

Ohio Journal of Environmental Health

2nd Quarter 2022

2022 Annual Educational Conference Award Highlights



Also in this issue...

- President's Message
- Featured District Director's Message



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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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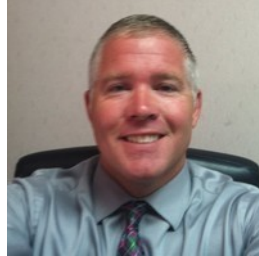
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President's Message

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

As I'm writing my quarterly message we are just over a month past our Annual Educational Conference. And, what a great conference it was! Vice President, Matt Tyler, and the planning committee did an exceptional job! Early feedback shows that membership was very pleased with the speakers, exhibitors, and venue. I'm already looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Fall Conferences and AEC 2023!



I mentioned that the AEC was exceptional. What I noticed was that it was not only the formal sessions that were beneficial. The networking this year was outstanding! Many new environmental health specialists were there and had the opportunity to chat and hear from exhibitors and experienced peers. The stories and laughs that were shared could be heard throughout the conference. I'm often asked about the benefits of being an OEHA member. The relationships that are established as part of the conferences rank among the highest to me.

When I thought about what I wanted to focus on during this President's message the topic of relationships stood out. I once read a quote from an unknown author "Today... spend time with people who bring out the best in you

and not the stress in you". How many times would this advice benefit us? Certainly, there are times in our work lives where stress is present and maybe a necessary side effect of getting the job done. However, it's also important to build and surround ourselves with others that can support us, sharpen us, and make us better each day. I'm hopeful that maybe some of those relationships were initiated or rekindled at AEC. And, that they continue throughout your career and beyond.

We often hear that life is short. As the years pass and I hear of those that have left us this becomes more and more apparent. In the early days of hearing the names read of members that passed I may or may not have recognized them. Now I can see their faces as their names are read and think of the interaction we shared as we worked toward common goals. This really hit home for me on May 2nd. Ohio lost Registered Sanitarian #001. Charles Gossett was a member of the founding group establishing the R.S. credential. By draw of the hat, he became R.S. #001. Those that knew Chuck would tell you that he was full of life, a teller of great stories of the past, and a person that brought out the best in you. For me, he was all that and a dear friend for over 20 years. As I considered my message this month I wanted to



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pay tribute to his service to the field of environmental public health and all those that have passed before him that were truly pioneers and helped to advance our profession. You likely recognize some of these on our awards including, but not limited to Ray Watts and Ivan Baker. As I mentioned, these may just be legends of the past in environmental health to many, but my guess is their historical knowledge lives in many of our more experienced members today. To that end I ask two things of our membership. For those that hold the knowledge, freely share it and keep it alive. For those that are just breaking into the profession, absorb it and pass it along. There is so much we learn from each other through what may seem to be casual conversation.

On the business side of the Association, work continues on providing an effective and efficient process to evaluate Registered Environmental Health Specialists and Registered Environmental Health Specialists in Training that inspect food service operations and retail food establishments. Hicks Partners

worked with Senator Lang to introduce Senate Bill 338 on May 17, 2022. This bill incorporates language aimed at making the survey process more effective, less time consuming, and less burdensome on local health departments as well as operators. We will continue to monitor this legislation, testify when needed, and protect the interests of OEHA members. If there are any other issues that you feel need attention, please reach out to a member of the Board of Directors or myself. We are here to serve you!

Finally, as we approach summer I would like to thank you in advance for all the work you are putting in and will be putting in to keep Ohio safe. Those outside of our profession don't readily recognize just how busy summers are for all of us. My hope is that you find time this summer to do what fills your heart with all the good this world has to offer. And, that wherever you are that you are safe, happy, and surrounded by those that bring out the best in you!



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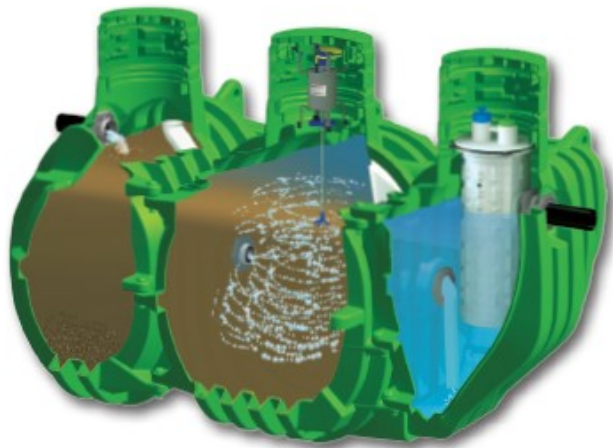


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Featured District Director's Message: Northeast

Rebecca Jewell, BS, REHS
Cuyahoga County Board of Health



Hello all! Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Rebecca Jewell and I am the 2022 Northeast District Director. I began my career in public health at Kent State University where I obtained my BS in Public Health with a

concentration in environmental health. During the summer prior to my senior year, I worked as a water quality intern with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (CCBH). My main responsibilities included the collection of storm water quality samples from various environments throughout the watersheds in the county and performing NOAA beach debris surveys for local beaches. Upon graduation

from KSU in 2014, I immediately went on to become a full-time SIT with the CCBH, where I worked in the food safety program. Shortly after obtaining my Sanitarian license, I switched over to our water protection unit. Since 2017, my duties have focused primarily on household sewage and small flow sewage treatment systems, semi-public sewage disposal systems, storm water systems (MS4s), and private water systems. I sincerely enjoy being able to spend my days outdoors, enjoying nature and improving the environment one effluent sample at a time. During the prime of the Covid-19 pandemic, many of my routine duties were reassigned to assist with relief efforts, including case calling,



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[data] entry, working our daily phone bank, PODs, assisting in our temporary supply distribution warehouse, and conducting complaint inspections throughout the community. While not the ideal situation, it was definitely an eye-opening experience and allowed me the opportunity to work with many other programs and departments within our office that I otherwise would have minimal interactions with.

Personally, I was born and raised in Parma but am currently living in Newton Falls with my husband Steven, our beloved dog Luna and cat Pepper. We are also expecting our first child due June 2022 and are so excited for the future. With that being said, I will be having to temporarily step back from my Director position for the following few months. During that time, our District Director-Elect, Laura Fauss, will be stepping in and will continue to work with our Planning Committee to provide [a] wonderful conference this fall. We have many great speakers already lined up!

Several fundraisers will be held to

support the George Eagle Scholarship Fund including basket raffles and a daily 50/50 drawing. 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 Northeast fall educational conference will take place October 11 and 12, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn located at 8971 Wilcox Dr., Twinsburg, OH. Hotel accommodations for those wishing to stay overnight can be made by contacting the hotel directly at 330-405-4488. Rooms will be held for OEHA attendees at a special rate of \$99 per night until September 19, 2022. Please mention you are with OEHA to obtain our special rate. For any additional information regarding the conference, joining our planning committee, 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!



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NEHA Update

Heather Folker
National Environmental Health Association

As you begin to return to in-person events, we wanted to share a [few NEHA materials](#) you can print and display at conferences or events. The flyers highlight the following NEHA topics:

- Journal of Environmental Health
- Credentialing
- Marketing with NEHA
- NEHA Membership
- NEHA History Project
- NEHA Bookstore

- 2022 AEC (Postcard)

These are yours to print and use at your discretion for any/all events you deem appropriate. Also, please let Jordan or I know if there is a topic we have not included that would be helpful for you to have.



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2022 Annual Educational Conference Award Highlights

Gus E. Dria, REHS
Canton City Public Health

I would like to congratulate all of the award winners and thank the District Awards Chairs for their work recognizing member achievements at the State and District level.

This year at the AEC, we recognized award recipients and board member contributions since our previous gathering... AEC 2019.

State Committee Members/ District Awards Chairs

Rebecca (Sara) Jewell (2020-2021) Northeast
Laura Fauss (2022) Northeast

Nicki Rumschlag (2020) Northwest
Madison Aldrich (2021) Northwest
Pat Wiemken (2022) Northwest

Emily (Warren) Tyler (2020) Southwest
Megan Davis (2021) Southwest
Hannah Zaciewshi (2022) Southwest

Kathryn Madden (2020-2022) Southeast

Life Members

The following 2020 class of new Life Members were recognized:

- Janet Gammell (NE District), Medina County Health Department - 32 years
- Laura Kramer Kuns (NE District), Lake County General Health District - 39 years
- Michael Buchanan (SW District), Public Health-Dayton & Montgomery County - 34 years
- Tracy Buchanan (SW District), Ohio EPA - 34 years
- Lisa Weisberg (SE District), Franklin

County Public Health - 30 years

The following 2021 class of new Life Members were recognized:

- Ann Tomlinson (SE District), Columbus Public Health - 16 years

The following 2022 class of new Life Members were recognized:

- Keith Krinn (SE District), Columbus Public Health - 19 years
- LeeAnn Wilson (SE District), ODH - 39 years



Photo: Tracy Buchanan, Michael Buchanan, Keith Krinn and LeeAnn Wilson.

Thank you for your years of service to public health and OEHA. Enjoy retirement.

George Eagle Scholarship Awards

The George Eagle Memorial Scholarship Committee annually reviews applications and awards a graduate and an undergraduate scholarship for \$2,000 each.

- The 2020 undergraduate scholarship was awarded to Logan Bunge-Lance from Bowling Green State University. Logan is majoring in Public Health.
- The 2020 graduate scholarship was awarded to Otis Arnold II, from Summit County Public Health. Otis is pursuing his Masters in Public Health from Kent State University.
- The 2021 undergraduate scholarship was awarded to Haley Richie from the University of Finley. Haley is majoring in Environmental Health, Safety and Sustainability.
- The 2021 graduate scholarship was awarded to Justin Rechichar, from Portage County Public Health. Justin is pursuing his Masters in Public Health from Youngstown State University.
- The 2022 undergraduate scholarship was awarded to Haley Richie from the University of Finley. Haley is majoring in Environmental Health, Safety and Sustainability.
- The 2022 graduate scholarship was awarded to Laura Fauss, from Columbiana County Health District. Laura is pursuing her Masters in Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



Photo: Laura Fauss, 2022 GE Graduate recipient with Josh Lucas, GE Scholarship Committee Chair.

Publication Award

The 2020 State Publication Award was presented to John J. Sabo and Jami Krugman from Lorain County Public Health. This award was presented for their article published in the 4th Quarter 2019 Issue of the Ohio Journal of Environmental Health entitled “Legionnaire’s Disease Outbreak Associated with a Hotel Whirlpool Spa – Elyria, OH – March 2017-December 2018.”

The 2022 State Publication Award was presented to Anne Kaup-Fett from Clark County Combined Health District. This award was presented for Anne’s article published in the 1st and 2nd Quarters 2020 Issue of the Ohio Journal of Environmental Health entitled “The Clark County Hoarding Task Force: Using Innovative Actions to Reduce the Health and Safety Threats Posed by Hoarding-Type Situations.”

Thank you to everyone who have submitted article in the past. Please continue submitting articles. If you have never written an article, please consider writing one...or more!

Each year, the District Director and District Planning Committees recognize members with a Membership Award and Outstanding Sanitarian Award at the Fall Education Conferences. Here is a summary of the fall winners:

2019 Membership Award Recipients

- NE – Patty McConnell, Canton City Public Health
- NW – did not have a nomination/ recipient
- SW – Tracy Buchanan, Ret. Ohio EPA
- SE – did not have a nomination/ recipient

2019 Outstanding Sanitarian Award Recipients

- NE – Treva Stenson, Summit County Public Health
- NW – Dustin Kent, Delaware General Health District
- SW – Jeremy Hessel, Hamilton County Public Health
- SE – Jean Hayden, ODH

There were no Fall Educational Conferences held in 2020 so there were no awards.

2021 Membership Award Recipients

- NE – Tom Blackford, Lorain County Public Health
- NW – Britt Menchhofer, Van Wert County Public Health
- SW – Eric Balster, Preble County Public Health
- SE – did not hold a conference

2021 Outstanding Sanitarian Award Recipients

- NE – Gus Dria, Canton City Public Health
- NW – Jon Lindsay, Henry County Health Department
- SW – Gary Walker II, Preble County Public Health
- SE – did not hold a conference

Please provide nominations for Membership and Outstanding Sanitarian awards to your District Directors and District Awards Chairs. Each of you know the stars of your organization, why not recognize them.

The Ivan Baker Membership Recognition Award

The Ivan Baker Membership Recognition Award is given to a member who has made a sustained effort for many years in promoting the advancement of the Ohio Environmental Health Association.

The 2020 Ivan Baker Membership Recognition Award was presented to Tracy Buchanan, RS, from Ohio EPA (now retired).



Photo: Tracy Buchanan, 2020 Ivan Baker Membership Recognition Award recipient with Jennifer Wenzel, award presenter.

The 2022 Ivan Baker Membership Recognition Award was presented to Tom Blackford from Lorain County Public Health.



Photo: Tom Blackford, 2022 Ivan Baker Membership Recognition Award recipient with Mark Adams, award presenter.

Ray Watts Outstanding Sanitarian Award

The Ray Watts Outstanding Sanitarian Award is given to a member who has made outstanding contributions in the field of environmental health. The 2020 Ray Watts Outstanding Sanitarian Award was presented to Jeremy Hessel from the Hamilton County Public Health.



Photo: Greg Kesterman, presenter, with Jeremy Hessel, Ray Watt Outstanding Sanitarian Award recipient.

President's Award

The 2022 President's award was presented to Matthew Tyler, Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County.



Photo: Matthew Tyler, President's Award recipient with President Steve Ruckman.

Vice President and Program Chair Award

The 2020 Vice President's Award was presented to Sarah Jenson from Franklin County Public Health.

Past President's Award

The 2020 Past President's Award was presented to Carrie Yeager from Butler County Health Department by current President Steve Ruckman, Worthington City Schools.

During the complexities of Covid, members of

the board continued to represent OEHA. Since conferences were not held, voting/ elections did not occur so board members served longer terms to keep the association moving forward. Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the association.

- **President** – Steve Ruckman – 2020-2023
- **Vice President** – Matthew Tyler – 2020-2023
- **Treasurer** - Mary Helen Smith (2009-2022)
- **Secretary** - Jeff Gibbs (2020-present)

District Directors

- **NE** – Courtney Myers – 2020 and 2021
- **NW** – Mark Adams – 2000 (NE) and 2020 (NW)
- **NW** – Brittany Zoecklein - 2021
- **SE**–Greg Chumney – 2017, 2020 and 2021
- **SW** – Stephanie Johnson– 2020 and 2021

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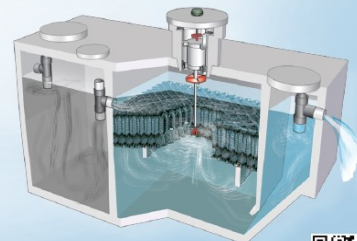
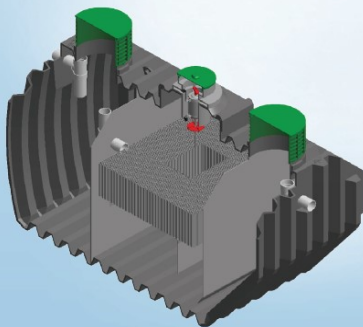
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AEC 2022 in Pictures





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Trumbull County Combined Health District
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- REHS/EHST
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- Environmental Health Director
Paulding County Health Department
- REHS/EHST
Ross County Health District
- Environmental Health Technician
Homes County General Health District
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Homes County General Health District

Educational Opportunities

- AOHC Finance for Health Departments - June 14-15, 2022; Marysville, Ohio
- AOHC New Employee Training - August 23, 2022; Virtual
- AOHC Fall Conference - September 14-16, 2022; Dublin, Ohio
- Southwest OEHA Fall Conference - October 5-6, 2022
- AOHC Health Commissioner University -

October 10-12, 2022; (TBD)

- Northeast OEHA Fall Conference - October 11-12, 2022
- Northwest OEHA Fall Conference - October 13-14, 2022
- AOHC New Employee Training - November 10, 2022; TBD
- AOHC Finance for Health Departments - November 29-30, 2022; Marysville, Ohio
- AOHC New Employee Training - March 1, 2023; TBD
- AOHC LEHDS - March 8-9, 2022; Marysville, Ohio
- AOHC Finance for Health Departments - March 8-9, 2022; Marysville, Ohio

We Remember

Charles "Chuck" Gossett 1947—2022

Chuck served in the U.S. Army, worked for Darden Restaurants, and Delaware Public Health District ensuring safe food all along the way. He was Sanitarian #001 and was part of the original group that established the registration of the profession.

OEHA Committees & Chairs

Body Art

Sarah Badenhop, REHS
Columbus Public Health

Campground

Mark Janowich, REHS
Erie County Health Department

Food

Christina Ritchey Wilson, JD, REHS
Columbus Public Health

Greg Chumney, MPH, REHS
Licking County Health Department

Lead

Greg Putka, REHS
Lorain County Public Health

Private Water Systems

Randy Ruszkowski, REHS
Stark County Health Department

Sewage

Eric Cherry, REHS
Huron County Public Health

Solid Waste

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Hamilton County Public Health

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Awards & Recognition

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Canton City Health Department

George Eagle Scholarship

Jacqueline A. Gruza, MPH, BS, REHS
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Open

Nominations & Elections

Open

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