

VEHA's 2016 Annual Report to Membership

The Virginia Environmental Health Association (VEHA) board is pleased to present its' annual report to the membership for calendar year 2016. 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 my time as president of the Virginia Environmental Health Association is coming to an end I want to express my appreciation of the experience, board members, and our VEHA members. It has been fun and challenging. I cannot say enough about the board members I have been able to work with over the past 2 years. Your current board has been working hard to better VEHA and our profession in the field of Environmental Health. Below you will find this work in your board members reports. I would like to encourage all members to consider serving on the VEHA board. If you have any questions feel 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 for the next two years as the past president.

VP of Member Services - Tammy Faulkner

My second term as VP of Member Services has been as interesting and fun as the first. Keeping track of attendance and registration for conference programs and onsite training can be a bit hairy when participants arrive to check in and pay membership and/or conference fees, but interacting with attendees is always positive. The VP of Member Services' activities associated with hosting a conference are not complete when the conference ends. After each conference or training program, VEHA is required as a non-profit to prepare and maintain a report that breaks down the revenue collection (membership fees vs. conference fees), the expenses for goods and supplies, as well as document the deposit of the payments into our banking account. Working with the Treasurer provides assurances that funds are appropriately handled for the benefit of the members. Working with the Secretary assures that member records are accurate and up-to-date.

VP of Professional Advancement - Sandy Stoneman

It has been my pleasure to serve a second year as the VP of Professional Advancement. The main responsibility of this position is to provide our members information on credentialing opportunities, educational and study resources, and to keep membership informed on potential scholarship and financial incentives associated with obtaining certain credentials. VEHA continues to encourage educational and professional advancement among its members and sponsored a proctoring session for both the CP-FS and the REHS certification exams on September 21st in Richmond this year. Credential information and study resources for these exams has been updated on the VEHA website and for VDH environmental health specialists, information on the VDH Environmental Health Career Plan that allows qualified VDH environmental health staff to receive financial bonuses for obtaining and renewing these credentials is also posted. To keep our members and the environmental health community up to date we are consistently updating the VEHA website with any educational opportunities and pertinent information that might be of interest. The email outreach program that VEHA invested in last year has proven itself to be an asset in also providing updates. If anyone has an event that would be of interest to the environmental health community or if you are not receiving our emails, please let me know. VEHA

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gave two scholarships to deserving students at the 2016 Spring Educational Conference. Nick Sink is studying environmental science at Ferrum College. Christa Madison is a recent graduate from Cave Spring High School and has started her first semester at George Mason University as an environmental science major. At the 2016 Fall Educational Conference, the EH Professional of the Year and the A. Clark Slaymaker awards will be presented.

VP of Programs- Kevin Crisler

On October 21, 2016 VEHA will hold its Fall Educational Conference in Fredericksburg, Virginia. As we are putting the final touches on that conference I would like to take a moment to remember past educational conferences and recognize VEHA's continuing commitment to raise awareness about current environmental health issues. Past conferences have covered subjects ranging from uranium mining to allergen management to hydraulic fracturing to farmstead cheese and even doggie dining. We have had speakers from the regulatory world, the private sector, academia and even a future NEHA president. Some of the conferences included "field trips" such as a tour of the Hampton Roads Sanitation District wastewater treatment plant in 2010, a tour and lecture at the Barthelson Green Dairy in 2011 and a visit to the Prince Edward County Community Cannery in 2012. VEHA takes our commitment to public health education seriously and we feel fortunate to be able to provide our members with these opportunities. Please consider attending our Fall Educational Conference this year. You may learn something new or you may hear information that reinforces some of your current understanding of environmental health. Either way, we would appreciate your participation and the opportunity to continue to serve our membership on an educational level.

Secretary—David Fridley

Our current membership stands at 140 paid accounts, almost a 50% increase over this time last year and well on the way to the approximate 200 members we could expect as those with expired dues return at our upcoming Fall Onsite Field Day and Fall Educational Workshop and Annual meeting. Our emphasis on providing high-quality, low-cost credentialing education for standardized and licensed environmental health professionals has proven key to doubling our active membership over the last ten years. Please remember that your membership dues help provide frequent, convenient opportunities for learning, networking and outreach in all areas of the state. Thank you again for a great "growing year" for VEHA, and for your continued support.

Treasurer- Lauren Grimmer

This year, I've represented VEHA as the Treasurer. My main duties have been to maintain the budget and pay for operating costs. I have also been working on the electronic data retention project, with the goal of storing all of our important operating files in one place. The framework for that system should be finished by the end of 2016.

Northern Area Delegate- Rachel Stradling

This is my second year serving as the Northern Virginia Regional delegate. It's been a busy year with monthly meetings to prepare for our education conferences and on-site days. This is work I hope to continue with in an attempt to provide all our members with access to cost effective CEUs.

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I've predominately worked within the food safety and aquatic health programs, but serving on the board has definitely expanded my knowledge of the other areas and I've developed a keen interest in protection of the natural environment, environmental education and on-site programs.

Tidewater Area Delegate- Adam Feris

Since becoming the Tidewater Delegate in September 2015, my primary duties for VEHA have been to reach out to Tidewater Environmental Health Offices, serve as the VEHA representative for the Sewage Handling and Disposal Advisory Committee (SHADAC) to the Commissioner, and review proposed legislation that affects Environmental Health in Virginia. I've sent to Tidewater EH management teams information about training opportunities, our Educational Conferences, and credentialing exams for EH professionals. In representing VEHA on the SHADAC, numerous topics have been discussed including the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and House Bill 558, which requires the Commissioner to develop a plan for complete privatization of the Onsite Sewage and Private Well programs. Legislatively speaking, there were several bills in this year's General Assembly session that would have affected our programs. Most of these bills passed, but a few that VEHA was opposed to did not make it out of committee (note: summaries of these bills can be found in the Spring 2016 Bulletin). I look forward to another successful year with VEHA.

Capitol Area Delegate – Amy Pemberton

I am the current Capitol Area Delegate for VEHA and have served on the Board of Directors of VEHA in several capacities for many years. My career with VDH spans 26 years and I am currently employed as an Environmental Health Supervisor for the Peninsula Health District. I have participated in the VEHA Board meetings and offered support to the organization primarily by participating in the planning and execution of our training events. This past spring, the Capitol area hosted both the Spring Educational Workshop in Gloucester County, and also the 2 day Spring Onsite Field Training in New Kent County. Coordinating these educational opportunities requires a lot of team work and hard work behind the scenes and I thoroughly enjoy working with such a dedicated group of individuals. As an area delegate, I will continue to reach out to the local health districts and private sector partners in my area with updates from VEHA, and to receive feedback from them. I very much enjoy my time with VEHA and encourage all members to consider serving on the VEHA Board and to promote the professional advancement of the professions associated with the organization.

Blue Ridge Area Delegate- Ken Hearst

I am thankful to have the opportunity to participate in most of the monthly VEHA board meetings as we—the board—strive to represent our membership and provide valuable training for our members. VEHA and its members help protect the environment and those who live or visit our beautiful and diverse state. Our strength lies in the knowledge and commitment of members and of the Board. More members will also make us stronger. I hope each of you reading this considers how you can continue to build your skills and knowledge as well as serve the mission of VEHA. Please encourage other Environmental Health professionals to become members, attend our educational sessions, and become actively engaged in our activities and efforts.

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Southwest Area Regional Delegate – Jessica Stewart

As a new member of the board, I've gained an understanding of VEHA's role in professional advancement and educational opportunities for our members. I've encouraged environmental health professionals in the Southwest Virginia region to become members of both VEHA and NEHA in order to gain access to relevant knowledge and educational opportunities. These memberships allow an environmental health professional to experience an exceptional statewide and national community involvement that will benefit their career, as well as, strengthen our promotion of environmental health awareness for the general population.

Southern Area Delegate- Brock Malcolm

I have been with VDH for 16 years and a current VEHA member. I am currently employed as the Environmental Health Technical Specialist for the Central Virginia Health District. . I have been honored to work with the current Board who has worked diligently to offer our members quality educational opportunities over the past year. As a delegate, I have tried to attend all VEHA Board meetings and contribute ideas and recommendations to the board. I have assisted in planning for and conducting the fall and spring Onsite Field days. I would like to encourage all members located within this area to consider serving on the VEHA Board and to promote the professions associated with the organization.

Delegate-at-Large- Philip Davis

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 the Augusta County Government Center in Verona, Virginia. The Field Day topics will be on direct discharge sewage disposal systems and also include a presentation on Geophysical Surveying in Karst Geology. I have also commented on proposed legislation regarding onsite sewage disposal system topics from a private AOSE's perspective. I will continue to work and assist the Board to provide interesting and meaningful educational programs for you, our members, and to give professional input to future legislation.

Delegate-at-Large- Jenique Wilson

I have been honored to serve on the VEHA Board as a Delegate at Large for the last two years. I have learned what it really means to assist in providing educational opportunities and outreach to our fellow Environmental Health Specialists and staff in similar professions. As a member, I work to attend and participate actively in the monthly meetings. This year, I was able to assist with registration during the April Educational Conference and I also introduced the speakers. I have enjoyed my time on the Board and highly encourage others to join.

Respectfully submitted,

Reed Cranford, President
Virginia Environmental Health Association