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MEHA News

Fall 2008 Newsletter



President's Message

Summer is the time for baseball games, float trips, barb-ques, family gatherings and vacations. It's also time for thunderstorms, power outages, mosquitoes, and weekend fairs and festivals. I hope you all have been finding some time to enjoy the summer and all the fun things it has to offer amid all the work it provides us. If you haven't yet had a chance to enjoy it, put down that pen. Close your eyes, and picture yourself relaxing under the sun, hearing a cold beverage opening in the distance and feeling the splash from the water. Now SMACK that mosquito and get back to work. We have lots to do before October gets here.

Looking toward October, I realize that the Fall Educational Conference is right around the corner. The executive board has pooled their efforts to try and bring you a diverse program with some excellent speakers including presentations on storm water management, retail food safety, environmental relations in Amish Communities and many more. Unfortunately, we've had some last minute cancellations so we're doing some juggling to fill those slots, but I assure you we are working hard to bring you a well-rounded program.

This year's conference will again be held at The Resort at Port Arrowhead in Osage Beach, October 1-3, 2008. Registration information for the conference and a tentative agenda is enclosed. I hope to see you all there.

Cherie Smith
President



2008 Fall Educational Conference

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 - 11:30 1:30 - 3:00	NEHA R.E.H.S. & MO C.E.H.S. Exams - Room A in D Building
3:00 - 5:00	MEHA Board & Committee Pre-Conference Meeting - Room A in D Building

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

9:30 - 12:00	Exhibitor Set-up - Lakeside Center	
10:00 - 12:00	MO Board of Certification Meeting - Room A in D Building	
10:00 - 1:15	Registration - Lakeside Foyer	
1:15 - 1:45	Opening Comments - Lakeside South	<i>Cherie Smith, President, MEHA</i>
	Introduction of Exhibitors	
1:45 - 3:15	Keynote Speaker: "Options for Controlling Norovirus from Farm-to-Fork in Ready-to-Eat Food"	<i>Capt. Wendy Fanaselle, MS, R.S., D.A.A.S., US Public Health Service FDA, CFSAN</i>
3:15 - 3:30	Break	<i>Lakeside Center</i>
3:30 - 4:30	"Shoreline Management Lake of the Ozarks & Lake of the Ozarks Water Testing"	<i>Bryan Vance, Ameren UE Shoreline Management Donna Small, LOWA - Lake Ozark Watershed Alliance</i>
5:00	Hospitality	<i>Hospitality Suite</i>

2008 Fall Educational Conference Agenda Cont.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

8:45 - 10:00	"DHSS - Where Will We Be in 5 Years?"	<i>Kristi Campbell & Panel DHSS, Division of Regulation & Licensure</i>
10:00 - 10:15	Break	<i>Lakeside Center</i>
10:15 - 11:05	"Significance of Scoring on Food Service Inspections"	<i>Chuck Gatlin</i>
11:05 - 12:00	Topic: On-Site	<i>Anthony Smithson, M.S., R.S., Director of Environmental Health, Lake County Health Dept., IL</i>
12:00 - 1:15	Lunch on your own	
1:15 - 2:15	"Environmental Health Inspections of an Amish Community Spanning Multiple Jurisdictions"	<i>Benton, Henry, Johnson & Pettis Counties</i>
2:15 - 2:30	Break	<i>Lakeside Center</i>
2:30 - 3:30	"Low Impact Development"	<i>TBD</i>
3:30 - 4:30	"Retail Food Service Perspective"	<i>Dale Yarnick Yum! Brands, Inc.</i>
4:30	Annual Business Meeting	<i>Lakeside South</i>
6:30	Dinner Banquet & Awards	

2008 Fall Educational Conference Agenda Cont.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

8:45 - 9:45	"Rodent/Vector/Trash Panel Discussion	<i>TBD</i>
9:45 - 10:15	Break	
10:15 - 11:00	"Pandemic"	<i>J.D. Slaughter Public Health Planner, Springfield/ Greene Co. Health Dept.</i>
11:00 - 12:00	"Ice Storm Response St. Joseph, MO"	<i>George Albert Emergency Management Director St. Joseph Fire Department</i>
12:00	DOOR PRIZES	
12:00	Meeting Adjourned	



Jim Fry has finally decided to retire after a 36 year career in environmental health. The first 3 years were with the Greene County Health Department and the last 33 have been with Springfield-Greene County since the departments combined in 1975. Jim has worked in a variety of capacities doing restaurant and retail food store inspections, truck wrecks, disasters from tornados to floods and ice storms, water, sewage, environmental complaints, etc. You name it and he's probably been there and done that! He has most recently served as the Coordinator of Environmental Health Services here at Springfield-Greene County Health. Jim has been active in MEHA, MMFEHA, MoCAFDO and many other professional organizations. We are all wondering how we are going to carry on without his institutional knowledge and amazing memory of where we have come from. He has been a mentor and educator to many of us who will stay the course and try to keep up the good work. There will be an open house to celebrate his career on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 from 2-4 PM in the Environmental Health Services Building at 320 E. Central Springfield, MO. Please stop by if you are in town, drop him a line or email (jfry@springfieldmo.gov) to send best wishes for the next very fun phase he has planned for his life.

NEHA Conference

The NEHA annual educational conference was held in Tucson, June 22-25, 2008. This year Tucson was experiencing unseasonably warm days during the NEHA annual conference. It reached temperatures of 112°F in the afternoon. Oddly everyone I talked to was anticipating the upcoming "monsoon" season which was to



begin "any day" or so they kept saying. After some chatting with the locals, I discovered that average rainfall during the monsoon was around 4 inches. I found this absolutely shocking since I had just come from Missouri and the Spring flooding we had experienced. It just emphasizes the different challenges we all must overcome to meet the common goal of public health.

Challenges seemed to be the theme for this years' conference in more ways than one. Many of the presentations themselves focused on challenges.

- The challenges of being an Environmental Health Specialist in today's changing profession. It put the question to all of us: what is environmental health, who are we, and what direction do we want to go?
- The challenges of training for Environmental Health Specialists and retail food service personnel. What is required and what should be required?
- The challenges of dealing with and trying to prevent smuggled foods.
- The challenges related with ethnic foods and traditional preparation methods.

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) 263-8643 or Fax (660) 263-0333 or email at breuse@pha.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 Winter newsletter reaches approximately 150 people and our Summer newsletter reaches nearly 400 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.

NEHA Conference Continued

Then there was my personal challenge of trying to attend all of the presentations I wanted to see. This year's conference offered both a "lecture hall" with six different time slots and six different topics as well as a "learning laboratory" which was a more interactive, hands-on learning environment. With all of these opportunities available, it made deciding which presentations to sit on very difficult. I know I wasn't able to attend everything, but every presentation I did attend was truly worth it. One of the highlights at the "learning laboratory" that I didn't participate in directly but caught clips of was *Inspector Job* which gave the participants the opportunity to take part in an on-camera interview. After their interview, they were given the opportunity to review the tape and were given advice from a panel of judges on how to improve their interview skills. This was such a big hit that it was the topic of discussion for the entire week. I wouldn't be at all surprised to see it on the agenda at future meetings.

NEHA has such a wide variety of relevant topics to offer each year. I was fortunate to attend this year's conference thanks to the support of MEHA. I encourage each of you to attend future conferences if given the opportunity. There is always a wealth of knowledge that is brought to the table by speakers and attendees alike.

Respectfully yours,
Cherie Smith
MEHA President



CERTIFICATION BOARD REPORT

The Missouri Board of Certification will be giving the Environmental Health Examination again this fall at the Missouri Environmental Health Association Conference

The next exam will be administered at the Resort at Port Arrowhead, Lake of the Ozarks on September 30th, 2008. The exam will begin at 9:30 am. Completed applications, transcripts, and fees must be received by Janet or Reid no later than September 30th, 2008.

The applications for the exam and the exam credit form 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.health.state.mo.us or cptnReid@aol.com.



One thing to keep in mind if you intend to apply for the \$50.00 credit is that you must be a member of one or the other professional groups-MMFEHA or MEHA, at the time that you submit your application. Since these associations provided the funding for this credit, it is only fair that you be a member. If you are not a member, but wish to take the exam, no problem. You only need to submit the application, with transcripts, and a check for \$75.00 made payable to the Missouri Board of Certification.

Reminder:

If you cannot attend this year's conference, you may still maintain an active membership by paying dues of \$10 to Steve Buck, Jefferson County Health Department, 1818 Lonedell, Arnold, MO, 63010. Your continued membership is appreciated.

We also ask that those Health Departments that are financially able to pay for the exam do so, to enable the Board to extend the funds to those that are not able to. **A new study guide is available for you. If you would like to request a copy, please call or email Janet Murray.** If some of these references are not available to you, contact Janet. She has these references and will be happy to assist you with whatever you need.

For those that are interested in taking the NEHA exam for your REHS, we have some of the training materials and two of the current study guides. There is a \$ 100.00 cost to use these materials, \$50.00 of which will be returned to you, upon the timely return of all materials. A proctor will be provided at no charge for those that are qualified and register with Missouri.

Annual Awards

The Following awards are available to be given out at the banquet:

Environmental Health Specialist of the Year

Nominees for this award should possess or demonstrate the following:

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

Rookie Environmental Health Specialist of the Year

Nominees for this award should possess or demonstrate 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.
- Demonstrated excellence in the performance of job related tasks.
- A high level of motivation and the willingness to accept new challenges.

Be sure to nominate an Environmental Health Specialist that you know is doing a great job. There are many out there. Nomination forms can be obtained on the web at www.mmfeha.org/meha option or call Travis Doll (660) 747-6121. ***Deadline for award submission is September 15, 2008.***



MISSOURI ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Annual Education Conference Registration Form
October 1-3, 2008
The Resort at Port Arrowhead
Lake Ozark, Missouri

Name: _____ Agency/Company: _____

Mailing Address: For MEHA records and member directory. Business address is preferred.

Division/Bureau/Section: _____

Street Address: _____

P.O. Box / Street Address 2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ - _____ Ext: _____ Fax: () _____ - _____

E-Mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name and Number: _____

PRE-REGISTRATION: Please check the appropriate line(s):

Entire Conference \$65 ____

One Day Only (October 4) \$45 ____

Student \$10 ____

Guest Banquet Ticket \$25 ____

Payment- Total Enclosed: \$ _____ or Total Due at Door: \$ _____

AT DOOR REGISTRATION:

Entire Conference \$75 ____

One Day Only (October 4) \$50 ____

(Registration fee includes: MEHA Membership Dues, Education Sessions, Hospitality, Banquet and CEU availability)

2009 Membership Dues Only \$10 ____

ADVANCE REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 28, 2008 - Registration received after this date will pay 'At Door' rates.

Submission of this registration form alone, if received by September 28 will be considered as 'Pre-Registered' so long as payment is received at the conference. To avoid delays at the registration table, please remit your payment with this registration form at this time.

Please mail this form and payment to:

MEHA
c/o Steve Buck
1818 Lonedell
Arnold, MO 63010

Room reservations can be made at:

The Resort at Port Arrowhead*
3080 Bagnell Dam Boulevard
Lake Ozark, MO 65049
(573) 365-2334

*Group room rate is \$81/night. Room block and rate will be held under MEHA until 8/31/08.