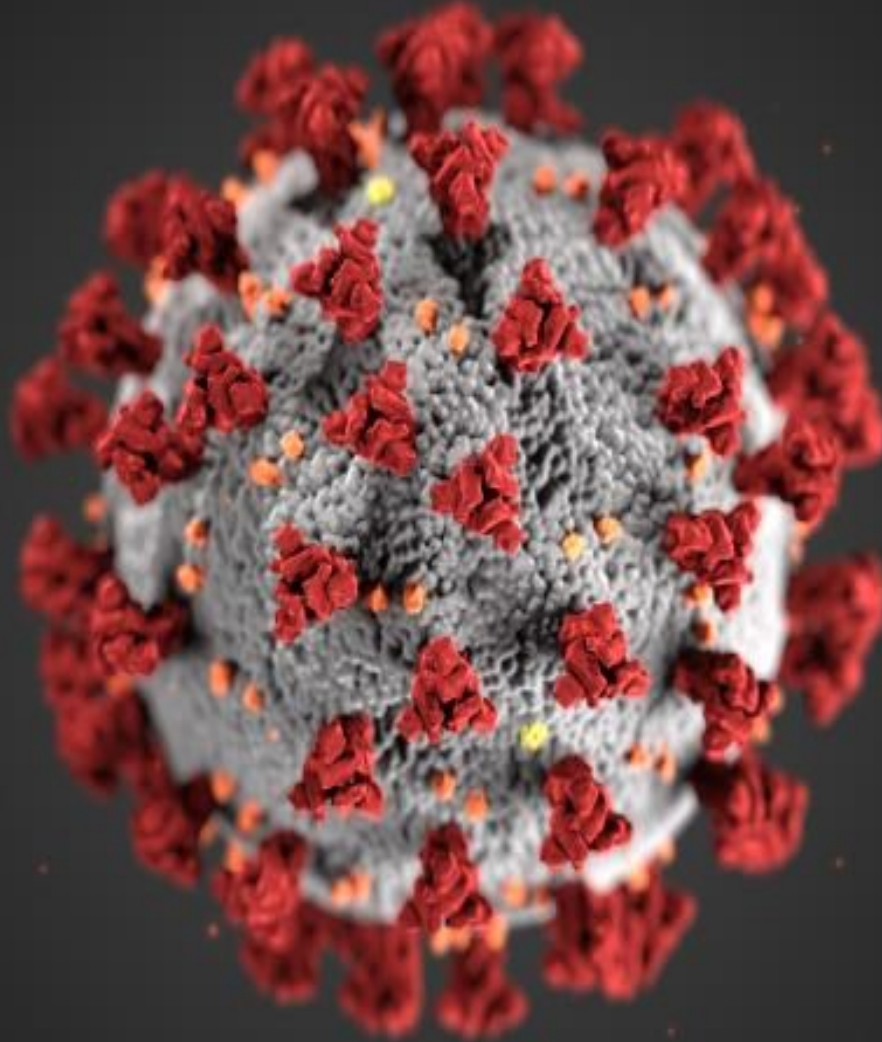


Ohio Journal of
Environmental
Health

3rd Quarter 2020



Official Publication of the Ohio Environmental Health Association

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The object and purpose of the Association shall be the betterment of the health and welfare of mankind through the improvement of the environment. This shall be done by sponsoring state and regional meetings and publications, by developing methods of measuring and evaluating achievements in environmental health, the establishment of a central point of reference and education material for the membership, the procurement of cooperation with other agencies and organizations, and such other activities as will lead to the greater efficiency and professional growth of the membership.

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Editor’s Note:

The COVID-19 pandemic has put the public health system to an enormous test this year. We thank you all for your tireless effort to protect Ohio.

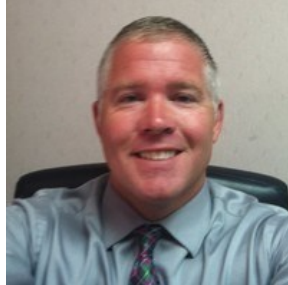
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President's Message

Stephan Ruckman, RS MPH
Ohio Environmental Health Association
President 2020-2021

Fall is upon us and we are reminded that seasons change as does our personal and professional lives. No more evident is this change than thinking back to last year at this time. As an Association we were attending educational sessions and networking with peers at our Fall Educational Conferences. This year certainly looks much different. We've been thrust into a world of zoom meetings, limiting gatherings, social distancing, and masking up to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Many of us are not in our traditional environmental health roles. Rather, we are continuing to be contact tracers, helping operators sort through plans to conduct



business in a safe and responsible way, and still assure that vital inspection functions don't fall to the wayside amid the pandemic.

As we all know 2020 has been a year of adapting to what our communities ask of us as Environmental Public Health Professionals. It has also been a year where we've identified and grown from our weaknesses, showed our resolve to provide optimal service under far from ideal conditions, and highlighted just how important environmental health professionals are to public health in general. The individual stories I hear from throughout Ohio are truly amazing. While I recognize many days can be trying, as a whole I believe our members are doing an excellent job handling very difficult requests and situations as they always have. For that, I say keep up the great work and do

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not be disheartened on those days you are weary! You are appreciated by your Association and those that truly understand the current rigors of each day!

This has certainly not been a typical year for the Ohio Environmental Health Association. The Board of Directors continues to be very mindful of recommendations to keep everyone safe and healthy during the pandemic. Therefore, we have limited our board meetings to every other month and have conducted our meetings in a manner that allows for social distancing. The need for in person meetings is to handle business necessary to the operation of the association and to provide recommendations on critical legislative issues. Unfortunately, our current Constitution and Bylaws do not permit us to meet via zoom, conference call, or any remote manner as stated in my previous president's message.

In June, the Board of Directors was still hoping to establish a date for a formal annual meeting to replace the typical annual business meeting that historically has occurred at the AEC. The current status of the pandemic has prevented that from occurring. At the August Board of Directors meeting it was decided that we will forgo an annual meeting in 2020. The decision was made to continue operation under

the current Board of Directors until the 2021 Annual Educational Conference consistent with the OEHA Bylaws. We will be conducting elections for vacant positions at that time and will move forward accordingly. There will also be necessary changes suggested for the OEHA Bylaws. These changes will be voted on at the 2021 Annual Educational Conference as well and will relate to the ability for the Board of Directors to meet and vote via teleconference or video conference during emergencies.

We enter into the latter portion of this year with a great deal of uncertainty. We are hopeful that life will return to some sense of normalcy soon, but recognize that soon doesn't seem to be soon enough. It is important that we recognize that as environmental health professionals we are in this together with all of our partners in public health. As we bond together we can and will endure the storm that this pandemic has created. And, it is my hope that we are remembered for the lives we touched and saved along the way.

I leave you asking that you reflect on the positive difference you have and continue to make. Stay strong, be healthy, and take care of each other!



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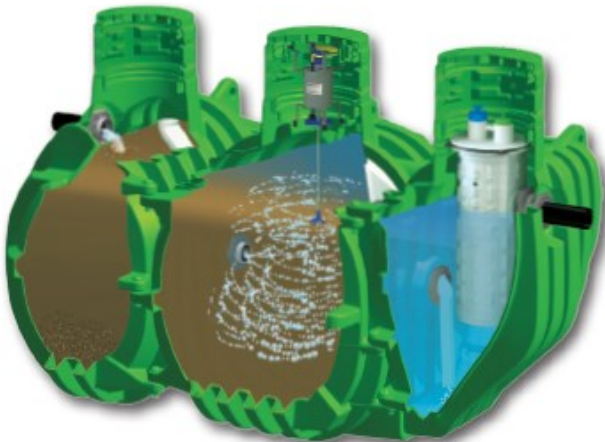


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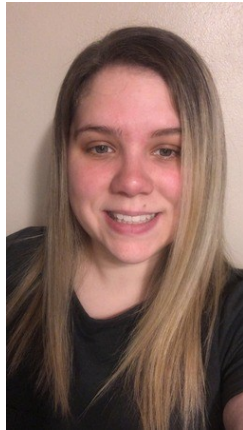
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Featured District Director's Message: Stephanie M. Johnson, MS, R.S. Southwest Clark County Combined Health District

I am Stephanie Johnson, Southwest District Director for OEHA. I currently work at the Clark County Combined Health District, in my new role as Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Before taking a position in October 2020, I had been a Sanitarian with Clark County, working mainly in the household sewage treatment systems program since June 2013.



I live with my husband Tim and my two daughters Robyn, who turned 5 on July 4th and started kindergarten this year, and Adelynn who turns 2 on Halloween. When I am not working, and even when I am, I am a full time mom as these girls keep me very busy with personality alone. I received my Bachelors of Science in Biology from Wittenberg University in 2013 and my Master's degree in Psychology from Southern New Hampshire University in 2016.

For the past 4 years being involved with the OEHA Southwest planning committee, and this past year, though crazy, being on the OEHA board has been extremely rewarding. I have learned so much than I knew about environmental health, as every health department functions differently. I have also been blessed with getting to make more connections than I thought possible and meeting so many different people from all over the State of Ohio. I am proud to be a member of OEHA and be associated with an organization that is dedicated to the profession

of Environmental Public Health and to its members. I know this has been a stressful year for everyone, but no one can deny this was an excellent learning experience and hopefully we never have to live through a global pandemic again. Let's hang on and together we can get through this.





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Meet the Vice President

Matt Tyler, MPH, R.S.
Public Health Dayton & Montgomery
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Matthew has been working in the field of Environmental Health since 2007. Matthew obtained his bachelor's degree in Environmental Health Science from Wright State University in 2006 and a Master's in Public Health (MPH) from Wright State in 2014. He started his career as an intern with Miami County Health Department in Ohio. Then he obtained a field sanitarian position with Public Health—Dayton & Montgomery County (PHDMC), in Dayton, Ohio. He held this position for ten years before becoming a Sanitarian Supervisor for the south part of the county. In this position, he oversees General Services' food, swimming pool, campground, school building, institution, hotel, body art, and smoke-free workplace programs.



At PHDMC, Matthew has helped teach the Person-in-Charge food safety certification classes that the health department holds once a month and has given numerous other community presentations. He has the Servsafe's Manager's Certification and is a certified instructor for the course. He worked on PHDMC's successful national accreditation efforts (PHAB), the Quality Improvement Plan Writing team, the Quality Improvement Council and currently is a part of the Incident Management Team. Over the past two years PHDMC's Office of Environmental Health has dealt with multiple and varied emergencies such as multiple large water main breaks and boil advisories, the May 2019 tornadoes and the Covid-19 pandemic. Matthew wrote and won a

mini-grant from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for the National Environmental Assessment Reporting System (NEARS) which collects data on food borne illness outbreak investigations. PHDMC became the first public health agency in Ohio to be a part of NEARS as a result of this grant process.

He was OEHA's Vice-President-elect in 2019 and was helping the then Vice President to organize the Annual Education Conference when Covid-19 struck and the conference had to be cancelled. He is now trying to help plan next year's conference and is hopeful it will be able to go on as planned to give our members some networking opportunities and much needed CEUs.



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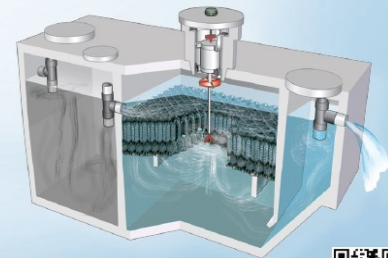
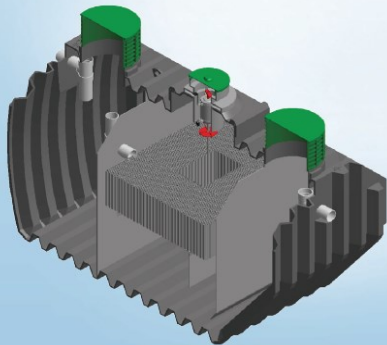
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News, Information, and Education

Educational Opportunities

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this section has intentionally been left blank. Educational opportunities are constantly changing. Please visit ohioeha.org for any available opportunities.

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Announcements

Have a grant, educational opportunity, move, promotion, or other announcement you would like to share? Please email a member of the publications committee.

Open Positions (With an opening of 10/20/20)

- Registered Sanitarian
Cambridge Guernsey County Health
Department
- Sanitarian/SIT
Hocking County Health Department
- Environmental Health Program Coordinator
Union County Health Department
- Registered Sanitarian I/II/SIT
Franklin County Public Health
- Public Health Nurse
Ross County Health District
- Public Health Epidemiologist
Ross County Health District
- T-21 Student/Temporary Health
Summit County Public Health
- Sanitarian/SIT
Clark County Combined Health District

OEHA Committees & Chairs

Body Art

Sarah Badenhop, R.S. - Columbus Public Health

Campground

Mark Janowich, R.S. - Erie County Health Department

Food

Christina Ritchey Wilson, JD, R.S. - Columbus Public Health

Greg Chumney, MPH, RS - Licking County Health Department

Lead

Greg Putka, R.S. - Lorain County Public Health

Private Water Systems

Randy Ruszkowski, R.S. - Stark County Health Department

Sewage

Laura Kramer Kuns, R.S., REHS - Kramer Kuns Consulting, LLC

Eric Cherry, R.S.—Huron County Public Health

Solid Waste

Chuck De Jonckheere, R.S. - Hamilton County Public Health

Swimming Pool, Spa, and Special Use Pool

Barry Grisez, R.S. - Cuyahoga County Board of Health

Vector Control

Scott Pozna, R.S. - Lorain County Health Department

Archives

Melissa Adams, R.S. - Delaware General Health District

Constitution & By-laws

Ken Sharkey, R.S., MPH - Cleveland Department of Public Health

Exhibits

Shannon Self, R.S. - Delaware General Health District

Professional Development

Steve Ruckman, MPH, R.S. - Worthington Schools

Resolutions

Jennifer Wentzel, MPH, R.S. - Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

Website

Garrett Guillozet, MPA, R.S., REHS, AEMT - Ross County Health District

Auditing

Jennifer Wentzel, MPH, R.S. - Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

Awards & Recognition

Gus Dria, R.S., REHS - Canton City Health Department

George Eagle Scholarship

Jacqueline A. Gruza, BS, RS, REHS - Greene County Public Health

Membership

Adam R. Howard, MPH, R.S., REHS - Delaware General Health District

Nominations & Elections

Open

Public Affairs

Stephan Ruckman, MPH, R.S. - Worthington Schools

Publications

Adam R. Howard, MPH, R.S., REHS - Delaware General Health District

Concentrated Animal Feed Facility

Jason Menchhofer, R.S. - Mercer County - Celina City Health Department

Ohio Public Health Advisory Board

Garrett Guillozet, MPA, R.S., REHS, AEMT - Ross County Health District

Ohio Public Health Partnership

Chad Brown, R.S., REHS, MPH - Licking County Health Department

Sewage Treatment System Technical Advisory Committee

Dan Lark, R.S., REHS - Lake County General Health District

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