

Ohio Journal of
Environmental
Health

1st Quarter 2024

Annual Educational Conference Announcement



In this issue...

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- **District Director Feature**



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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President's Message

Sarah Burkholder, MPH, REHS
Holmes County General Health District

To say that time flies is definitely an understatement! I can't believe that I am already at the point of writing my last President's Message. This last year has been incredibly busy, but also incredibly productive for OEHA.



Membership numbers are strong and expected to increase as registrations for AEC begin. Strong membership numbers are vital to ensuring that we can continue to secure and retain our seat at the table for direct influence on policies and legislative issues that affect our profession. It also increases the incredible network of professionals that are always available for collaboration and mentorship.

My Presidency began on the heels of

HB 507. This was a landmark piece of legislation for our Association that then required work to begin on the creation of a new metric to evaluate an EHSIT/REHS's knowledge of the food code. HB 507 was the culmination of a very long process that also, at times, involved much emotion and differences of opinions. I am proud to report that the workgroup comprised of representatives from ODH, ODA, AOHC, and OEHA came together in a true spirit of partnership to shape the guidelines for the food survey assessments and the corresponding OAC rule updates for survey methodology. To all the participants of this workgroup: you are wonderful examples of dedicated public health professionals and I would like to thank each and every one of you.

Active participation in OEHA is strong and continuing to grow. Our Technical

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Committees have been busy, providing valuable feedback on a multitude of draft rules and proposed legislation. The Membership and Professional Development Committee continues to move forward with the Workforce Development Grant to accomplish goals that are already beginning to transform and modernize the way we practice environmental health and grow the next generation of leaders. Be on the lookout for registration information for the 2024, 2-day Leadership Course. This year's class is being held at Union County Health Department and will feature sessions relevant to today's emerging environmental health leaders, taught by some of the best leaders that our profession has to offer.

Each year, our five conference planning committees continue to put together exceptional conferences and this year's AEC is shaping up to keep with the tradition of excellence. Please visit our website www.ohioeha.org to register if you haven't already! The AEC is 2-days full of networking, learning, professional development, and opportunities to meet colleagues that become lifelong friends and mentors to help you on your journey. Also, any EHSIT's that are preparing for their exam won't want to miss the REHS Test Prep course that is being offered concurrent with the AEC. I remember taking this course almost 15 years ago and it set me up for successfully passing the exam as well as developing additional skills that made me a better REHS (well, RS, back then!). The AEC has many ceremonies that have become traditions over the many years of our organization. One of these celebrated traditions will be when I "pass the gavel" to President-Elect Dustin Kent. This will be somewhat of a bittersweet moment for me, but I also look forward with excitement to the exceptional leadership that Dustin will provide to OEHA. As I look back over the past year, I am amazed at all of the opportunities that came my way: testifying at the Statehouse, attending a NEHA

Conference in New Orleans, and meeting with so many of OEHA's members across the state. I would encourage anyone who is contemplating running for a board position to do it! We have three positions open for nominations: President-Elect, Vice-President-Elect, and Secretary. I can promise that serving on the OEHA board of directors will be a positive experience and a career highlight.

It was truly a blessing and a privilege to be your President and I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for all of your support.

If you have any questions or if you want to know how you can get more involved with the Association, please feel free to reach out to me at (330) 674-5035 or sburkholder@holmeshealth.org.



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Featured District Director's Message: Northwest

Molly Owens, MBA, MPH, REHS
Wyandot County Health Department

Hello environmental health professionals! It is a privilege to write to you as the 2024-2025 Northwest District Director. My name is Molly Owens and I am from Upper Sandusky, OH. Fun fact: the reason we are Upper Sandusky is because we are located on the upper part (which flows northward) of the Sandusky River. Unfortunately, this means we are nowhere near Cedar Point, as many expect.



My interest in environmental health did not start until I was obtaining my MBA in the middle of the pandemic. I graduated from undergrad at the University of Findlay at the start of the pandemic. The job market seemed volatile at the time so I decided to start my MBA while looking. It was during this time that I started working for Marion Public Health. In Marion, I learned how to run a food program; through inspections, time management, plan reviews and more. Shortly after starting at Marion a job opening in my hometown became available and I was lucky enough to do the same job in Wyandot.

My time at Marion taught me a lot of information and introduced me to many great friends, but Wyandot is my home. I wanted to make an impact where I grew up. At Wyandot County I have been introduced to many other programs such as solid waste, well water, nuisances, emergency response, accreditation and more. This challenged me in new ways. Learning all of the new programs so quickly almost made me feel as if I was behind my peers. However, that is what this job is. We are

constantly learning, evolving, and ensuring we are keeping up with the current laws and recommendations. We all wear many different hats, in order to accomplish our goals. That is something to be proud of. It was around this time that I also obtained my REHS credentials and finished my MBA, another goal I was proud to meet.



In 2023 I accepted the position of the Director of Environmental Health for Wyandot County after my mentor retired. Losing him was hard. He was a wealth of knowledge that I can only hope to become for those who follow. Being elected Northwest District Director left me with imposter syndrome all over again. However, with the challenges I have faced thus far in my career and the help of a great planning team, I believe this next year will be the best conference yet. I encourage others to join their planning committees. It is a great way to share ideas and expand your skill set. A lot of teamwork and planning goes into conferences, so the help is always welcome! Contact me if you have questions or interest in what we do at envhealth@co.wyandot.oh.us.

Please join us for the Northwest Fall Educational Conference. The conference will be held on October 10-11, 2024 at Kalahari Resorts in Sandusky. Visit our page on the OEHA website for updates regarding registration, agenda, and more. Our planning committee is working hard to bring you a wide range of topics and dynamic speakers!



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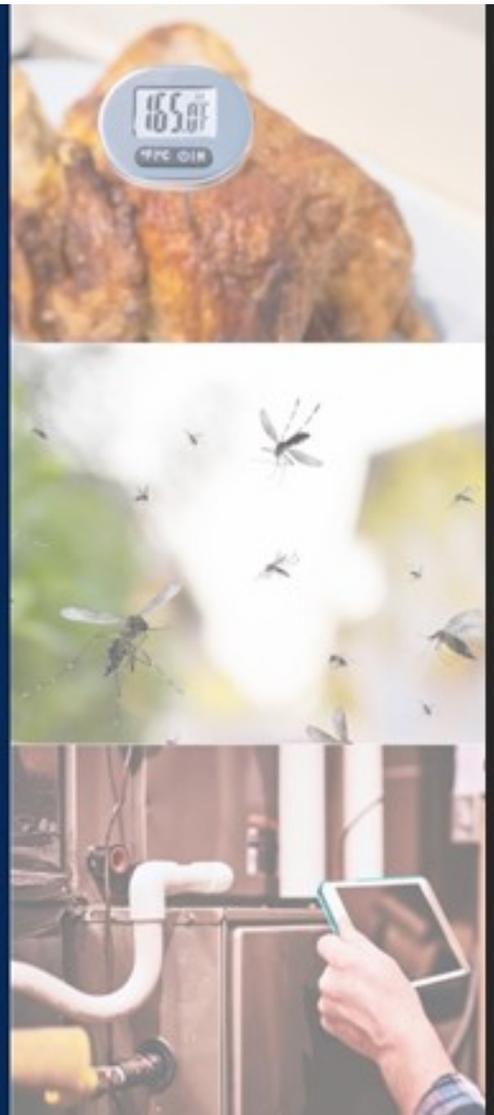
Prevention and Control Plans, and more. This is a limited time online event so don't delay! Registration closes on May 17th and the content will be removed on May 31st.

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FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY HERE:
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2024 Annual Educational Conference

4/11/2024		SESSION TITLE	SPEAKER	ROOM
7:30 – 8:15		Registration		
8:15 – 8:20		VP Welcome	Stephanie Johnson MS, REHS	Ballroom
8:20 – 8:25		President’s Address	Sarah Burkholder MPH, REHS	Ballroom
8:25 – 8:40		OEHA Business Session	Sarah Burkholder MPH, REHS	Ballroom
8:40 – 9:40	General	The Local Public Health Response to the East Palestine Train Derailment	Laura Fauss, MPH, REHS & Wesley Vins, DPA	Ballroom
9:40 – 9:50	ROOM CHANGE			
9:50 -10:50 Concurrent Sessions	Leadership	History of OEHA: The Early Years (1947-1970s)	Steve Ruckman & Melissa Adams	Dublin I & II
	Food Safety	Food Safety Manuals and the effect on the food facility violations	Karin Kasper	Ballroom
	HSTS	Ohio Drainfield Solutions	Brian Martucci,	Dublin V/VI
	REHSIT	REHSIT Class – prior registration required	Sarah Fink, REHS	Franklin
10:50 – 11:00	ROOM CHANGE			
11:00 – 12:00 Concurrent Sessions	Leadership	NEHA EH Leadership Academy	MaryBeth Brown	Dublin I & II
	Food Safety	Food Code	Laura Morrison	Ballroom
	Technology	Application of Machine Learning Technology to Vehicular Detection During the COVID-19 Health Pandemic: Preliminary Results	Dr. Nicholas V. Scott	Dublin V/VI
	REHSIT	REHSIT Class – prior registration required	Arielle Hieronimus	Franklin
12:00 – 1:00	Buffet Lunch			Ballroom
12:30 – 1:00	Awards and GE Scholarship		Gus Dria REHS	Ballroom
1:00 – 1:30	Legislative Update		Sarah Burkholder MPH, REHS	Ballroom
1:30 – 1:40	Break			
1:40 – 2:40	General	OEHA History: A Guided Panel Discussion		Ballroom
2:40 – 2:50	ROOM CHANGE			
2:50 – 3:50 Concurrent Sessions	Leadership	Path To Leadership: Panel Discussion for Health Commissioners and EH Directors		Dublin I & II
	Emergency Response	The Local Public Health Response to the East Palestine Train Derailment: Panel Discussion	Laura Fauss, MPH, REHS & Wesley Vins, DPA	Ballroom
	Recreation	Pool Safety and Drain Covers	Columbus Public Health	Dublin V/VI
	REHSIT	REHSIT Class – prior registration required	Zachary Perry, REHS	Franklin
3:50 – 4:00	ROOM CHANGE			
4:00 – 5:00 Concurrent Sessions	Leadership	Plain Language	Chris Cook, MPH, REHS	Dublin I & II
	Infectious Disease	ODH Rabies Survey Information	Sara Margrey, DVM, MPH	Ballroom
	Legionella		Columbus Public Health	Dublin V/VI
	REHSIT	REHSIT Class – prior registration required	Tom Fink, REHS & Ashley Ruminski, REHS	Franklin

2024 Annual Educational Conference

4/12/2024	SESSION TITLE		SPEAKER	ROOM
7:45 – 8:30	Registration			
8:30 – 8:35	OEHA VP Follow-up		Stephanie Johnson, MS, REHS	Ballroom
8:35 – 9:35	General	Relationship between Animal Agriculture and Environmental Health	Eriyah	Ballroom
9:35 – 9:45	ROOM CHANGE			
9:45 – 10:45 Concurrent Sessions	Sewage		Matt Deaton	Dublin I & II
	Emergency Preparedness	Columbus Zoo Emergency Preparedness	Steve Langton	Ballroom
	Pesticide	Pesticide Applicator Safety Update	Mary Ann Rose, Ph.D.	Dublin V/VI
	REHSIT	REHSIT Class – prior registration required	Glynnis Dunfree	Franklin
10:45 – 10:55	ROOM CHANGE			
10:55 – 11:55 Concurrent Sessions	Sewage		Matt Deaton	Dublin I & II
	Food Safety	EHS Net Research	Sarah Jensen	Ballroom
	Pesticide	Bed Bugs and Detection Dogs	Kelly Robbins	Dublin V/VI
	REHSIT	REHSIT Class – prior registration required	TBD	Franklin
11:55– 1:00	Buffet Lunch, Wrap Up Awards, Close of Business, Voting Results, Raffle Prizes & Visit Exhibitors			Ballroom
1:00 – 1:10	ROOM CHANGE			
1:10 – 2:10 Concurrent Session	Food Safety	Personal Safety During Inspections	Colton Masters	Dublin I & II
	Emergency Preparedness	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant		Ballroom
	Pesticide		James Radl	Dublin V/VI
	REHSIT	REHSIT Class – prior registration required	TBD	Franklin
2:10 – 2:20	ROOM CHANGE			
2:20 – 3:20 Concurrent Session	Health Homes	Columbus Public Health Lead-free Initiative	Carrie Kamm	Dublin I & II
	Emergency Preparedness		Trish Factor	Ballroom
	Pesticide	Innovations in Residual Larvicides	Gary Wagner	Dublin V/VI
	REHSIT	REHSIT Class – prior registration required	Stephanie Youst & Garrett Guillozet MPA, REHS, AEMT	Franklin
3:20 – 3:30	ROOM CHANGE			
3:30 – 4:30	General	Health Equity and Mentoring	Columbus Public Health	Ballroom
4:30 – 4:45		Closing remarks	Sarah Burkholder MPH, REHS	Ballroom

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 3/30/24. For current listing [click here](#))

- Public Health Nurse
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- Supervisor, Public Health Nurse
Cuyahoga County Board of Health
- Director of Landfill Oversight & Compliance
Seneca County General Health District
- Landfill Inspector—REHS
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- Supervising REHS
Hamilton County Public Health
- Intern
Delaware Public Health District
- REHS/EHST
Miami County Public Health
- Dietitian, Diet Tech, or Health Professional
Delaware Public Health District
- Emergency Preparedness and Accreditation Coordinator
Pauling County Health Department
- Vector Control Technician
Hancock Public Health

Educational Opportunities

- Finance for Health Departments - March 26, 2024; Dublin, Ohio
- LEHDS - March 26, 2024; Dublin, Ohio
- OEHA AEC - April 11-12, 2024; Columbus, Ohio
- Ohio Public Health Conference - April 29-May 1, 2024; Columbus, Ohio
- New Employee Training - July 10, 2024; Delaware, Ohio
- AOHC Fall Conference - September 18-20, 2024; Dublin, Ohio

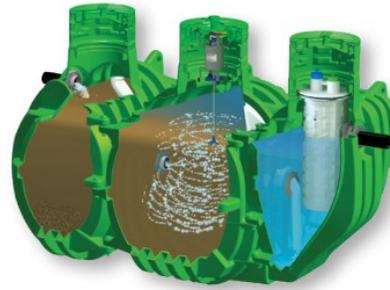
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