

2008-2009
EXECUTIVE
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MEHA News

Spring 2009 Newsletter



President's Message

Spring greetings from your President! It seems just a short time since our fall conference. Please know that we are already working on the next one which will be held at the Resort at Port Arrowhead at Lake Ozark, Missouri October 7-9, 2009. We welcome ideas or suggestions you might have for speakers.

I trust by now most of the days of cold, ice and snow are behind us as we look forward to another wondrous change of the seasons. As I write this, it was just a couple of weeks ago four inches of ice and snow covered my yard but now, daffodils are up that high and are in bud. It won't be long now!

Winter has not been without it's challenges—something folks in our field are way too familiar with. The ice storm that hit southern Missouri and northern Arkansas in late January still had some without power not too long ago. We all know what it's like to deal with the problems brought on by such a natural disaster including those resulting in food, water and sewage issues.

The past few weeks have also been challenging for those dealing with the peanut butter recall for Salmonella contamination. As usual, what starts with just a few products grows over time, as in this case. Last time I checked, over 2000 products had been recalled and 700 illnesses and possibly 9 fatalities had been linked to the outbreak. Many diverse areas of food production have been affected ranging from cookies and snack crackers to ice cream and dog food.

Although change seems to be the political theme of the day, change is something we live with, in our work world every day. I am often reminded of the phrase "readily adapts to changing work duties" and I think that pretty much sums up our lives in Environmental Health!

President's Message Continued

All we can do is hope for GOOD CHANGE from our new leaders at both the State and Federal levels. Will there be more funding in support of Public Health? How will the economic stimulus package affect us? Only time will tell the story. As for now, many of us are experiencing this struggling economy first hand. There are hiring freezes and budget cuts at both state and local health department levels. The citizens we serve have been affected in numerous ways too with increased numbers of home foreclosures, closed businesses, lost jobs, etc.

"Old Timers" (like my MOM) say it's reminiscent of the Great Depression. There is a big difference between now and the 1930's, however, in my opinion. In the 30's, most folks could take care of themselves, knew how to grow their own food and how to preserve it for use later on. We were just basically a more self reliant lot. People had learned from tough life experiences and they knew that the basics were what was important—family, friends, health and food on the table. I fear now for the many who have gotten away from those self reliant roots and have grown dependent on others to take care of them. Many are so used to just going to the store to buy whatever they need without a thought to what was involved in the production or manufacture of items used and consumed daily. I know I'll be spending a lot more time in the garden this summer while resurrecting those food preservation skills I learned from Mom and Granny long ago.



Even with all the gloom and doom on every horizon, just remember the important work you do every day in the service of all the citizens of Missouri. Don't let the heaviness of all the responsibilities get you down. Remember to get out and enjoy life—go to a ball game, go fishing, ride a bike or go floating on one of our fabulous Ozark streams, dig in the dirt and harvest some home grown tomatoes! Just don't lose sight of what's really important.

Janet Hicks
President

REMINDER:

MMFEHA AEC is in Columbia at the Stoney Creek Inn, April 1-3, 2009.

2009 OFFICERS

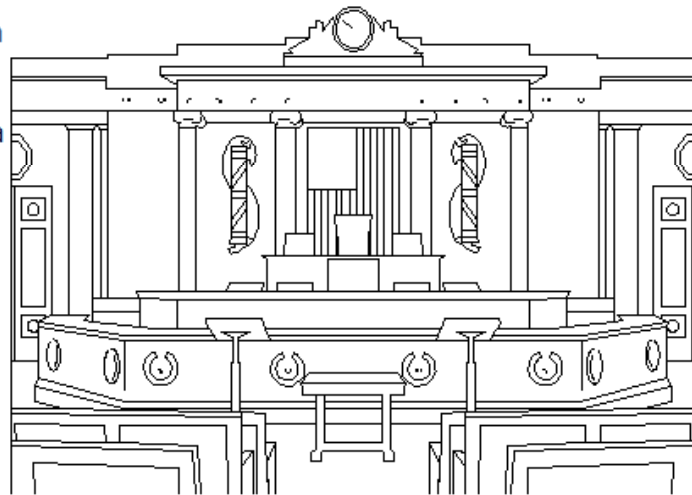
The new slate of officers for the 2009 year was nominated and approved at the October 2008 Annual Educational Conference business meeting. The new officers are as follows:

President - Janet Hicks, Vice President - Tina Van Horn, Secretary - Karen Hunter,
Treasurer - Steve Buck, Past President - Cherie Smith.

About the Officers:

Janet Hicks has been a Public Health Investigator with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department since 1989 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

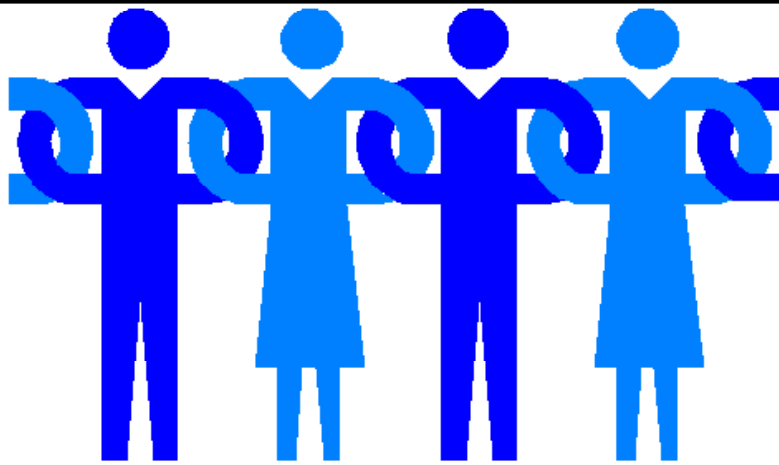
learning and working in the fields of plant ecology and taxonomy, doing a glade study for Mo DNR and working as a naturalist at Ha Ha Tonka State Park. She completed a thesis on The Vegetative Analysis of Hercules Glades Wilderness and obtained an MS in Biology from Missouri State University in 1981. She is interested 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.



Tina Van Horn has been employed as an EPHS with the Audrain City-County Health Unit since 2003. During that time she has provided Environmental Services to Audrain, Monroe, and Montgomery Counties. Tina has served as the group coordinator for the local (Troop F) EPHS workshop. She holds a B.S. in Ag-Business from the University of Central Missouri.

A native of Indiana, Tina moved to Missouri in 1993. She and her husband, Shannon, live north of Mexico with their two sons.

2009 OFFICERS CONT.



Karen Hunter has been the EPHS for the Dunklin County Health Department for 18 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.

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.

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.

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.mopublic.org

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.

CERTIFICATION BOARD REPORT

Missouri Board of Certification Examination and NEHA Examination

The Missouri Certification Board is looking for new Board members! A number of the current Board have served six years, which according to the bylaws is the maximum length of time for a member to serve on the Board. Let me tell you a little about the duties of the Board. Board members are expected to:

1. Attend quarterly Board meetings.
These are usually held in a fairly central location so that no one has to travel too far.
2. Assist in reviewing CEU's should there be any question about applicability during regular Board meetings.
3. Assist in reviewing Transcripts for applicants wishing to take the exam should there be questions about their applicability to environmental health during regular Board meetings.
4. Review exam questions after each exam with Board to determine if questions need to be reworded or replaced.
5. Periodically review the Procedural manual as issues arise that need to be addressed.
6. If holding office, perform any tasks required by that office.



It really isn't hard, and gives you a chance to get out and meet some of the new people in our profession.

The **next Certification Exam will be given on March 31, 2009 at 8:00 AM** at the Stoney Creek Inn, in either the Hearth or Timberlands Room. Ask at the front desk. You can bring a calculator and scratch paper, as well as a #2 pencil. If you have borrowed materials, please bring them at that time. Questions can be emailed to Janet Murray at murraj1@lpha.mopublic.org or Ron Gaston at gastor@lpha.mopublic.org.

If you are interested in taking the exam, you must complete the application and send it, with transcripts and your check made to the MO Board of Certification to Janet Murray **by March 13, 2009**. You can email Janet for a copy of the application. You will be notified via email or phone if you are eligible to take the examination.

The next Board Meeting will be **March 31, 2009 at 1:00 PM** at the Stoney Creek Inn. Visitors are welcome.

THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS

Sanitarian of the Year

Joe Hainline

Jefferson County Health
Department

Rookie Sanitarian of the Year

Shenadoah Rhodes

Pettis County Health
Department

Lifetime Achievement Award

Jim Fry

Springfield/Greene County
Health Department

DON'T FORGET

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

Please contact Cherie Smith for nomination form:
(314) 994-2261 or
csmith@schnucks.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP:	Tina Van Horn
HOSPITALITY:	Michael Hill
NOMINATIONS:	Cherie Smith
AWARDS:	Cherie Smith
PROGRAM:	Janet Hicks
AUDIT:	John Smith
NECROLOGY/HISTORY;	John Smith
EXHIBITORS:	Thomas Emerson
CERTIFICATION & REGISTRATION:	Janet Murray
EDUCATION & PUBLIC RELATIONS:	Eric Breusch
BY-LAWS/RESOLUTION:	Robert Reynolds
LEGISLATIVE:	Joe Hainline

COMMITTEE
MEETINGS

ANNUAL AWARDS

The following awards will be presented at the Annual Education Conference October 7, 8 and 9, 2009.

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 Cherie Smith at csmith@schnucks.com or calling her at (314) 994-2261. **Deadline for award submission is August 31, 2009.**

