

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF REGISTERED SANITARIANS



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JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I hope all of you were able to take a well-deserved break at the end of the year before jumping back into the current work demands.

No more drills. It may not have been the public health emergency we envisioned but our profession stepped up. COVID-19 has required us to adjust in many ways. Many have been busy in efforts to keep industry partners and colleagues informed of evolving COVID-19 health and safety practices, assisting emergency shelters and contact tracing. All of this on top of regular work duties and additional demands on the home front.

We have a way to go before this pandemic is behind us, but recent medical developments are providing hope. I know many of us will also see more workplace changes this year. Let us hope that Environmental Health with get the recognition and support it needs to continue our vital work full speed ahead.

Despite all the current challenges, I urge some of you to consider serving on the WSBRs Board of Directors. The time commitment is minimal and it is a good experience. Please contact anyone on the board soon if you are interested. Also let us know if you have ideas or suggestions for changes. This is your organization.

Terry Clements, Chair

MESSAGE FROM OUR WSBRs TREASURER

Greetings Washington State Registered Environmental Health Specialists!

I would like to introduce myself to the new Registered Environmental Health Specialists and Sanitarians of Washington State. My name is Jessica Pankey and I have been part of the Clallam County Health and Human Services Environmental Health team since September of 2006 shortly after earning Biology and Environmental Science degrees from Washington State University. I'm a proud "Food Safety Nerd" and "Coug" from WSU. Our

Environmental Health team's response to the COVID-19 pandemic shifted skills learned through investigative, educational and environmental control assessment skills critical components of Environmental Health programs, to direct assessment of disease transmission and outreach to local businesses with COVID-19 mitigation and safeguard compliance. I am incredibly proud to work as

an Environmental Health professional, working to keep my community safe during a global pandemic.

I'm grateful for the mentors in this organization and in leadership roles in Clallam County who have modeled outbreak investigation protocols and coordinated implementation and review of public health safeguards solidifying our role as partners in public health.

This is an amazing time to be working as an Environmental Health Specialist. Please let us know how we can support you as you pursue registration with WSBRs or seek credential maintenance through educational opportunities. I can't wait to connect with you all again (in person!) and I hope that you have a wonderful start to the New Year.

Jessica Pankey

GREETINGS FROM OUR NEWEST RS BOARD MEMBER

Hello and a hopeful start to a new year in 2021. My name is Sammy Berg and I started my environmental health career with an internship after earning a BS in chemistry from The Evergreen State College in 1991. The internship was with the Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Department and I have managed to stay there for 29 years, becoming a registered sanitarian in 1995. I have had the good fortune to do a variety of tasks in that time, including: ground and surface water quality monitoring, septic system dye tracing, non-point pollution investigations, emergency preparedness planning, and vector work (mainly rabies). I have spent the last ten years supervising food, school, and pool inspectors.

Maintaining the value of the RS Board to you as a member, as well as promoting its value to those outside of public health is our main function as a board, as I see it. I would like to work on helping you maintain your certification and enticing new members. I also know first-hand how sanitarians across the state have helped fill many vital roles in COVID-19 response efforts but at the cost of creating an environmental health backlog that will take some time to recover from. I am looking forward to adding my efforts to those of Terry, Jessica, and of course, Toni.

Sammy Berg, Secretary

REGISTERED SANITARIAN EXAM

The REHS/RS exam is now administered through Pearson Vue testing sites. Once a candidate is approved to sit for our exam they have up to 1 year to schedule the exam through Pearson Vue. The exam remains the same (acquired from NEHA). Candidates may contact the Executive Secretary for more information and the application packet. The Exam and Reciprocity Application packets are available for download from our website

CEU REPORTS and APPLICATIONS

Toni Plemel

For Active members, a current CEU report is mailed to our members each June during our renewal period. Individuals may request an electronic CEU report at any time by contacting the Executive Secretary.

CEU application forms are available for download from our website. All applications must be sent to the Executive Secretary for processing. It is very important to include all necessary supporting documentation (i.e. timed agenda, certificate of completion showing contact hours or CEU's awarded, college transcripts or letter of attendance). Please note that Appendix B of our By-laws requires applications for CEU's to be accompanied by a conference agenda with times you attended listed and/or highlighted. This is important information for the CEU Committee members who review the application. Incomplete CEU applications may be returned for clarification. You may submit for CEU application and supporting documentation via USPS mail or email to the Executive Secretary.

In an effort to streamline communication and reduce expenses, please include your email address on any application. Your most current CEU report will be sent to you electronically each time you submit a request for CEU's. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact the Executive Secretary.

MEMBERS CONTACT INFORMATION

Please be sure that we have all of your contact information correct. As we continue to improve our communications, it is very important that we have your current contact information, especially a valid email address on file. The WSBRS will continue to improve and streamline communication by using email at times to communicate with our membership. Changes to your contact information can be made at any time by contacting the Executive Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Steven Galvez who joined the ranks of the Washington State Board of Registered Sanitarians by reciprocity.

RS BOARD CANDIDATES NEEDED

As we enter into 2021, the WSBRS Board of Directors is seeking candidates interested in serving a 3 year term on our board. If you are interested or have any questions about the position, please contact the Executive Secretary or any of the current Board Members.

CEU COMMITTEE, 2020-2021

The CEU Committee is currently seeking new members. These committee members volunteer to review CEU applications and determine the assignment of credit based on the guidelines set forth in our bylaws. If you are interested in becoming a member of the CEU Committee, please contact the Executive Secretary.

Jeff Ketchel (Chair): jketchel@snohd.org
Art Starry: starrya@co.thurston.wa.us
Ryan Ibach ryan.ibach@co.yakima.wa.us
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WSBRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

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WSBRS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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