

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF REGISTERED SANITARIANS



P.O. Box 384, Snohomish, WA 98291
Contact us @: 425-377-1855 or wsbrs.secretary@gmail.com

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Greetings everyone. I am pleased to announce the newest board member. We had two strong candidates step forward for the recent election. Rob Eastman will be starting his three-year term on July 1, 2021. Congratulations Rob.

As the hours of daylight increase, so do successes in addressing COVID-19. A big thanks to all of you for your contributions to protecting public health during this pandemic.

I am sure most of you are experiencing changes, even as we all take steps toward opening up. Operations beyond COVID-19 domination will be different. Hopefully, we will see some real positive changes that provide more support to Environmental Health.

By the time you receive this newsletter our annual membership meeting will have taken place. You may have had a chance to participate. Going forward, please reach out to the board with your ideas and any questions.

I hope you pause now and again to reflect on the positive impact of your environmental health work.

Terry Clement, Chair

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER

We welcome Rob Eastman as our newest Board Member. Rob will serve a 3 year term beginning July 1st. He began his employment at Chelan-Douglas Health District in the Solid Waste & Food Program. In 2002 Rob went to work for the WSDA's Food Safety Program and then in 2013 he returned to Chelan-Douglas in the Food Safety program. We welcome Rob to our Board of Directors.

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 included with this newsletter. 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 that are accompanied by a conference agenda must have 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 you prepare your renewal form this year please take a moment to update any information that may have changed. 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 Jeffrey Havens who joined the ranks of the Washington State Board of Registered Sanitarians by reciprocity.

THE BOARD WANTS TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR COVID-19 EXPERIENCES

Members across the state have been instrumental in their agency's year-plus response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Environmental Health (EH) staff have applied well-honed training and experience to case/contact work, proving complex and rapidly changing COVID guidance to the community, supporting mass testing and vaccination efforts, while continuing to perform routine inspection/field work under limiting and changing safety procedures. Some EH programs have been impacted by a reduced workforce due to staff being reassigned to response work or staff facing child-care or other family challenges. The past 18 months have shown how effectively EH and other public health staff can shine in protecting and promoting the health of our collective communities. That success has come at the cost of exhausted staff and programs facing vacancies from retirements and other staff turnover, along with programmatic backlogs.

The board would like to hear from you about those challenges and successes, either as individuals or programs. We know that telling stories is one of our most effective tools for promoting behavior change or securing resources for public health. We want your stories so that we can share amongst each other (anonymously as desired) the shared experiences, burdens, and successes that we have faced. We also wish to promote and support you as we continue to

respond to and recover from COVID-19 efforts. EH staff and programs need support as we slowly emerge from extensive response tasks to the new normal that will define our collective efforts for at least the next few years.

Please take a few minutes to share your stories with us. Email to: wsbrs.secretary@gmail.com.

We appreciate and applaud your efforts in this work. Please also share any comments or ideas about how else we may serve you, our fellow sanitarians.

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

Eric Meyer: emeyer@srhd.org

Charles Wu: charles.wu@kingcounty.gov

Shawn Blackshear: shawn.blackshear@ihs.gov

WSBRS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

Jessica Pankey, Chair

360-417-2148

jpankey@co.clallam.wa.us

Sammy Berg, Treasurer

360-867-2568

bergs@co.thurston.wa.us

Rob Eastman, Secretary

509-886-6463

rob.eastman@cdhd.wa.gov

WSBRS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Toni Plemel

(425) 377-1855

wsbrs.secretary@gmail.com