

Virginia Environmental Health Association 2015 Annual Report to the Membership

The Virginia Environmental Health Association (VEHA) board is pleased to present its' annual report to the membership for calendar year 2015. This report documents the progress of VEHA over the past year, from the perspective of the board members *in their own words*, and highlights milestones and accomplishments noted along the way. I invite you to review our report and seek out board members for additional information should you have any questions.

President – Reed Cranford

As new president of the VEHA I can say without a doubt it has been a learning year. I am very thankful for past leadership and the work they have done for the improvement of VEHA. I can see their fingerprints on the organization. Your current board has been working hard to continue in their footsteps promoting and advancing the field of environmental health. Below you will find this work in your board members reports. It has been a pleasure working with these professionals. I would like to encourage all members to consider serving on the VEHA board. If you have any questions fill free to contact me my information can be found on the VEHA website, www.virginiaeha.org. I look forward to working with and serving the membership next year.

VP of Member Services-Tammy Faulkner

This past year, I served by working conference registration with the treasurer and other board members, coordinating membership updates with the secretary. In addition, I assisted with ensuring conference refreshments are available for the meetings and the on-site field day. Outside of conference preparation, I am responsible for the annual State Corporation Commissions filings related to VEHA's formal organizational status, as well as attending monthly board meetings where the board plans conference agendas and on-site field days, assist the president with his duties, and review the financial conditions of the organization so that we can continue to be a relevant organization.

At the Spring Conference in Daleville, VA, I was encouraged with Pam Pruitt's presentation where she informed attendees that the national Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) is pursuing having some of the big pipe funding dedicated to the onsite program. NOWRA is organizing like minded industry parties as well as engaging the services of lobbyist to present their issue. Details of their activity can be found on their website, www.nowra.org. NOWRA's legislative push will have a significant spot on their conference program for 2015 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference NOWRA in Virginia Beach November 3-6 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. They have invited Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA) to serve as a keynote speaker.

Virginia Environmental Health Association 2015 Annual Report to the Membership

VP for Professional Advancement – Sandy Stoneman

VEHA continues to encourage educational and professional advancement among its members. At the Spring 2015 Educational Conference, VEHA sponsored proctoring sessions for both the CP-FS and the REHS certification exams. To help prepare for these exams, credential information and study resources were added to the VEHA website as well as information on the new VDH Environmental Health Career Plan that allows qualified VDH environmental health staff to receive financial bonuses for obtaining and renewing these credentials. In addition to the conferences and workshops that VEHA sponsors, we have strived to keep the VEHA website updated with any educational opportunities that might be of interest to the EH community. A new email outreach program has recently been put into place to allow VEHA to better communicate events and important updates with its members; be sure we have your contact information up to date! VEHA gave two scholarships to deserving students at the Spring Educational Conference. Nick Sink is a recent graduate with honors from the Southwest Virginia's Governor's School and will begin his undergraduate studies in environmental science at Ferrum College in the fall. Abigail Tompkins is a recent graduate from Western Carolina with a degree in environmental health with plans to attend graduate school in the fall to pursue a master's degree in environmental and occupational health. At the 2015 Fall Educational Conference, the EH Professional of the Year and the A. Clark Slaymaker awards will be presented along with VEHA's nominee for the 2015 NEHA Certificate of Merit.

VP for Programs—Kevin Crisler

VEHA is an organization that represents and supports environmental health professionals across Virginia. A great way to provide this support is through continuing education events. These educational events are great opportunities for members to maintain various environmental health certifications such as the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), Certified Professional in Food Safety (CP-FS), Conventional Onsite Soil Evaluator (COSE) and the Alternative Onsite Soil Evaluator (AOSE). Our members spend many years and much effort to obtain these professional certifications. At VEHA we strive to make maintaining these certifications easier for our members.

In 2015 we held the Spring Education Conference on April 17 at Virginia Western Community College's Greenville Education and Training Center in Daleville Virginia. Many topics related to food safety and onsite sewage disposal were covered. The 2015 Fall Education Conference will be held on October 2nd at the Perimeter Center in Richmond. There will a full day of speakers and topics that meet the continuing education requirements for many of the certifications listed above. So

Virginia Environmental Health Association 2015 Annual Report to the Membership

take advantage of the opportunity to check off some of your continuing education requirements by joining us in Richmond.

Secretary—David Fridley

VEHA continues to see that active participation in relevant training and educational opportunities is essential to maintaining a strong and enthusiastic membership. Almost all members join or renew at our Spring Educational Workshop, our Fall Educational Workshop and Annual Meeting, or one of our several Field Days. Having these events be meaningful to members professionally and located in convenient locations is key to further developing our membership. As of August 17, 2015, our membership stood at 94—but with a potential membership of over 200, if those with 2015-expired dues rejoin at a Fall event! Our membership roster includes over 400 current and former members, and so of course we will also be reaching out to as many interested environmental health professionals as we can, in order to strengthen our organization. Along with our continued outreach to new members, we remain committed to providing top-quality, low-cost educational opportunities for our members and we continue to value your support. Being a dues-paying member of the Association helps fund these educational events and other Association activities, and we look forward to hearing from you as you remain part of this unique professional group.

Tidewater Delegate and Treasurer- Laruen Grimmer

This year, I've represented VEHA as both the Tidewater regional delegate and the Treasurer. My main duties this year have been to assist with event registration, maintain the budget, and pay for operating costs. As your Tidewater delegate, I partner with local government entities to ensure public health is considered throughout the region. I am currently working on a project to modernize the VEHA document retention system, with a goal of electronically storing all important files in one place. Wish me luck!

Northern Virginia Regional Delegate- Rachel Stradling

Since my appointment in November 2014, I have been able to participate in the monthly Board conference calls addressing new and old VEHA business. I have represented VEHA at the National Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference in Orlando and provided support with the organization of the FDA's regional training conference in Richmond.

Virginia Environmental Health Association 2015 Annual Report to the Membership

Capitol Area Regional Delegate - Bryant Wooden

Throughout the past year, it has been a great experience to serve as the Capitol Area Regional Delegate for VEHA. I have had an opportunity to participate in the monthly

VEHA board meeting conference calls, in which much of the organization's business of importance is discussed. In the spring of 2014, I was fortunate to be selected as the recipient of the \$500 Graduate student scholarship offered by VEHA. Last October, at the Fall 2014 VEHA Educational Conference, I was also given an opportunity to present during the afternoon food safety track on an exciting topic entitled "Farm to Table." More recently, at the Spring 2015 VEHA Educational Conference, I was able to help by giving the introductions for the speakers during the afternoon food safety session. Lastly, one of the major public health topics of concern over the last year in the Capitol Area Region and much of the country has been the Ebola virus; in which local, state, federal, and private industry health officials have all collaborated together in regards to maintaining the health and safety of individuals and communities.

Blue Ridge Area Delegate - Eric S. Myers

I am the outgoing Blue Ridge Delegate for VEHA. My current employment is with the Virginia Department of Health as an Environmental Health Supervisor. As a delegate, I have tried to attend all VEHA Board meetings and contribute ideas/recommendations to the board. I have an ongoing interest in many aspects of environmental health including food safety, emerging genomics, protection of the natural environment, alternate & renewable energy, ground water protection and environmental education. I have enjoyed my time with VEHA and have become a better professional through this organization. I would encourage you to consider serving on the VEHA Board.

Southern Area Delegate - Ed Dunn

I am the outgoing Southern Area Delegate for VEHA. I have been with VDH for 26 years and a VEHA member for 25. I am currently employed as the Environmental Health Manager for the Piedmont Health District. As a delegate, I have tried to attend all VEHA Board meetings and contribute ideas and recommendations to the board. I have enjoyed my time with VEHA and encourage all members to consider serving on the VEHA Board and to promote the professions associated with the organization.

Delegate-at-Large- Philip Davis

Virginia Environmental Health Association 2015 Annual Report to the Membership

Over the last year I have been honored to work with a Board who is working diligently to offer our members quality educational opportunities. I have participated in the monthly Board meetings and I am currently working to finalize the Fall Onsite Field Day, which will be held at Lynchburg College's Claytor Nature Study Center. The Field Day topics will be on wetland and spray irrigation sewage treatment systems. I will continue to work and assist the Board to provide interesting and meaningful educational programs for you, our members.

Delegate at Large - Jenique Wilson

During the last year as a VEHA delegate, I have participated in monthly Conference calls to discuss new and old business. I have encouraged co-workers to join and take part in VEHA activities. As a delegate, I have made others aware of current happenings within Environmental Health. I have also participated in the organization of an educational conference and hope to moderate in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Reed Cranford, President
Virginia Environmental Health Association