

MISSOURI ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Fall Newsletter



Merging into the Future for Environmental Health

Brian E. Keller, MEHA President

Greetings MEHA,

This year I had the privilege of representing Missouri's Environmental Health Professionals at the National Environmental Health Association Conference. Early on I got to speak with several members of the full time NEHA staff, including Executive Director Dr. David Dyjack, current President Vince Radke, and our regional Vice-President Tom Vyles, as well as many of our colleagues from across the country representing their states and affiliate organizations. As I talked about the merger, all who I spoke to had one common theme, they all wanted to see us succeed and be an example to everyone. People around the country are rooting for us.

At the beginning of the NEHA conference I really didn't fully understand or appreciate the total significance of the merger and what a great accomplishment it truly is to those who have an interest. Fortunately, a good friend of mine verbally slapped me and helped me to really understand the magnitude of what we were doing.

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President's Message Continued...

From then on, my confidence grew, and I worked hard to represent Missouri so much so that Dr. Dyjack asked if he could attend our next conference.

The first Monday after the MMFEHA conference as I sat in my car getting ready to go to work, I received a call from Casey Elledge stating that he and Amanda Burch both from Jackson County both wanted to see how they could be more involved as volunteers for future conferences. To say the least I was floored because we have struggled over the past few years to get volunteers and now I was getting calls about volunteering, I graciously accepted their help. This call indicated to me that positive changes were ahead for our organization. We struggled to get volunteers to serve on boards and at our conferences and we struggled to land high profile speakers at our conferences. But now, with the merger ahead of us, we were getting volunteers calling us and national speakers asking if they could speak at our conference. I was floored at what a difference this merger has already made.

On July 3, 2018, a house divided against itself finally became one again. The merger between Missouri Milk Food and Environmental Health Association and Missouri Environmental Health Association was approved by the State Attorney's General and Secretary of State respectively. Immediately thereafter the members of the reorganized executive board with several advisors that have been working diligently to ensure all future functions represent the best of both groups as we define a new identity as one.

Since the merger, I have had the privilege of speaking with Dr. Dyjack announcing that we are now a single unified organization. Dr. Dyjack wants everyone to know that he and NEHA are both committed to our success and have pledged their support, in addition to delivering the keynote address at our inaugural conference next April.

As we are growing and evolving several members of the executive board, supporting committees, and advisors have been instrumental in this process. Brandy Sheehan with Jefferson County and James O'Donnell with Hussmann Corporation had the privilege of representing Missouri at IAFP conference in Salt Lake City. They met with representatives from neighboring states of Arkansas and Oklahoma who are interested in being resources for our growth and opened the possibility of partnering with us at future events.

Ryan Tilley with St. Charles County is the first chair for the new Professional Development committee. He, along with Vice-President Stacie Duitsman from Kansas City, are working diligently to develop and host the first Professional Development Fall Training at Stoney Creek in Columbia. In addition to developing the Fall Training program, Ryan and Nancy Beyer of Missouri DHSS have been representing Missouri's Environmental Health professionals at the Healthier MO Initiative meetings.

We now have a new website at www.mehamo.org. As we develop our new website we are trying to find new ways to make it as useful a



President's Message Continued...

platform as possible to all our members. The seemingly life-long webmaster Steve Crawford from Jefferson County has been training Kirsten Geary, Public Health Specialist with Jackson County, to become the new webmaster as he intends to enjoy passing the baton.

To say the least, 2018 has been and is a breakout year for Missouri's Environmental Professionals both as a unified organization and for individuals. Since the MMFEHA conference several people have seen the needs and have graciously offered to help. However, we still have several more needs and I ask all who read this letter for you to help fill those needs. To those who answered the call and I have not honorably mentioned, I apologize and thank you.

Earlier this year at the MMFEHA conference, I stood on the stage and told everyone that it wasn't just my group or the boards group, the conference and organization belong to everyone who is willing to be involved. As an inspector from a department of two environmental professionals operating in a county with nearly 400 food establishments and a dozen lodging establishments and public pools respectively, I challenge all of Missouri's Environmental Health Professionals to be involved and become an active part of our growth. Take the momentum of the merger to get involved and make 2018 your breakout year.

Thank you,
Brian E. Keller

You're Invited! MEHA Fall Training 2018

We hope you are able to join us for our inaugural fall training on October 4-5, 2018. We will be hosting training tours on Thursday, October 4th with the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources. On Friday we have some amazing speakers lined up for you, including topics on Food Code Changes, Aquaculture, Product Safety Awareness, #HealthierMO with Environmental Health, and Retail Food Program Standards.

Training Registration Fee Schedule

New Member Registration - \$80

Current Member Registration - \$65

Student Registration - \$25

Online Registration

Visit our website for more details and to register: <https://mehamo.org/new-events/>





Fall Training Lodging and Location

Stoney Creek Inn Columbia

2601 S. Providence Rd.

Columbia, MO 65203

573-442-6400

Online hotel registration at

<http://www.stoneycreekhoteles.com/hotel/travel/columbia/home.do>

Please register before *September 12, 2018* and include MO Environmental Health Association to ensure special government rate.

Training Tour Descriptions

Join us on Thursday, October 4th at 2 pm for a special training tour of the University of Missouri's Meat Processing Facility and Meat Science Laboratories as they walk us through the fully functional, USDA inspected, facility that produces meat from slaughter to sales. The discussion will be centered on their HACCP plan and how their students apply classroom knowledge in a real-world setting.

We will then head next door to MU's Buck's Ice Cream as they take us past the storefront and into the integrated research, teaching, and service-oriented laboratory. In the laboratory, food science students learn everything about ice cream including maintenance and inventory to manufacturing and retail. After the tour, we will have the option to purchase a taste of all their hard work (Note: Buck's Ice Cream currently accepts cash or check only).

Register today to join us for these training tours and peek at what our future environmental health staff are learning!



SPRING CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

Save the date for our 2019 MEHA Annual Education Conference April 3-5, 2019 in Springfield, Missouri.

2018 Fall Training Agenda

October 4-5, 2018

Stoney Creek Inn

2601 S. Providence Road

Columbia, MO 65203

Thursday, October 4, 2018

10:00am – 11:00pm **Pre-Conference Meeting**

11:00am - 12:00am **Pre-Planning Meeting for Spring Conference (All are invited)**

12:00pm to 1:00pm **MEHA Board and Committee**

1:00pm to 1:30pm **Registration**

1:45pm to 5:00pm **Training Tours:** Meet in Hotel Lobby and car pool.

2:00pm MU Meat Processing Facility: 1600 E Rollins St Columbia, Missouri 65211

<https://animalsciences.missouri.edu/facilities/mizzou-meat-market/>

3:00pm Buck's Ice Cream: 1306 Rollins St, Columbia, MO 65201

<http://bucks.missouri.edu/>

6:00pm **Networking** (optional)

Friday, October 5, 2018

8:00am to 10:00am **Registration**

8:30am to 8:45am **MEHA Board Welcome**

Brian Keller, MEHA President

A word from our Sponsor: Kevin Thrasher (Sweeps Software Inc.)

8:45am to 9:15am **How the Food Code is Changed**

Conference for Food Protection

Becky Steiner MPH, REHS

CFP Representative & Clay County, MO Section Chief

9:15am to 9:35am **Hospitality Break**

9:35am to 10:35am **Aquaculture**

Missouri Department of Agriculture

Bart Hawcroft

10:35am to 11:05am **Produce Safety Awareness**

Missouri Department of Agriculture

Ken Struempf

2018 Fall Training Agenda

Friday, October 5, 2018 Continued...

11:05am to 11:35am #HealthierMO and Environmental Health

Transforming the Future of Public Health in Missouri

Linda Cooperstock, MPH

11:35am to 1:00pm Lunch Provided

1:00pm to 2:00pm Overview of NEHA Credentials (Virtual Presentation)

NEHA

Sarah Hoover

2:00pm to 3:00pm Retail Food Program Standards

FDA

Mike Nordos

3:00pm to 3:10pm Closing Remarks

Door Prizes & Adjourn

Fall Training Presentations and Brief Biographies

How the Food Code is Changed

The decision-making process of how the Conference for Food Protection undergoes making changes to the food code. The Food Code represents FDA's best advice for a uniform system of provisions that address the safety and protection of food and has been widely adopted by state, local, tribal and territorial regulatory agencies. Collaboration with various partners helps ensure the Food Code contains sound requirements that would prevent foodborne illness and injury and eliminate the most important food safety hazards in retail and foodservice facilities.

Biography: Becky Steiner, MPH, REHS

Becky took the long and expensive route to a career in environmental public health, transferring schools and majors a few times in college (nursing, health and physical education, psychology). After working as a food inspector for a few years, she committed to a career in public health and went back to school for a Master's degree in Public Health. Becky is happily married to husband of 16 years Jeff and they have a 14-year old son and 13-year old daughter who they enjoy watching play football and basketball. Becky is a 6-year breast cancer survivor Oct 18 and 2-year brain tumor survivor TODAY (Oct 5)!

Aquaculture

Aquaculture involves the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of plants and animals in all types of water environments. It is well established in the United States but is much larger and more varied in other countries. An understanding of aquaculture is important to US consumers who seek to balance the benefits and risks of seafood consumption. This presentation will provide a global overview of aquaculture and will include information on culture techniques, species, processing, consumption, and health issues.

Fall Training Presentations and Brief Biographies...

Biography: Bart Hawcroft

Bart is the Produce Safety Program Manager and Hemp Program Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Agriculture. Prior to these roles, he was the Food Safety Coordinator for the agency and still serves on the Rapid Response Team Steering Committee. He began with the Department as a Marketing Specialist in 2001 and worked with Missouri aquaculture producers in this role until 2010. During this period, he served three terms as an officer in the National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators with two of them as its president.

Produce Safety Awareness

The Missouri Department of Agriculture Produce Safety Program is a result of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) of 2011, which changed the focus of U.S. food supply safety efforts from a responsive to preventative approach. Produce safety affects every fruit and vegetable grower. Some growers may be subject to the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, but almost all growers are under pressure from buyers to improve their practices to reduce the risk of harm to their customers and business.

Biography: Ken Struempf

Ken Struempf is the program coordinator for the Missouri Department of Agriculture Produce Safety Program. Ken works with growers providing information on the produce safety program and conducting farm visits to help growers meet the conditions of the rule.

#HealthierMO and Environmental Health

An overview of the #HealthierMO initiative with a brief look at what's to come in Phase II. Explanation of how environmental health is a crucial component of the #HealthierMO initiative

Biography: Linda Cooperstock, MPH

Ms. Cooperstock received a Masters in Public Health degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She retired as the public health planner for the Columbia/Boone County Health Department. She spent several years in pediatric infectious disease research at University of Missouri before entering the public health arena in cancer prevention and tobacco control. She managed a statewide federal funded tobacco prevention program for the State Department of Health and Senior Services, and has been involved with smoke-free policies at the federal, state, and local levels. Ms. Cooperstock served as an adjunct instructor in the University of Missouri MPH program. She currently serves on the External Advisory Board for the MPH program, Boards of Tobacco Free Missouri, and Missouri Public Health Association. She also served many years on the Columbia/Boone County Board of Health.

Overview of NEHA Credentials

Have you ever wondered what all those letters mean? We will go into what it takes to earn a NEHA credential, what is available and the difference between them.

Biography: Sarah Hoover – Coming Soon

Retail Food Program Standards

As an effort to standardize food safety across the United States, FDA has nine (9) standards for local health departments to strive toward in their compliance program. We will take a brief look at these from a birds-eye-view to see what practical steps you can start taking now toward standardizing your program.

Biography: Mike Nordos – Coming Soon

2019 Spring Conference News

After the 2018 AEC, the renewal contract was signed between MMFEHA and the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center for three years with a two year extension option. Since then MMFEHA and MEHA have officially merged and are in process of combining resources. Following the 2018 spring AEC, the new unified MEHA board has been working to ensure future conferences build on the success of the past. The 2019 conference is now starting to take shape as we make to time meet with everyone within and outside the organization who has an interest in shaping MEHA's future. We are inviting and encouraging everyone to please attend open planning meetings to provide your input. I cannot emphasize enough that this is NOT the board's organization, it is YOUR organization. If we don't know what information and resources you need, we can't provide it.

As I've mentioned before the efforts of our organization are being watched by affiliate organizations across the country. So much so that the Executive Director from NEHA asked to be a part of our conference. With great honor I am proud to announce NEHA Executive Director, Dr. David Dyjack will deliver the Keynote Address.

Dyjack's 30-year career includes expertise in environmental health, emergency preparedness and response, public health informatics, infectious disease, workforce development, governmental infrastructure, maternal and child health, health equity, and chronic disease. A board certified industrial hygienist, Dyjack also has advanced degrees in public health with a doctorate from the University of Michigan and a master's degree from the University of Utah.

He most recently served as the associate executive director for programs at the National Association of County and City Health Officials managing the organization's grant and contract portfolio and 75 health professionals in support of the nation's 2800 local health departments. Dyjack has a wealth of management and leadership experience ranging from local health departments to federal agency collaboration.

"David's background in both environmental health and association management are an ideal fit for NEHA's new executive director. We are extremely excited about David joining us as we chart a course to further advance and elevate the environmental health arena both nationally and globally," said NEHA Board President Carolyn Harvey.



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2019 in Springfield, Missouri.

A Note From The Missouri Board of Certification

Greetings from the Missouri Board of Certification (aka MO Cert Board). We're excited about the formation of our new state environmental health organization, MEHA. Getting everyone involved in one organization will increase cohesiveness throughout the EH field in Missouri. Another great way to achieve this cohesiveness is to join the ranks of Certified Environmental Health Specialist (CEHS) in Missouri. Some of the reasons to get yourself or your staff certified include the achievement of professional integrity and ensuring the knowledge base of EHS personnel throughout the state. In addition, having certified staff meets Domain 8 of the PHAB Accreditation, and is required for the FDA Standards 2.

The first step in getting certified is taking the exam. The Missouri exam will be offered on October 3rd, the day before the MEHA training in Columbia, MO. Please contact Lisa Brenneman, lbrenneman@springfieldmo.gov, for more details or to sign up. A fact sheet on the qualification and certification requirements helps explain the overall process. This and other forms can be found on our relocated website at <https://mehamo.org/certification-board-resources/>.

If you're nervous about the exam, or are wondering what topics are covered, check out the free study guide on our website. This was created to help prepare test-takers for the Missouri exam. Another way the MO Cert Board is helping with the exam is a scholarship fund. This money is set aside for those folks paying the exam fees on their own, without financial support from an employer. Complete the scholarship application form on our website to apply for the scholarship.

Once you've gone through the effort of achieving your CEHS credential, be sure to keep it active and current by submitting CEUs and renewal paperwork. The renewal form is available on our website, along with all of the other forms mentioned above.

The MO Cert Board congratulates the newly-formed MEHA Board on all the hard work and diligence needed to accomplish this merger and we look forward to the future of environmental health in Missouri.

Suzan Morang, CEHS
MO Cert Board Chairperson
Joplin Health Department

SPRING CONFERENCE NOMINATIONS AND AWARDS

Now is the time to start thinking about those professionals who have and are going above and beyond the call of duty to be recognized at the spring conference. Please check out all awards available at <https://mehamo.org/awards/>.

For questions regarding nominations or how to get involved please contact Stacie Duitsman, Vice President and Awards Committee Chair or any current board member.

Standing Committees and Volunteer Opportunities

Membership Committee shall recruit additional members for the Association and strive to maintain the active participation and membership of all members.

Legislative Committee shall do those things necessary to inform the membership of legislative issues affecting the professional status of Sanitarians or the sanitary condition of the State of Missouri.

Bylaws and Resolutions Committee shall study and make recommendations concerning all proposed changes in these Bylaws and of all proposed resolutions submitted for adoption by the Association. This committee should be chaired by a Past President whenever possible.

Public Relations Committee shall publicize the activities of the Association and the Profession of the Sanitarian, and this shall include the publishing and distribution of the newsletter to each member on a bi-annual basis.

Nominations Committee shall, prior to the Annual Business Meeting at the Annual Educational Conference each year, meet and nominate at least one active member to each of the offices of President Elect, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall ascertain that the persons nominated are qualified for nomination as provided in Article III, Sections 1 and 3 and Article IV, Section 9 and will accept the nomination.

Necrology and History Committee shall recognize deceased members and keep records of events relating to the organization's meetings.

Awards Committee shall administer the awards program of the Association. These awards shall include those available from the two national associations. The committee shall be chaired by the Vice-President.

Technology Committee shall be responsible for website management and technological advancement.

Audit Committee shall examine and annually audit the accounts of the Treasurer, all other financial accounts of the Association, the accounts of the Missouri Board of Certification and make a full report of the condition of the same at the Annual Business Meeting." (When appointing members to this committee some knowledge of bookkeeping would be helpful and staggered, multiple years commitment is recommended for continuity.)

Hospitality Committee shall facilitate networking and entertainment opportunities for attending members and guests at the annual education conference, and assist the executive board as needed.

New for 2018

Training and Professional Development Committee shall develop and facilitate the Fall Training agenda with the assistance of other standing boards as needed.

MEHA functions are an opportunity to network with other public health professionals, grow and develop professionally and as a person. Getting involved in MEHA can and will challenge you and provide opportunities you never thought possible. **Sign up to serve today!**

2018 MEHA Executive Board

President– Brian E. Keller

Cass County Health Department
816-380-8428
briank@casscounty.com

President Elect- Brandy Sheehan

Jefferson County Health Department
636-282-1010 ext. 146
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Vice President- Stacie Duitsman

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816-513-6186
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Webmaster– Kristen Geary

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Immediate Past Presidents

Roxanne Sharp– MMFEHA
Missouri State University

Kristi Ressel– MEHA

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573-882-5060
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Treasurer– Nancy Beyer

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Chair of Training and Professional Development–

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