

2007-2008
EXECUTIVE
BOARD

PRESIDENT

CHERIE SMITH

636-282-1010 x267

smithc4@lpha.dhss.
mo.gov

VICE PRESIDENT

JANET HICKS

417-864-1689

jhicks@ci.springfield.
mo.us

SECRETARY

KAREN HUNTER

573-717-7317

huntk@lpha.dhss.mo.
gov

TREASURER

STEVE BUCK

636-282-1010

bucks@lpha.dhss.mo.
gov

PAST PRESIDENT

TRAVIS DOLL

660-747-6121

dollt@lpha.dhss.mo.
gov

MEHA News

Spring 2008 Newsletter



President's Message

Greetings from the President! I hope you all enjoyed our Fall educational conference. All of our speakers did such a wonderful job, and we were fortunate to have such great weather. Time passes so quickly, and preparations have already begun for this year's agenda.

As I sat down to write this message, I had just read an article about a newly proposed food product line that claims it will kill intestinal worms. This product is not in use yet, but it was created and will be marketed specifically to rural Asia, Africa and Latin America where intestinal worms are common due to poor sanitation. Fortunately for us, we won't even see this product in the United States. We have excellent sanitation, and human intestinal worms are not an issue we have to deal with, but it led me to step back and look at global public health threats and the progress we have made both globally and locally.

Already in 2008, we have had cases of yellow fever in Brazil, Avian Influenza (H5N1) in Indonesia, and Ciguatera fish poisoning from fish harvested in the Northern Gulf of Mexico (this reached us here in Missouri). The recalls continue to roll in for various reasons: improper labeling, undeclared allergens, E. coli O157:H7, Listeria, etc. The weather has been as unpredictable as ever creating some devastating storms. We've had to put some of our emergency preparedness plans into action. Again, reminding us of the broad scope of responsibilities our job description entails. And because of the work we do, advancements both big and small are being made. I think we have a tendency to get buried in our work and see only the next disaster when really, we have made incredible progress as an industry.

President's Message

Continued

Some examples of the progress we've made:

- According to the most current data from the World Health Organization, the percentage of people worldwide that have access to an improved water supply has risen from 78% in 1990 to 83% in 2004. And the percentage of people worldwide who have access to improved sanitation facilities has risen from 49% in 1990 to 59% in 2004. Here in the United States, we sit at almost 100% in both of these categories. Clean water and adequate sanitation allows us to better do our jobs and makes our jobs easier.
- According to a recent article in the Seattle Post, the Department of Agriculture has said that Brucellosis has been nearly eradicated in commercial herds in all 50 states. Now they are taking steps to eradicate Brucellosis from the free-range elk and bison to continue to protect the cattle from future outbreaks.
- Twelve city and/or county health departments have become accredited through the Missouri Institute for Community Health (MICH). MICH's Voluntary Accreditation Program for Local Public Health Agencies has gained attention from public health organizations in Missouri and across the nation. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJ), and National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) are partners in public health accreditation efforts and other initiatives to strengthen public health systems. Though at the origin of MICH, activities were focused primarily on local public health agency accreditation; its mission is now more comprehensive. MICH supports efforts to continuously improve entire community health systems which will lead to better health and quality of life throughout the state of Missouri.
- A recent review from CDC revealed that Missouri is well prepared to provide drugs and medical supplies from a federal stockpile in the event of a public health emergency. Missouri scored 96 of 100 percent for its overall readiness to quickly distribute the necessary medicines and medical supplies received from the SNS. Some improvements noted from last year's score of 85 percent include increased recruitment and training of SNS team members, advance preparation of public information messages, cooperative planning with bordering states, and increased emphasis on exercise training and evaluation. The most recent state exercise focused on the use of a Regional Distribution Site, an alternate care treatment site, as well as the capability of receiving and staging large shipments of managed inventory

Fortunately, in our line of work, there will always be work to do, because there will always be something news breaking on the horizon. But, if you are having a day where you don't feel like you are making difference, look back at this list or call up a colleague and I'm sure they will be happy to tell you of some successes.

Speaking of successes, the Board is busy trying to put together another great educational conference for you. We are again scheduled at The Resort at Port Arrowhead for October 1 – 3, 2008. Hopefully you will all be in attendance again this Fall. Each year, budgets become tighter, but with the changing world of Environmental Health, it is ever more important to attend the conference, listen to the programs, net-work with colleagues and know that you're not fighting the battle alone. If you have any topics you would like to see, please submit your recommendations to csmith@schnucks.com. I hope to see you there.

2008 OFFICERS

The new slate of officers for the 2008 year was nominated and approved at the October 2007 Annual Educational Conference business meeting. The new officers are as follows:

President - Cherie Smith, Vice President - Janet Hicks, Secretary - Karen Hunter,
Treasurer - Steve Buck, Past President -
Travis Doll.

About the Officers:

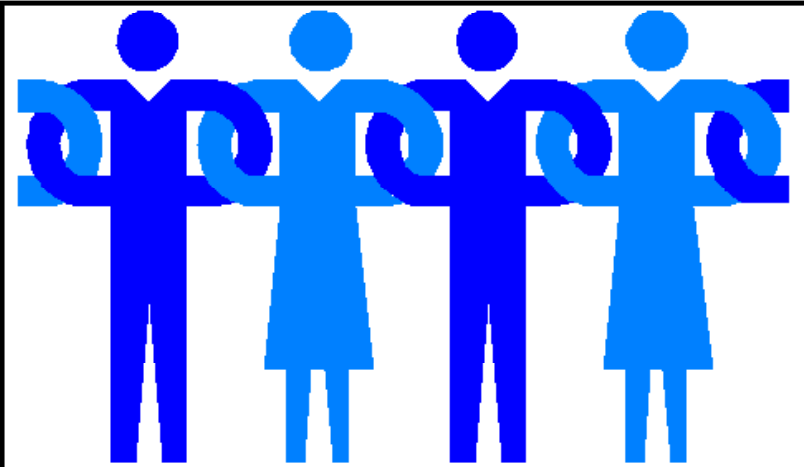
Cherie Smith is employed as a Food Safety Specialist for Schnuck Markets, Inc. Before this she spent 7 years as an Environmental Public Health Specialist for Jefferson County Health Department where she worked in a variety of public health programs. She earned a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, and she enjoys going back there to see the improvements to campus and to revel in the Iowa winters.



Janet Hicks has been a Public Health Investigator with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department for 19 years where she has worked in a variety of environmental health programs. Janet first started her career in public health, also at Springfield-Greene County in 1982, where she worked 2 years in the rodent control program. Janet also was employed as a general county Sanitarian for Mansfield-Richland County Health Department in Ohio from 1986-1989. Prior to the career in public health, Janet enjoyed learning and working in the fields of plant ecology and taxonomy, doing a glade study for Mo DNR and working as a naturalist at Ha Ha Tonka State Park. She completed a thesis on The Vegetative Analysis of Hercules Glades Wilderness and obtained an MS in Biology from Missouri State University in 1981. She continues to demonstrate an interest in native plants in landscaping and gardening both at home and in public settings. Janet is originally from Pulaski County and still has family she visits there often. Janet and her husband are active in the local traditional/bluegrass music scene in the southwest Missouri area and often attend music festivals, concerts and music parties for entertainment.

Karen Hunter has been the EPHS for the Dunklin County Health Department for 17 years, working a Multi-County position with Pemiscot County for the first 5 years. Prior to her employment in the public health field, her work experience includes being a Kennett City Police Dispatcher, copywriter and "on air" radio programmer. Karen holds a B.A. in vocal music with a biology minor from the now University of Central Missouri, was a scholarship attendee of the New England Broadcasting Institute, earned a 2nd Degree Black belt in Tae-Kwon-Do, and is still very active in local theater and choral groups.

2008 OFFICERS CONT.



Steve R. Buck, M.Ed., has been employed by the Jefferson County Health Department as an Environmental Public Health Specialist III and a Computer Specialist since February 2000. Mr. Buck retired from the Army in 1995. Stephen was employed by the Missouri Department of Health for five years before coming to work for Jefferson County. He received his Master of Education from Lincoln University in 1997.

Travis Doll is the Environmental Public Health Coordinator for Johnson County Community Health Services (JCCHS) in Warrensburg, MO. He has been employed with JCCHS as an EPHS since 1999. Before this, Mr. Doll worked as a Geologist for an environmental consulting firm in the Kansas City area. In 1997, he earned a B.S. degree in Geology from Central Missouri State University. He is a lifelong resident of Missouri and values the environment, land and its natural resources. He enjoys spending time with his wife and family, traveling, and most recently, reading.

This publication is prepared by the education and Public Relations Committee of the Missouri Environmental health Association. Any suggestions or items of interest can be sent to: Eric Breusch, Randolph County Health Department, 423 East Logan, Moberly, MO 65270. Phone (660) 263-6643 or Fax (660) 263-0333 or email at breuse@lpha.dhss.mo.gov

Space available for Advertising

Business' may advertise in the MEHA Newsletter for a nominal fee of \$75 per 1/4 page, \$100 per 1/2 page or \$40 for a business card. Our publication is printed twice a year and is distributed to Environmental Health Specialists and Business' related to our field. Our Spring newsletter reaches approximately 150 people and our Fall newsletter reaches nearly 350 people.

Scholarship Fund

A Scholarship fund of \$500 has been established at Missouri Southern State College for a student in the Environmental Health Program who maintains a GPA of 3.0 or better. This fund is available annually.

A NOTE FROM OUR CONFERENCE FOR FOOD PROTECTION CHAIR

Dear Members and Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us in San Antonio April 11-16 for the 2008 Biennial Conference for Food Protection.



These past two years have again shown us that we are all necessary to the ongoing challenges of protecting our food supply. There have been several nationwide foodborne illness outbreaks and food product recalls which have impacted everyone, especially those of us involved in the food business whether in the regulatory, industry, academic or consumer sectors. The partnership building that occurs during the Conference enhances these investigative and recall efforts making them more effective and efficient. The workshop topic of fresh fruit and vegetable safety is very timely with these recent events and will add an invaluable learning experience to participants.

Members of the Executive Board, the Local Arrangements Committee, Councils and Committees have spent invaluable time and resources to make the 2008 Conference productive and meaningful. I applaud their efforts and am grateful for their contributions.

While tremendous strides have been made in food safety there is still work to be done. Attendance at the 2008 biennial meeting will give you the opportunity to make a contribution in protecting our nation's food supply. Everyone's involvement and participation is needed. Experience how you can make a difference! I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

Elizabeth A. Nutt, Chair
Conference for Food Protection

CERTIFICATION BOARD REPORT

Missouri Board of Certification Examination and NEHA Examination

The Missouri Board of Certification will be giving the Environmental Health Examination this spring at the Missouri Milk, Food, and Environmental Health Association Annual Conference in Columbia, MO and in the fall at the Missouri Environmental Health Association Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. The Certification Board also sponsors and proctors the National Environmental Health Association Examination, upon request.

The applications for the exam are available from either Janet Murray (660) 263-6643 Ext. 3043 or from A. Reid Stevens (573) 295-4240. You can also contact either or them by email: murraj1@pha.dhss.mo.gov or cpnReid@aol.com.

Applicants wishing to take either exam must have a B.S. or B.A. which includes at least one college level math course and 30 or more credits of science or related courses (such as food, food science, various agricultural courses, etc.) and at least 2 years of field work.

Applicants for the NEHA exam must coordinate with NEHA and request a proctor (in Missouri Reid Stevens, Michael Hill, and Janet Murray are currently designated proctors). **Study materials, including the latest version of the NEHA Practice Exam,** are available through the Certification Board for a lending fee, 50% of which is returned to the user upon return of all materials in sound condition. Fees generated shall be used to continue purchase of additional and updated references.



For those taking the Missouri Exam, a new study guide is available to applicants and can be received by contacting Janet Murray. Most of the references that were used for the Missouri exam were from existing state codes/manuals. Others may be obtained on specific subjects from Janet Murray.

Registration, whether National or through the Missouri Board continues to be voluntary within Missouri, however registration gives the individual and the agency represented a more professional demeanor.

THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS

Sanitarian of the Year

Larry Hunt

Department of Health &
Senior Services

Rookie Sanitarian of the Year

Laura Hunter

Taney County Health
Department

Longevity

Jerry Brown

Jefferson County Code
Enforcement Division

DON'T FORGET

To nominate a colleague for the well deserved recognition an award can bring.

Please contact Travis Doll
for nomination form:
(660) 747-6121 or
dollt@alpha.dhss.mo.gov

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP:	Janet Hicks
HOSPITALITY:	Michael Hill & Amy Morris
NOMINATIONS:	Travis Doll
AWARDS:	Travis Doll
PROGRAM:	Cherie Smith
AUDIT:	John Smith
NECROLOGY;	Jerry Brown
EXHIBITORS:	Thomas Emerson
CERTIFICATION & REGISTRATION:	Janet Murray
EDUCATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS:	Eric Breusch
BY-LAWS:	Jim Fry
LEGISLATIVE:	Joe Hainline

COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

ANNUAL AWARDS

The following awards will be presented at the Annual Education Conference October 1, 2 and 3, 2008.

SANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

Nominees for this award should demonstrate or possess the following:

- * A strong commitment to the improvement of public health in his/her community
- * Exemplary performance of job related tasks and an excellent working relationship with the public.
- * A high degree of ethics and integrity both on and off the job.
- * Service above and beyond the call of duty such as volunteer work, community service, etc.

ROOKIE SANITARIAN OF THE YEAR

Nominees for this award should demonstrate or possess the following:

- * Be employed as a sanitarian, inspector, etc. for a period of less than five years.
- * A strong commitment to the ideals and programs relating to public health issues.
- * Demonstrates excellence in the performance of job related tasks.
- * A high level of motivation and the willingness to accept new challenges.

Nomination forms can be obtained by emailing Travis Doll at dollt@lpha.dhss.mo.gov or calling him at (660) 747-6121. **Deadline for award submission is August 31, 2008.**

