliver awards when appropriate. Why should we recognize environmental health professionals in our field? Recognition is one of the most powerful means of thanking someone for their efforts, or motivate members to a higher level of achievement, giving someone a sense of belonging or just establishing our Association as a valuable entity. All of these factors are things I adamantly support! If you know a CEHA member that should be highlighted or acknowledged please send me an email, I want to make this happen.

We have some great initiatives happening beyond professional recognition. We have completed a workable template to inform establishments what is happening with Public Act 19-117, the new licensing requirements for esthetician, nail and eyelash technicians. Our education chair and committee remains committed to developing training opportunities this year for members. In closing, we are discussing the topic of workforce development and recruitment into our environmental health field.

Thank you and I want to wish you all a healthy and successful 2020!

-Mindy Chambrelli, *CEHA President*



BOARD MEMBERS/COMMITTEES

Mindy Chambrelli, President
Kevin Elak, President-Elect
Chris Buter, Vice President
Scott A. Cook, Treasurer
Charles Motes, Jr., Secretary
Jessica Fletcher, Past President
Elizabeth Kavanah/Suzanne Blancaflor, Legislative
Maryam Hosseini, Membership
Phyllis Amodio, Nominations/Elections
Erica Mikulak, Scholarships/Awards
Dianne Harding, Education
Heather Oatis, Publicity
Steven Yenco/Katie Baldwin, Food
Kristen Amodio, Housing/Lead
Brian Falkner, Body Arts/Personal Services
Jeff Polhemus/Ryan McCammon, Subsurface Sewage
Don Kendrick, Private Well
Newsletter Editing by Lisa Yu

In This Issue

- Board Members/Committees Updates
- Scholarships Awards
- CEHA 2019 Pictures
- Announcements

Next Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, 12pm, February 19, 2020

Naugatuck Valley Health District, 98 Bank St., Seymour, CT 06483

Please email Mindy Chambrelli, if you plan to attend!

UPDATES FROM CEHA BOARD MEMBERS

Body Art and Personal Services

In the past year the Body Arts/Personal Services Committee has put on presentations for the membership and continues to field questions on a daily basis. I have been asked to return this year to speak to the undergrad program at SCSU. During this years upcoming session we intend to provide testimony on the proposed legislation limiting tattoo technicians to oversee not more than two technicians at one time. We also recently released a supplemental handout regarding Nail Technicians, Estheticians and Eyelash Technicians. This handout summarizes the regulatory changes and their timelines.

-Brian Faulkner

Private Well

We are continuing to meet with the Private Well Workgroup with the goal of updating 19-13-b51. Other topics we're dealing with include sodium and of course PFAS/PFOA.

-Don Kendrick

Housing

Connecticut Children's Healthy Homes (CCHH) Program received funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the State of Connecticut Department of Housing. The funding through this grant helps offset or eliminate the costs for home inspections, temporary relocation, and removal of health and safety hazards for qualified properties. Financial assistance to address lead hazards range between \$15,000 to \$40,000. For more information, please call CCHH at 860-837-6234.

DPH Radon Program is working with over 35 local Health Departments to continue to raise awareness about radon testing in the home. There are over 1700 free test kits available for local residents.

-Kristen Amodio

Upcoming Trainings

- CPO Course 2/18 + 2/19, Bridgeport, CT
- Lead Refresher Trainings April, May. Check CT Train for actual dates
- NEHA July, NYC

Education

The next 2 years will be particularly busy for the CEHA education committee. Thankfully Debbie Schober & Laura Miller have joined me as committee members, and I am contacting those who indicated an interest in this committee on their membership applications. **Anyone who wants to participate is very welcome and should contact me.**

The education committee will focus on identifying topics that are relevant to the CEHA members, networking with informative presenters and securing suitable venues for future seminars, including the summer picnic, annual meeting and the next 2 Yankee Conferences!

The 2020 Yankee Conference will be held in Providence, Rhode Island at the Graduate Providence Hotel in September. Since CEHA is a co-partner in the planning of this event we can be instrumental in determining the “flavor” of the conference. Please contact me if you have any suggestions, especially if you are familiar with Rhode Island professionals, topical places and/or local environmental issues.

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

-Dianne Harding dharding@fvhd.org 860-352-2333 X309

Legislative

2020 legislative session is February 5, 2020- May 6, 2020. <https://www.cga.ct.gov/>

Couple of things you can do to stay informed and advocate for your interests:

Enroll with your state representative’s Facebook page and twitter (if you are on twitter and Facebook) and sign-up for updates via their web sites, in particularly if they are on the public health committee. Public health committee chairs will be identified by the start of session.

Let us know if you have an idea to advance legislative proposals surrounding environmental health

DPH has plans to submit several proposals these environmental concerns include water and tattoo technician changes.

Consider registering for the public health advocacy course seminar on February 8th at SCSU – email AdvocacyTraining2020@gmail.com

-Committee co-chairs Suzanne Blancaflor, Elizabeth Kavanah

CEHA CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

Annual Meeting November 1, 2019

#environmentalhealthmatters

Our Environmental Health Profession was honored with a proclamation from the Governor of CT recognizing August 24, 2019 as *Environmental Health Professionals Day in CT*. The core services provided by Connecticut Environmental Health Professionals are the foundation to building healthy communities. The absence of disease and injury, which is often taken for granted, indicates the success of Environmental Health Professionals.

#environmentalhealthmatters

CEHA wants to make it easier for our membership to access and share the most up to date information. Be sure to visit our CEHA website and social media sites

www.cteha.org

www.facebook.com/conneha

[Twitter.com/CTSanitarian](https://twitter.com/CTSanitarian)



CEHA CELEBRATING 65 YEARS

#environmentalhealthmatters





By His Excellency Ned Lamont, Governor: an
Official Statement

WHEREAS, Connecticut's environmental health professionals play a core function in the improvement of public health through preventive measures and management of the environment; and

WHEREAS, environmental health professionals understand the connection between public health and the management of the environment; and

WHEREAS, the practice of environmental health is critical to the creation and maintenance of healthy communities throughout Connecticut, through services such as food safety, the protection of water quality, communicable disease control, vector management, and emergency management and disaster preparedness; and

WHEREAS, environmental health professionals apply science and evidence-based expertise to mitigate known or potential problems, and this practical application of knowledge gained through many years of diligent study often results in the avoidance of significant health hazards; and

WHEREAS, environmental health professionals respond to natural disasters and human-made emergencies, and work with other professionals specializing in public health, emergency management, public safety, and health care to assist Connecticut communities in crisis; now

THEREFORE, I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby officially recognize August 24, 2019 as

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DAY
in the State of Connecticut.



Ned Lamont
GOVERNOR



Environmental-health efforts cited

Officers of the Connecticut Environmental Health Assn. are shown with Gov. Ella Grasso after she signed an official statement designating this week as "Environmental Health Week in Connecticut in recognition by the people of our state of the important contributions these committed professionals

make to improving the quality of life," throughout the state. From the left are, Thomas E. Fantozzi of Plymouth Association president; Alan E. Smith of Aspetuck Valley Health District, president-elect; and Charles I. Motes Jr. of Plainville, secretary-treasurer. Motes is town sanitarian.

SEPTEMBER 16, 1975

Pictures from
CEHA Annual
Meeting 2019
held at Saint
Clements Cas-
tle on Novem-
ber 1, 2019



Happy Retirement!

Leslie has been in the health field for over 50 years, 33 of which have been in CT local public health public health. She served as the Director of Health for the Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) for 28 years and leaves behind a dedicated staff and Board of Directors that has truly made a difference.

She held various clinical, teaching and administrative positions as a registered nurse before entering the public health field as a Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica 38 years ago. Since then, she has been with the CT State Department of Public Health as a MCH program consultant and served as the Director of Health for West Haven, CT before moving to QVHD in 1991.

Leslie's educational background includes a BS in nursing from St. Mary of the Plains College in Kansas; a MS in community health education from Southern CT State University; and a MPH in health services administration from Yale University. In 2003 she completed a two-year National Public Health Leadership Program at the University of North Carolina and has enjoyed sharing her public health experience and knowledge and experience as an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University, University of New Haven and for over 20 years at Southern CT University and serves as an instructor in the workforce development program towards certification for Community Health Workers at Gateway Community College.



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!

In Loving memory of Frank Schaub

3/30/47-11/03/19

One of our CEHA honorary members, Frank Schaub, passed away on November 3rd 2019. Frank worked at the Dept. of Public Health as the supervising Sanitary Engineer for over 28 years. He had been on the CT Onsite wastewater Recycling Association (COWRA) Board of Directors for over 12 years. He was a dedicated member of CEHA who had made generous donations to our organization throughout the years. He made invaluable contributions to the field of public health. He will be greatly missed!

Check out our CEHA shop!

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



[Stainless Steel Insulated Tumbler](#)
\$15.00



[65th Anniversary Coffee Mug](#)
\$10.00



[Reusable Stainless Steel Straw](#)
\$5.00



[Reusable Shopping Bag](#)
\$5.00

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