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2019 OEHA Conference in Newport, Oregon

The 2019 OEHA Conference in Newport was a great success. This year we held the conference in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Quality, providing us with a diverse group of speakers including:

Ed Colson, Tillamook County Public Health **Emergency Preparedness** Coordinator. Ed discussed emergency management, preparedness and disaster recovery.

Rita Bartz-Warner and Matt Reighter, quality assurance managers at **Starbucks** talked about managing the food safety and quality aspects of Starbucks's fresh food supply chain.

Charlie Plybon, Oregon Policy Manager for **Surfrider Foundation**. Charlie is active in many ocean issues at the local, state and federal level.

Rob McAfee, the **Food Services Manager for the Lincoln County Jail** in Newport, Oregon. Rob oversees meals for staff, inmates, & the juvenile department. He even brought us a sample of his super muffins to try.

Tim Stock led us on a field trip through the hotel kitchen to educate us about **Integrated Pest Management**.

Marty Easter from the **Oregon Department of Environmental Quality** talked about the Regional Onsite Wastewater program serving Jackson and Josephine Counties.

The keynote speaker of the 2019 OEHA Conference was Dr. David Dyjack, **Executive Director of NEHA**. He spoke on "Ecological Fallacies, the Environmental Health Profession, and you" and discussed solutions that can give rise to a stronger professional identity and enhanced opportunities.

Survey results from the conference were positive and participants were satisfied with the speakers and found the information helpful to their jobs. In addition, we signed on twelve new OEHA members!

Thank you for
your generosity!

2019 OEHA Conference attendees raised over \$600 for scholarships from the silent auction.



VOLUNTEER

at the Northwest Intel Science Fair

The Northwest Intel Science Fair needs judges and the Oregon Environmental Health Association (OEHA) can help!

OEHA can support the 2019 Intel Northwest Science Expo (NWSES) regional and statewide science competition.

This will make our 15th year of providing recognition and awards to high school science students who have done important work in a scientific endeavor that helps to promote the field of environmental health.

This year OEHA is providing one award for each of the seven regional contest sites and one award for the statewide competition to qualifying students.

How you can help: If you are interested in committing to one day to serve as a judge at a competition site near you click on <http://nwse.org/?q=judges>

Both OEHA members and non-OEHA member REHSs may help judge at the Intel Northwest Science Expo.



Congratulations to Upcoming Retiree John Zalaznik!

John will retire on June 30, 2019 from the North Central Health District.

When will you leave your EHS position?

My planned retirement date is July 1, 2019.

How many years have you worked as an EHS?

My start date as a Trainee was March 1, 1995; so this year was 24 years of service.

Which County did you work in?

I first worked for Wasco-Sherman Public Health and later for North Central Public Health District which is the "Local Public Health Authority" now servicing Wasco, Sherman and Gilliam Counties. I worked out of the same office space which is located in The Dalles.

What are your future plans?

I love to garden and grow things. I plan on spending many hours this summer and in future years out caring for the yard/garden. I love to raise animals and butcher items myself, I make sausage and I am going to experiment with some salami too (Ex-health inspector dies from eating home processed salami.)

Any other future plans?

I enjoy eating; so those garden items will be a big part of my menu. I own an adventure bike; I plan on spending time down on the Deschutes River fishing and observing. I also own a road (pedal) bike; I paid a lot for it and I need to wear it out. I have a passion for birds and enjoy bird watching and I also like to hunt upland game. One can appreciate birds in different forms-visually and on the palate. I'm interested in geology and plan to learn more about the unique geologic environment we live in.

Any words of wisdom to new inspectors?

Treat all your clients the same, if you hold everyone to the same standard it makes it a fair playing field and you never feel compromised. If you stay in a position long enough there will be times when you may be pressured to be lenient or to bend the rules, but those decision can and will resurface. It is okay to make friends with clients just be honest with them and they will respect you more for being fair but uncompromising.

Is there something you wish you would have known earlier?

1) As an REHS "we" need to have better voice/representation. When we demonstrate our worth it will mean that our positions are better appreciated and funded to the level of our education. 2) People in our position often get pulled into identifying and solving problems that are not considered our "normal job". 3) Not everyone has your work ethic.

"All health inspectors should know how to cook."

Do you have a story about an inspection/facility/person that you would like to share?

Too many stories. I do have a suggestion though; we all should educate ourselves about plants and how to grow them. People do not know where their food comes from; plants are the basis of all of our lives. Also, water is so important, it is an overused resource, remember what goes on the ground goes in the water.



VOLUNTEER for Public Health International

PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNATIONAL has been operating around the world for 40 years administering humanitarian projects. Volunteers share their expertise to improve peoples lives . If you would like to do more than what you are currently doing with EH, contact Public Health International and sign up to volunteer. It doesn't cost you anything to be a member/volunteer, it only requires everything you are willing to put into it, and the rewards are priceless.

Contact PHI at P.O. Box 116,
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

www.publichealthinternational.org

OEHA Scholarships

OEHA SCHOLARSHIPS are open to college students pursuing physical science degrees focused toward professional practice in the Environmental Health field, and who must participate in an unpaid internship or independent study project to meet their degree requirements.

Find out more at www.oeha.com

The Vern Reiersen Meritorious Award

Jeff Lang, recently retired EH manager in Lane County, received the Vern Reiersen Meritorious Award at the 2019 OEHA Conference.

Amy Chapman, last years winner, presented the award.

The award recognizes an individual who has over a number of years: Made a contribution above and beyond that usually made by a participating member of the association; or Made a contribution of significant impact on the growth and progress of the association; or Made a significant impact on the profession and/or the promotion of health in the state, the nation, or the world.

A few of Jeff's contributions include:

- Creating a food handler education and testing program that provided a portion of proceeds from every food handler card test taken in that county (a sizeable income stream) to other counties.

“Environmental Health programs should be run like a business to be profitable.”

- Jeff was known for his business acumen and contributed significantly to Environmental Health in the state of Oregon.

- Jeff was the driving force behind getting HealthSpace up and running in Oregon (the majority of counties inspection program). When the Oregon Health Authority, Information Technology section was on the ropes and unable to create a state wide inspection software program, this leader pitched in county funding to bridge the gap and get the HealthSpace program up and running. He also provided significant dollars to counties for the purchase of hardware (tablets and printers).

Congratulations, Jeff Lang!

VOLUNTEER for a Committee

The State Drinking Water Advisory Committee

The State Drinking Water Advisory Committee is looking for a volunteer to represent OEHA. This committee holds bimonthly meetings in Salem.

Interested? Contact Annette Pampush at apampush@co.tillamook.or.us

OEHA Committee Opportunities

- Ethics & Standards
- Finance
- Legislative & Resolution
- Scholarship
- Membership
- Awards Nominations
- Education/Training
- Website
- Constitution & By-Laws
- Communication

OEHA Member Benefits



Participating in OEHA helps build the collective voice needed to better advocate and promote the industry. The association also provides a pathway for which to lobby and introduce legislation supporting Environmental Health and protecting its practitioners.

Through OEHA we can work toward increasing professional recognition, developing the future workforce and increasing wages. Together we can make a difference for you, the environment and our communities. Membership can be renewed online.

Member Benefits include:

- Professional Development
- Scholarships
- Continuing Education
- Conference discounts
- Affiliate Associations (NEHA)
- Annual Conference
- Legislation/Lobby
- Discounts for recent Grads
- Job openings posted on www.oeha.org

In Memorium

REMEMBRANCES: Ray Huff passed away March 2019. Ray had been the Environmental Health Director for Malheur County and worked in Grant, Harney, and Baker Counties as well.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON IT

Clean Team Handwashing Demonstration Trailer

Planning some outreach in the community? Representing your agency at a fair or other public venue? Consider using the Clean Team Handwashing Demonstration Trailer. Loan it for your event for only \$50, plus a refundable deposit.

To arrange to borrow the Clean Team Handwashing Trailer, contact the following:

In Eastern Oregon
Craig Geddes
Malheur County
541-473-5186
Craig.Geddes@malheurco.org

In Western Oregon
OR Angela Scott
Douglas County
541-440-3569
adscott@co.douglas.or.us





Registered Environmental Health Specialist of the Year

Congratulations to Bill Emminger, 2019 REHS of the Year! Bill was awarded during the 2019 OEHA Conference and will be highlighted in the next OEHA Newsletter.

Meet your OEHA Board Members

Four new board members were elected at the 2019 OEHA Conference

- **PRESIDENT:** Sarah Puls, SPuls@eugene-or.gov
Term Ends 2021 **Newly Elected!**
- **PAST PRESIDENT:** Bill Emminger, Bill.emminger@co.benton.or.us
- **PRESIDENT ELECT:** Connie Schrandt, Connie.Schrandt@state.or.us
Term ends 2021 **Newly Elected!**
- **VICE- PRESIDENT:** Rick Hallmark, Richard.hallmark@chw.coos.or.us
Term Ends 2021
- **TREASURER/MEMBER RECRUITMENT:** Jeff Freund, Jeff.Freund@deschutes.org, Term Ends 2021 **Newly Elected!**
- **SECRETARY:** Kaline Chavarria, kchavarria@co.lincoln.or.us
Term Ends 2022
- **NW REGIONAL REP:** Annette Pampush, apampush@co.tillamook.or.us
Term Ends 2020
- **MID WILLAMETTE REG REP:** Randy Trox, randall.trox@state.or.us
Term Ends 2022 **Newly Elected!**
- **SW REGIONAL REP:** Angie Scott, adscott@co.douglas.or.us
Term Ends 2021
- **EASTERN REG REP:** Ramona Quinn, rquinn@co.klamath.or.us
Term Ends 2021

