



# Connecticut Environmental Health Association

## THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

WINTER 2022

### President's Message

I am very excited to serve as your president. A little about me. I started in the public health field as an Environmental Health Trainee with the city of Hartford Health Department in 2013, shortly after completing my bachelor's degree in public health. I worked in Hartford for four years during which time I passed my NEHA administered Registered Sanitarian exam. I started as a Registered Sanitarian at the East Shore District Health Department in 2016 and used the opportunity to complete my Master of Public Health (MPH) degree and gain upward mobility to become the Lead Sanitarian. I am in my tenth year as a Registered Sanitarian and I am loving it! "When I finally thought I was out, they pulled me back in!" This must be the general feeling among all of you, my heroes. It has been a rough two years, full of Covid-19 clinics, adaptation of how we serve the public in our professional capacity, and additional duties we never thought we would be performing, as we now brace for a third year of covid-19 response.

### BOARD MEMBERS/COMMITTEES

Chris Buter, President  
Kevin Elak, Past President  
Vacant, Vice President  
Scott A. Cook, Treasurer  
Tanielle Davis, Secretary  
Elizabeth Kavanah, Legislative  
Maryam Hosseini, Membership  
Phyllis Amodio, Nominations/Elections  
Erica Mikulak, Scholarships/Awards  
Jennifer Sparks & Dia Dihan, Education  
Lisa Yu & Michelle Blackall, Publicity  
Steven Yenco & Katie Baldwin, Food  
Kristen Amodio, Housing/Lead  
Brian Falkner, Body Arts/Personal Services  
Jeff Polhemus, Subsurface Sewage  
Brianna Britos-Swain & Alyssa Brochu, Workforce Development  
Don Kendrick, Private Well

### In This Issue

- CEHA Annual Meeting
- Board Members/Committees Updates
- Scholarships & Awards
- Job Opportunities

## Presidents Message Contd.

I want to commend all of you for the great work you have done to keep our towns and cities safe. Every day you prevent food poisoning by safeguarding our food supply from the time of production to consumption. You ensure that well water is safe for drinking, pools and daycare are safe for the public, wastes are discarded in an environmentally safe manner, and homes are constructed and maintained in a manner that is safe for the occupants among other vital services. You do all these things in addition to responding to covid-19 related matters.

Emerging frontiers like inspecting rented pools in private residences, conversion of residential homes to bed and breakfast businesses; DCP-permitted cottage food businesses popping up in our various jurisdictions (which we find out about on social media), are areas we are being challenged to find workable regulatory solutions to, across various industry and regulatory agencies. These are exciting challenges we have worked on with the state department of public health. It is my hope that you are getting the recognition you deserve for all the hard work and dedication you have shown to the people of our state during these challenging times. If what we do is easy, everyone will do it, but it is not. It takes more than the mentality of working for a paycheck to perform so admirably and with such distinction.

What you do matters. The covid-19 pandemic has buttressed the importance of the public health professional and broadened the skill set of many in our profession. It has also highlighted what we do and who we are, to the general public. We are seasoned professionals dedicated to promoting public health and preventing adverse conditions that impact health.

CEHA has executive board positions that need to be filled. It is an exciting opportunity to be in the forefront of public health and contribute to the decision-making process that impacts you in this profession. You can email me at [sanitarian@esdhd.org](mailto:sanitarian@esdhd.org) for details.

Go be great!

Christopher Buter MPH, REHS/RS  
President, CEHA

# 2021 CEHA Annual Meeting

Although our 2021 CEHA Annual Meeting was virtual the CEHA Board met in Middletown to conduct their monthly meeting.



Past Presidents, Mindy Chambrelli and Kevin Elak pictured with current incoming President Chris Buter

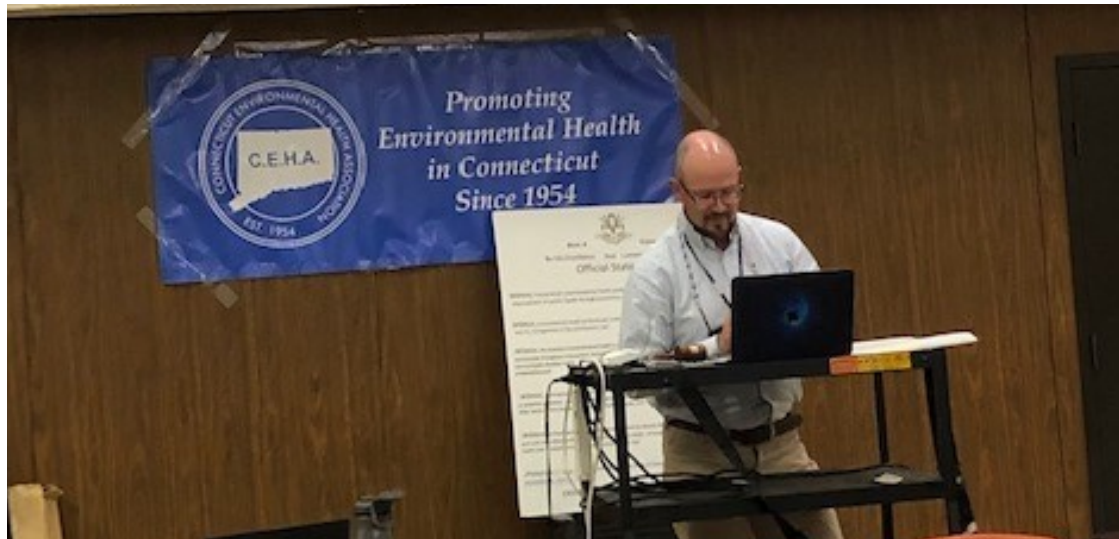
## Raymond W. Brunelle Award “Sanitarian of the Year Award” received by Maryam Hosseini, R.S/REHS



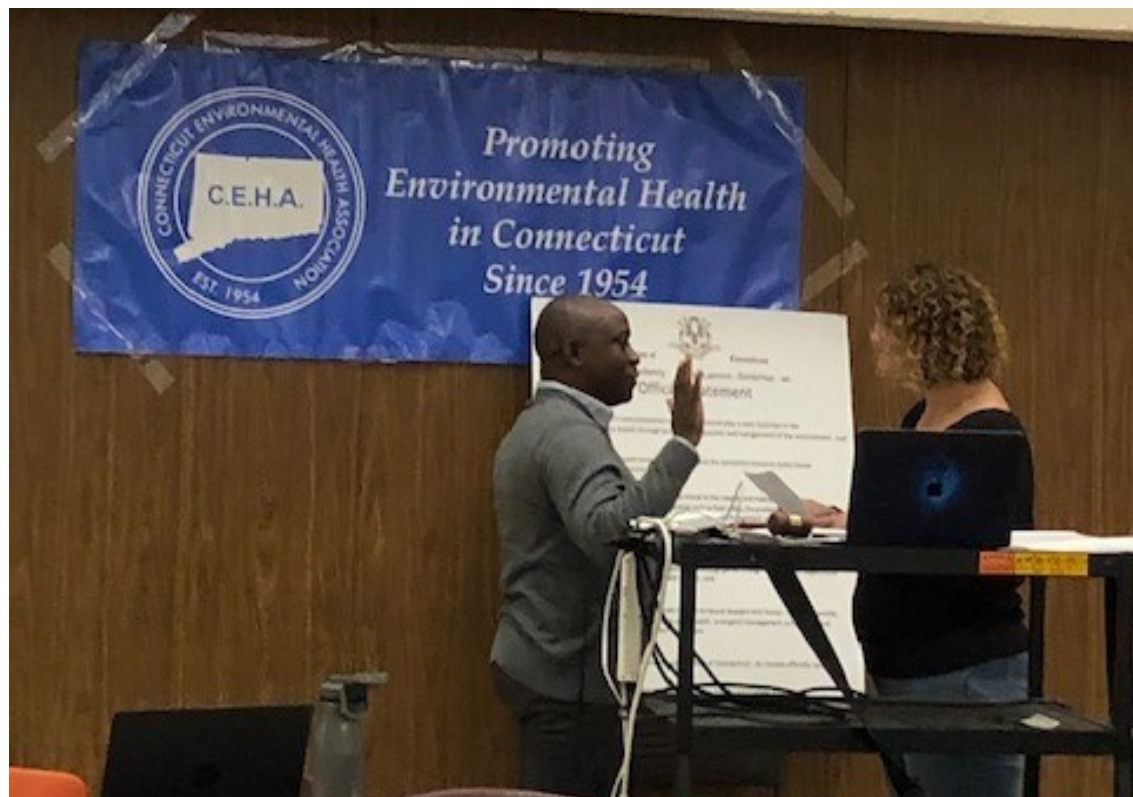




Past and present Presidents  
Chris was handed the gavel



**Ryan McCammon  
saying goodbye to  
being on the  
Subsurface Sewage  
Disposal Committee**



**Mindy Chambrelli  
swearing in the new  
President**

## **CEHA NEEDS YOU! THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED IS NOW**

We are looking for the support of our Membership to immediately fill the President Elect and Vice President Executive Board positions. This is an opportunity for both new and experienced **Sanitarians** in CT to contribute and further your professional expertise. If you are interested in joining the CEHA Executive Board or nominating a colleague for the President Elect or Vice President position please contact me at: [phyllisamodio@bristolct.gov](mailto:phyllisamodio@bristolct.gov)

In addition to the two vacant board positions we are accepting nominations for the position of Vice President and Secretary for 2022-2023.

The position of Vice President is a 3 year commitment. The Secretary position is a two year term.

The Public Health landscape is constantly evolving and there is no better way to stay informed and contribute to these changes than by serving on the CEHA Executive Board. Elections are a critical part of the democratic process and provide members a voice in running our organization. When you become a member of the CEHA Executive Board you join a network of professionals who are committed to advancing the field of environmental health.

The nomination application is available on our CEHA website: <https://ceha.wildapricot.org>

To learn more about the amazing work our CEHA Executive Board members do for our association JOIN our next board meeting on February 8, 2022

Please contact me with any questions at: [phyllisamodio@bristolct.gov](mailto:phyllisamodio@bristolct.gov) (860) 584-7682

THANK YOU Phyllis Amodio Nominations and Elections Chair



Connecticut Environmental  
Health Association

## **2021 Recipients Awards & Scholarships**

Raymond W. Brunelle Award “Sanitarian of the  
Year Award” – Maryam Hosseini, R.S/REHS

Robert C. Perriello Award- Dianne Harding, R.S.

Joseph Hock Yankee Conference Scholarship-  
Vanessa Rodrigue

Marvin L. Smith Scholarship- Olivia Micca



# Education Committee Update

Meet our new Education chairs Jennifer Sparks and  
Dia Dihan!

Hello my name is Jennifer Sparks and I work for the  
Middletown Health department. I've been in the  
environmental health field for ten years and love what I do.

Hey everyone! My name is Dia Dihan and I have been  
working for the East Shore District Health Department for  
the past year. I have recently graduated from SCSU in  
December 2019. It has been an exciting, yet interesting,  
journey so far in the world of Public Health.

We look forward to working on the education committee for  
CEHA. The environmental health field is constantly  
changing and we plan to work hard to find interesting and  
relevant trainings and educational opportunities for our  
fellow environmental professionals in CT. Thank you for  
inviting us to be a part of this great group.



# **Job Opportunities:**

**Chesprocott Health District**

**Bristol Burlington Health District**

**Housatonic Valley Health District**

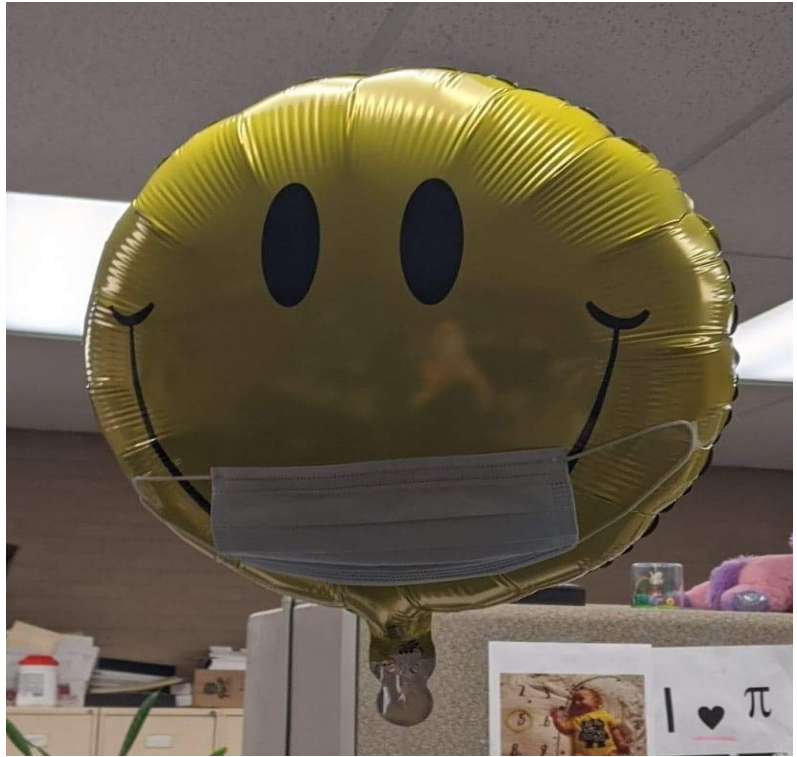
**Torrington Area Health District**

**Bethel Health Department**



## Health Department Spotlight

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



# See you next newsletter!