

Ohio Journal of
Environmental
Health

2nd Quarter 2021



In this issue...

- **By Law Announcement**
- **District Conference Announcements**



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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To include articles or other materials for publication, contact: Adam Howard, Dustin Kent, or Tracy Buchanan

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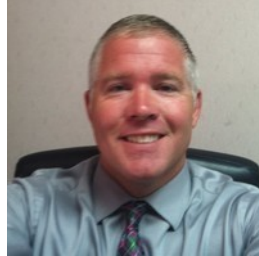
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President's Message

Stephan Ruckman, MPH, REHS
Ohio Environmental Health Association
President 2020-2022

We are fully in the swing of Summer 2021. A Summer that is filled with cautious optimism and return to normal activities for most of us. For many that means return to traditional program inspection, disease investigation, and the myriad of other tasks that fill our day as environmental health professionals. For some it still involves supporting other critical functions as they weather what we hope will be a closing phase of the Covid 19 pandemic. Last year as I authored my President's message I remember it as a time of so many unknowns. I'm not sure that much has changed in that regard, but I do see many positive things happening for environmental public health and for our association.



I had the opportunity to attend the recent National Environmental Health Association's Affiliate President's meeting last week. What I gathered from the conversation and presentations provided is that although the pandemic tested all of us as, it also hardened our resolve. And, in many ways provided a platform for our members to show the diverse skill set that makes them so valuable to their community. In that vein, I'm reminded that the recent shift in our professional name in Ohio to Registered Environmental Health Specialists really fits and helps to better describe what we do. Certainly I hope that we were never just seen as "inspectors", but our response to the pandemic showed just how skilled we were at contact tracing, educating, and communicating with the public in addition to maybe more traditional roles. For that, I hope you all take a moment to reflect on the value you bring and

just how much your community has benefited from the work you have done this past year.

As we shift back into what we hope to be a more typical Fall I am excited to share that we will resume in person Fall Educational Conferences. You will find more information on these conferences in this journal as well as on the OEHA website. I encourage all of you to take a moment to consider attending one of these conferences to gain valuable knowledge and network with your peers. I believe that the education provided by the respective District Planning Committees is second to none and applaud them for their work thus far. It should also be noted that the Board of Directors recently worked on amendments to the bylaws that will be voted on at the District Fall Conferences. Originally, we had hoped to present these at an Annual meeting of the entire Association this year, but it became more and more clear that an annual meeting would not be possible. The bylaw changes will allow the Board of Directors to meet remotely and also provide provisions to recognize digital signatures. Both of these changes are necessary to provide for more efficient and effective operation of the Association in times where in person meetings are not possible. More information on these bylaw changes is available in this issue of the OJEH.

In addition to planning for the bylaw changes, the Board of Directors was busy the past couple months working with Hick's Partners to monitor and respond to issues in the State of Ohio Budget that would have a direct impact on our membership. I can report that the work done by the Hick's Partners staff combined with input from respective Board Members and Technical Committee served us

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all very well. We now look to the future and some of the issues that will be paramount to address. One of these issues is Food Program Cost Methodology. We are working with our other public health and industry partners to provide a solution to concerns presented by the pandemic and staff being reassigned to alternate work. I'm hopeful that we will identify a solution that provides necessary support for all involved. Please continue to monitor the OEHA website and email for updates as they become available. I also plan to provide updates in the Fall at the respective District meetings.

Finally, I want to take a moment to address the subject of feeling weary after all we've experienced and the tremendous amount of work that is yet to come. I've heard from so many of our members recently that are just tired and rightfully so. With this in mind, I began to look through some of my books and came upon the following. **Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote "When you get into a tight place and everything goes against you, till it**

seems as though you could not hang on a minute longer, never give up then, for that is just the place and time the tide will turn." If this past year has you feeling overwhelmed, overworked, and unsure about your future as an environmental health professional I hope that you will take a moment to remember that the tide will turn. Reflect on all the great work you have done and just how many people are safe and healthy because of you! Let that drive you as the tide does in fact turn toward better days on the other side of the pandemic.

Thanks again to all of you for making our association and profession so valuable to so many!!!



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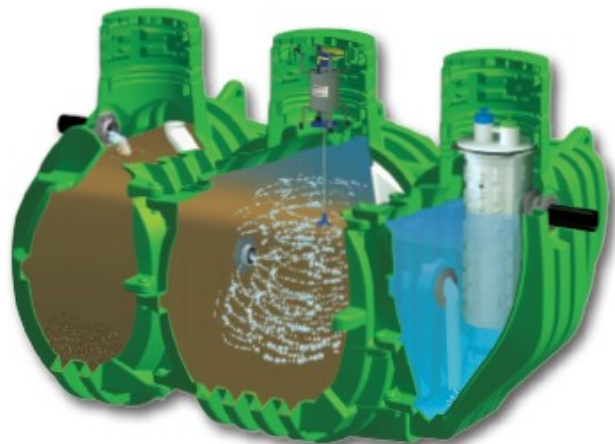


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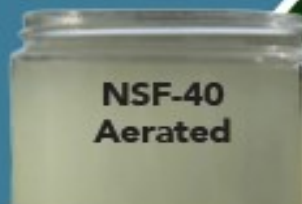
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Featured District Director's Message: Northeast

Courtney Myers, MPH, REHS
Stark County Health Department

The Northeast OEHA Planning Committee is very excited to present this year's fall conference at the **Hilton Garden Inn in Twinsburg, OH, on October 12 and 13, 2021**. The conference theme is, "*This was NOT Jimmy Buffett's Corona: If We Didn't Laugh, We Would Go Insane.*" After this past year and a half in public health, we know you are ready for a few days to be with your colleagues to network, learn, chat, and laugh a bit too!



The Planning Committee did make some modifications this year to ensure any COVID protocols can be achieved, and the conference can be held as planned. The most notable change this year is a single track of presentations each day to ensure social distancing. Each day will provide Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) with five CEU's and one pesticide credit hour. Two-day conference attendees can earn ten CEU's and two pesticide credit hours.

The first day will focus on surface water and wastewater presentations. Licensed Wastewater and Water Operators will each be able to obtain 1.0 Contact Hour on day one. The second day will focus on foodservice. The committee has elected to offer a specialized Keynote Speaker tailored for each day, so no matter if you come for one or both days, you will have a Keynote presentation.

We will hold several fundraisers to support the George Eagle Scholarship Fund. A basket raffle will take place during the entirety

of the conference. Additionally, we will have daily 50/50 raffles. The Planning Committee welcomes donations for the raffle items. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you would like to donate to this great cause.



The Hilton Garden Inn is at 8971 Wilcox Dr., Twinsburg, OH. Hotel accommodations for those wishing to stay overnight can be made directly by contacting the hotel at 330-405-4488. **Rooms will be held for OEHA attendees at a special rate of \$99 per night until September 19, 2021.** Please mention you are with OEHA to obtain our special rate.

For any additional information regarding the conference or to nominate someone for the future District Director-Elect position, the Outstanding Sanitarian Award, or the Gary Matson Membership Recognition, please visit the OEHA website or contact me directly. We look forward to seeing all of you this fall!

Save The Date
OCTOBER 12-13, 2021

**NORTHEAST OEHA
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 Call 330-405-4488
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This year's conference has been adapted to ensure all COVID protocols can be accomplished while providing a fabulous event for all attendees!
 Additional registration information to follow.



- [2021 NE OEHA Conference Registration Form](#)
- [2021 NE OEHA Fall Conference Agenda](#)
- [NE OEHA Award Nomination](#)



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CAFF Advisory Committee Report

Jason Menchhofer, REHS
Mercer County Health District

The Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility (CAFF) Advisory Committee met via Zoom on June 15, 2021. The CAFF Committee meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 AM.

Ohio Department of Agriculture Division of Livestock and Environmental Permitting (DLEP) Chief Sam Mullins led the group through introductions, since several new members have recently joined the committee. Sam noted that the OEHA alternate position remains open. There is also a public representative position open. To promote even representation around the state it would be good to find someone from Northwest Ohio.

Tony Anderson (representing the County Commissioners Association of Ohio) will continue through 2021 as committee chair

and Eric Dresbach (representing the Ohio Water Environment Association) will continue as vice-chair.

The committee discussed several proposed revisions to the CAFF Committee bylaws. Most of these changes were suggested to simply make the bylaws match committee processes which have evolved over the years.

Matt Lane of ODA Division of Soil and Water Conservation gave a presentation on the growing number of livestock in the Western Lake Erie Basin watershed. Between 2002 and 2017 the livestock and poultry population in the watershed increased from 350,000 to 650,000 animal units. ODA has been receiving more inquiries about installation of manure digesters in lieu of land application of manure.

Sam Mullins gave a brief report on

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numbers of valid water quality complaints received by DLEP each year. According to his report, DLEP receives between 20 and 40 water quality complaints each year, and on average about 45% of those complaints are valid.

During the public comment period, Sandy Bihn spoke on behalf of a group called Lake Erie Waterkeeper. Sandy is a frequent guest at CAFF Committee meetings, and commonly urges more regulation of smaller CAFFs, as well as lower phosphorous thresholds for manure and fertilizer application on farm fields. As she has in the past, Sandy lobbied the committee to consider acting to lower the allowable phosphorous concentration from 150 ppm to 50 ppm. Tony Seegers made a public comment in response to Sandy, saying that manure includes beneficial organic material that aids the soil in retaining nutrients, so holding manure application to the same phosphorous threshold as commercial fertilizer application is not exactly an “apples to apples” comparison.

Sam updated the committee on DLEP activities, reporting that he is beginning the process of hiring a fourth inspector. The addition of a fourth inspector will bring DLEP back to a normal staffing level. Sam also shared

that the DLEP staff will be returning to the office on August 16.

Kirk Hines, ODA Division of Soil and Water Conservation Chief, gave an update on the H2Ohio program. This program now dedicates \$50 million per year to promoting conservation. The program seems to be working well in the 14 Western Lake Erie Basin watershed counties where it is currently in effect. There is an emphasis on maintenance of conservation practices after they are initiated. Some of the committee members discussed increased promotion of this program to the public, mainly so the public realizes real work is being done to correct ag-related water quality problems.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of Certified Livestock Manager Training. The DLEP is working on an online version of this training for those who need the certification to continue land application of manure. The challenge is developing ways to hold people accountable for actual participation in the online training.

The next CAFF Committee meeting will be held on August 17, 2021 at the Ohio Department of Agriculture.



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2021 Southeast OEHA Annual Fall Conference

Greg Chumney, MPH, REHS
Licking County Health Department

On behalf of the Southeast OEHA Planning Committee, I would like to cordially invite you to attend the 2021 SE OEHA Fall Conference. This year's conference will be held September 22nd & 23rd at the Ohio University Inn and Conference Center located in Athens, Ohio. The planning committee is dedicated to providing you with an excellent conference experience. This year's sessions cover a wide variety of speakers and topics and offers up to 10 CEUs and 2 pesticide credit hours. We have adjusted our conference layout and flow this year to allow for more social distancing throughout our conference.

Included in this year's conference packet, you will find the following documents:

- Conference Overview Info Document
- Conference Registration Form (Pre-Registration Deadline: September 15, 2021)
- Conference Agenda
- Nominations Form for District-Director Elect, Treasurer, Outstanding Sanitarian Award and Membership Award

The Ohio University Inn and Conference Center can be reached at 866-593-

6661 to reserve your room (make sure you tell them you're with OEHA so you get our group room rate).

Please take time to consider nominating a colleague for the Outstanding Sanitarian Award or the OEHA Membership Award. We have outstanding sanitarians in the Southeast that deserve to be recognized, so let's do it. The winner would then be in the running for a State Award at the AEC in the spring of 2022!

It has been a pleasure to serve again as the District Director for OEHA's Southeast District. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at 740-349-6493 or via e-mail at gchumney@lickingcohealth.org

If you have any questions or need assistance with registration, please contact MaryBeth Brown at 614-525-3929 or via email at MaryBethBrown@franklincountyohio.gov

- [2021 SE OEHA Conference Overview Info](#)
- [2021 SE OEHA Registration Form](#)
- [2021 SE Conference Agenda](#)
- [2021 SE OEHA Nominations Form](#)

2021 NW OEHA Conference Information

Brittany Zoecklein, REHS
Delaware Public Health District

On behalf of the Northwest OEHA Planning Committee, I would like to cordially invite you to attend the NWOEHA 2021 Fall Conference. This year's conference will be held October 14th & 15th at the Kalahari Resort and Conference Center in Sandusky, Ohio. The planning committee is dedicated to providing you with an excellent conference experience. The educational sessions are comprised of a wide variety of speakers and topics, giving the opportunity to earn up to 11.25 CEUs.

The 2020 year was tough, but we are excited to get back together, share our experiences, learn, and network again. We hope you are too!!

In the links, you will find the following:

- [Conference Agenda](#)
- [Conference Registration Form](#)
- [Nomination Form for Outstanding Sanitarian Award and Membership Award](#)

To attend conference, please fill out and submit the registration form and payment to the listed recipient. The first 50 people who register will receive special conference gifts!

If you plan on staying overnight, Kalahari Resort and Conference Center has provided us with a link for reserving rooms online. Remember to book as soon as possible.

Booking Website: <https://book.passkey.com/e/50117936>

Please take time to consider nominating a colleague for the Outstanding Sanitarian Award or the OEHA Membership Award. If this past year has showed or taught us anything, it is that we have outstanding sanitarians in the Northwest that deserve to be recognized! The winner would then be in the running for a State Award at the AEC in the spring of 2022!

If you want to get involved within our organization, we will be seeking nominations for a District Director-Elect and Treasurer. We hope you also consider joining our planning committee!

A raffle will be happening this year. If you have anything you would like to donate or contribute to the raffle, please contact Britt at bmenchofer@vanwertcountyhealth.org.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I have missed interacting with everyone and I am looking forward to attending this year's conference.

- When: October 14th and 15th
- Where: Kalahari Resort and Convention Center
7000 Kalahari Dr.
Sandusky, OH 44870
- Book your room by September 13th, 2021!
- Call: 1-877-KALAHARI (1-877-525-2427) and ask for the NWOEHA Room Rate OR use the above link.
- P.S. Tell your friends/colleagues and spread the word!

Proposed By-Law Changes

Please find changes to the Ohio Environmental Health Association Bylaws below:

Article X: Amendments **Section 1**

This Constitution may be amended at the compilation of all Annual District Fall Meetings or at any Annual Meeting by two-thirds vote of all active, voting members present, including those active members voting by absentee ballot. If the Constitutional amendment is to be amended at the Annual District Fall Meetings, all of the Annual District Fall Meetings shall participate in voting. Absentee ballots must be submitted seven days before the end of the Annual Meeting, to the Secretary, if the Constitution was being amended. If the Constitutional amendment is to be amended at the Annual District Fall Meetings, absentee ballots must be submitted within seven days, to the Secretary, before the end of the last Annual District Fall Meeting.

Absentee ballots must be requested from the Secretary thirty days before the beginning of the Annual Meeting if the Constitutional amendment is to take place at the Annual Meeting. Absentee ballots must be requested from the Secretary thirty days before the beginning of the first Annual District Fall Meeting if the Constitutional amendment is to take place at the compilation of the Annual District Fall Meetings.

Proposed amendments must be endorsed in writing by at least ten active members and submitted to the Secretary at least 75 days before the next Annual Meeting or the first

of the Annual District Fall Meetings and that the Secretary submits as herein provided any proposed amendment to the membership for consideration. It will be the duty of the Secretary to have mailed or delivered any such proposed amendment in writing to the membership, or have published any proposed amendment in the "Ohio Journal of Environmental Health" and have mailed either by electronic or postal delivery or delivered such publication to the membership in the Association's newsletter or on the Association's website, at least 45 days before the date of the next Annual Meeting.

Chapter IV: Amendments

Section 1

The Bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting or Annual District Fall Meetings by two-thirds vote of all active members present, the proposed amendments having been endorsed in writing to the Secretary by at least ten active members.

The proposed bylaw changes to be considered by the OEHA membership at the Fall 2021 meetings are as follows:

Chapter II: Duties of Officers

Section 8

The Board of Directors shall be the legal representative of the Association, and as such shall have full control of the Association. It shall hold a meeting within sixty days of the Annual Meeting and before the opening session of the next Annual Meeting. Other meetings

shall be held at the call of the President, or any five members of the Board of Directors. Notice of all special meetings shall be issued by the Secretary, at least ten days in advance of such meetings, to all members of the Board of Directors. Six members shall constitute a quorum of the Board of Directors. **Meetings of the Board of Directors can be held in person or remotely using telephone or visual technology provided that a quorum of Board Members are present.**

The Board of Directors may annually employ, contract, or otherwise secure the services of an Administrative Aide, a Legislative Aide, or other personnel necessary to adequately carry out the objectives of the Association, and shall establish the duties and compensation for these people.

Chapter VIII: Conducting Of Meetings

Section 1

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail in the conducting of business meetings of the Association, except where specific rules are established or are provided in the Constitution or Bylaws. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail in the conducting of business meetings of all boards and committees of the Association, except where any board or committee provides specific rules for conducting the meetings. **Meetings of the Board of Directors can be held in person or remotely using telephone or visual technology provided that a quorum of Board Members are present.**

The board is afforded the privilege of holding an executive session during any of its meetings. The board shall utilize an executive session to discuss the appointment, placement or nomination of a member to any external board, agency, commission or panel. The board is also permitted to utilize executive session to discuss pending or potential legal action involving the association, to discuss pending or potential legislation that may affect the practice of

environmental health in Ohio, and to discuss potential or pending contractual agreements. The board must obtain a majority roll-call vote to enter into and exit from an executive session, and the Secretary must properly record the vote in the official meeting minutes. All current board members will participate in the executive session, and the board may invite any guests to join the executive session should the need arise.

Association members in good standing may attend any board meeting provided they provide advanced notice to the President in order to ensure appropriate logistical arrangements can be made.

Any members in good standing that attends a board meeting, and that are not current board members, are not permitted to participate in an executive session unless they are invited to do so by a majority vote of the board.

Chapter IX: Recognition of Digital Signatures

Section 1

Digital signatures shall be recognized for the purposes of all Association Business and items submitted in writing by membership provided that they comply with Federal Law.

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 8/10/21)

- REHS/EHST
Williams County Health Department
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Constitution & By-laws

Ken Sharkey, REHS, MPH
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Exhibits

Shannon Self, REHS
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Professional Development

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Resolutions

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Website

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Ross County Health District

Auditing

Jennifer Wentzel, MPH, REHS
Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

Awards & Recognition

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Canton City Health Department

George Eagle Scholarship

Jacqueline A. Gruza, BS, REHS, MPH
Greene County Public Health

Membership

Adam R. Howard, MPH, REHS
Delaware Public Health District

Nominations & Elections

Open

Public Affairs

Stephan Ruckman, MPH, REHS
Worthington Schools

Publications

Adam R. Howard, MPH, REHS
Delaware Public Health District

Concentrated Animal Feed Facility

Jason Menchhofer, REHS
Mercer County - Celina City Health Department

Ohio Public Health Advisory Board

Garrett Guillozet, MPA, REHS, AEMT
Ross County Health District

Ohio Public Health Partnership

Chad Brown, REHS, MPH
Licking County Health Department

Sewage Treatment System Technical Advisory Committee

Dan Lark, REHS
Lake County General Health District

OJEH
Ohio Environmental Health Association
2818 Annabelle Ct
Grove City, OH 43123

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