

# VEHA's 2018 Annual Report to Membership

The Virginia Environmental Health Association (VEHA) board is pleased to present its' annual report to the membership for calendar year 2018. 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 – David Fridley (2016-2018)**

This summer, I had the pleasure of attending the Interstate Environmental Health Seminar near Beckley, West Virginia. Started in 1941, this Seminar is hosted on a rotating basis by Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. You'll notice that Virginia is missing from that list; but thanks to the initiative of Board Delegate Jessica Stewart, VEHA has been welcomed to their planning committee and we look forward to hosting this multi-state, multi-day event in the mid 2020's.

VEHA Vice President for Professional Advancement Rachel Stradling also attended the seminar, and the two of us got to catch up with NEHA Region 8 Vice President James Speckhart and former NEHA President Bob Custard, who was a speaker. West Virginia Governor Jim Justice and the West Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. Rahul Gupta addressed the group. Sessions included dealing with opioid abuse as a public health crisis, a multi-state hepatitis outbreak, freshwater algal blooms, water well contamination problems in Maryland, and the intense planning necessary to accommodate tens of thousands of Boy Scouts in a rural setting at the Boy Scout Jamboree.

The wide diversity of the environmental health field and the ties between social, economic and environmental well-being continue to impress themselves on me when we gather in a group—at the national NEHA AEC, the interstate EH Seminar, or our regular VEHA educational conferences. I continue to be convinced that professional development through networking in person is worth the time and effort we put into it.

To that end, find information in this Bulletin about our upcoming Fall Educational Workshop and Annual Business Meeting at Natural Bridge State Park on November 16. Thank you for replying to our survey about what region of Virginia to hold our next conference -- we listened. We will keep on asking for feedback from you on a regular basis about our services to you. This day looks like we will have some special opportunities to incorporate a field visit to amazing Virginia geology—mark your calendar for the date!

Also find information here about upcoming elections for the Board of Directors of this NEHA affiliate, and nomination information about the Slaymaker and EH Professional of the Year awards. I know you see the people around you in our field that put something extra into what they do—let us know and give us a chance to recognize them. We look forward to hearing from you.

## **VP of Member Services – Sandy Stoneman (2016-2018)**

The two years of serving as VP of Member Services has flown by. My goal in this position was to simplify and automate the paying of membership dues and conference/field day registration fees. At the beginning of this year, VEHA purchased a subscription to Wild Apricot, a membership management software. This software allowed VEHA to revamp the VEHA website and allows members to create their own profile, manage their membership, and register for VEHA educational

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events online. You no longer need to wait until an event to renew membership and it has helped to minimize the wait time for checking in at events. We continue to work on the development of the website and appreciate your input if you have suggestions.

VEHA currently has 145 active members. We have quite a few members whose membership is about to, or has recently, expired. I encourage you to visit the VEHA website, [www.virginiaeha.org](http://www.virginiaeha.org), to explore the website, update your member profile and if needed, renew your membership. I hope to see you all at the 2018 VEHA Fall Educational Conference in Natural Bridge, VA. See the conference agenda at the end of this report.

## **VP of Programs- Tammy Faulkner (2016-2018)**

Fall of 2018 is my second year as VEHA's Vice President of Programs. The agenda topics, speakers, and venues are not independently determined by myself. There is collaboration and participation from all board members. As an example, during Board meetings, the Board brainstorms topic ideas and shares potential venue ideas. We now have an ongoing list of ideas in which my successor will be provided. However, interestingly, unique ideas for educational topics seem to present themselves as we go about our daily lives. For example, reading an interesting magazine article and realizing the author resides in Virginia led to a cold call to the NASA Langley Research Center. Chief Scientist, Dennis Bushnell, welcomed the opportunity to speak at VEHA's Spring 2018 conference. Bushnell's speech was highly informative, discussing issues related to our world's drinking water supply and potential solutions. In addition, it is the board's goal to host educational workshops at venues that are relevant to the topics presented. Thank each of you for your loyal support and attendance.

## **Delegate-at-Large- Lauren Grimmer (2016-2018) Treasurer- (At Will)**

This year, I've represented VEHA as the Treasurer and Delegate at Large. My main duties have been to maintain the budget and pay for operating costs. I also complete our annual tax submittal and ensure that we pay the state commission to maintain our non-profit status. As a delegate at large, I participate in monthly board meetings and continue to promote knowledge about environmental health topics and VEHA throughout the district I represent.

## **Northern Area Delegate- Bryant Wooden (2016-2018)**

As the Northern Area Regional Delegate for VEHA, I have been able to participate in the monthly VEHA conference call meetings with fellow board members to discuss business and increased success of the organization. I have had the opportunity to attend and assist with onsite logistics of the well attended 2017 Fall and 2018 Spring VEHA Educational Conferences.

I continue to encourage fellow environmental health professionals from the Northern Virginia Region to become members and attend the exciting educational fulfilled VEHA Conferences. The conferences provide an opportunity to network, obtain educational credits, and meet great people. As for the Northern Virginia region, the summer has been fulfilled with plenty of

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festivals, special events, and aquatic recreational inspections to keep staff out in the field educating and protecting individuals in the areas of food safety and public health.

It is a great opportunity to work with the VEHA organization and I encourage any professionals and students interested in making the organization a continued success, to visit our website or reach out to your area delegates for more information.

## Capitol Area Delegate – Amy Pemberton (2017-2019)

As your Capitol area Delegate, I have enjoyed assisting the VP Programs in finding venues and serving as the logistical coordinator for our two most recent educational conferences. Both of these workshops were well attended, and valued by our membership.

The Capitol area has seen several significant retirements from VDH recently .....

**Tim Jones**, EH Manager of the Crater Health District, began his VDH career working with the Division of Shellfish Sanitation. He became an EHS in Henrico, then moved to the Crater Health District, in the Prince George County office. In 1991, he became an EH Supervisor, and moved up to the EH Manager position in 1996. Those who have worked with Tim know that he has quite a sense of humor, and often lament that they no longer get to enjoy his version of “Chestnuts roasting on an open fire....” during the holiday season! After nearly 36 years of service to the Commonwealth, Tim retired in July 2017, and seems to be enjoying his “every day is a Saturday” lifestyle.



**M. B. Shepard**, EH Supervisor with the Three Rivers Health District retired after more than 40 years of service to VDH and his local communities. He was a true professional who considered service to citizens, environmental protection, health promotion, and workforce support and development all crucial elements of the architecture of the EH profession. NEHA recognized his dedication to the profession by awarding him the Certificate of Merit in 2012.

**Charles Leonard**, EH Supervisor with the Crater Health District is retiring in August 2018 after 30 years of service with VDH. He began his VDH career working in New Kent County as an EHS, then transferred to Crater in 1990.

While working in Crater, Charlie assisted OEHS with onsite field training camps, worked as a field examiner for the OSE licensing requirements, and from 1997-98, he served as the Environmental chairperson for the Virginia Public Health Association. This and the many other contributions he made to the EH program earned him the Environmental Health Specialist of the Year award from the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1999. In January 2000, he was promoted to the Supervisor position. Since the retirement of his colleague and partner in crime, Tim Jones, Charlie has been unofficially acting EH Manager during the past year’s vacancy.

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**Danna Revis** retired on June 1, 2018. She began her VDH career in 1987 and worked as an EHS in the Prince William Health District for 14 years. In 2001 she left VDH and worked as the Operations Manager for HealthSpace, Ltd. In 2002, she returned to VDH to serve as the Training Coordinator for the Office of Environmental Services of VDH. Over 16 years, she trained more than 300 EH staff and private sector Onsite Soil Evaluators in the onsite sewage and water program. Danna is now working for Old Dominion Onsite, Inc. in Ashland, VA



**Hannah Crew** officially retired from the Virginia Department of Health on September 1, 2018 after serving 36 years for the Commonwealth. Hannah began her career in 1976 with the Virginia Department of Transportation and then her career moved her to the Council on the Environment and the Department of Environmental Quality. In 2002, Hannah came to VDH - Hanover County Health Department as a Public Health Associate and quickly moved into the role of an Environmental Health Specialist, Senior. In 2005, she became the Food Safety Technical Specialist/District Standardization Officer until 2014, when she advanced into the EH Food Safety Supervisor.

Hannah's commitment and professionalism in her career has contributed to the overall success in the Environmental Health Division within Chickahominy and VDH. Hannah modeled superior customer service skills and held an unbreakable work ethic, along with her dedication to preventing food borne outbreaks and protecting the public from environmental and other hazards during her tenure is commendable.



Hannah and her husband, Todd, are expecting their first grandchild this winter and have plans to travel to many destinations. Hannah will keep busy during her retirement just like M.K. Soni's advice, "Retire from work, not from life."

All of these individuals were EH professionals who dedicated their life and careers to the betterment of the program, and the people they touched both inside and outside of the agency. They are some of the best of the best. Their knowledge, expertise, and passion for the environment and public health will be missed, and we congratulate all of them on a job well done, and wish them happy trails!

Respectfully submitted,

David Fridley, President  
Virginia Environmental Health Association

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## 2018 Fall Educational Conference November 16, 2018 Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center 15 Appledore Lane, Natural Bridge, VA 24578 [www.naturalbridgeva.com](http://www.naturalbridgeva.com)

8:30am – 9:15am	<i>Conference Check-In, Light Breakfast, and Cavern Tour Sign Up (max 35 per group): 11:00am, 11:15am, or 4:00pm</i>
9:15am – 9:30am	<i>Opening Remarks - David Fridley, VEHA President</i>
9:30am – 9:45am	<i>What is Special about the Conference Venue? - Natural Bridge Historic Hotel Management</i>
10:00am – 10:45am	<i>Blue Ridge Geology and Water Supply - Dr. Edgar Spencer</i>
10:45am	<i>Departure of Group 1 for 11:00am Tour of Caverns</i>
11:00am	<i>Departure of Group 2 for 11:15am Tour of Caverns</i>
12:15pm – 12:45pm	<i>Lunch – included with conference registration</i>

### Food Protection/General Environmental Track

### Onsite Sewage and Water Track

12:45pm - 1:45pm	<i>VA Department of Health in the U.S. Virgin Islands on EMAC Mission - Tiffany Johnson-Wiggins, District Standardization Officer for Alexandria City</i>	12:45pm - 1:40pm	<i>Legislative/Policy Update - Lance Gregory, Director, Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services, Environmental Engineering, and Marina Programs</i>
1:45pm - 2:00pm	<i>Break</i>	1:40pm - 1:55pm	<i>Break</i>
2:00pm - 3:00pm	<i>Closing the Bridge Between Theory and Practice - Dixon Mercado-Soltero, Environmental Health Specialist Sr., Chesterfield County Health Department</i>	1:55pm - 3:45pm	<i>Getting Back to the Fundamentals, Tom Ashton, REHS, LPSS, Market Development Manager American Manufacturing Co. &amp; Pamela Pruet, LSE, LOSO, Environmental Systems Consulting, LLC</i>
3:00pm – 3:45pm	<i>FSMA &amp; The Produce Safety Rule – Helping Growers and Food Establishments Reduce the Risk of Foodborne Illness Associated with Produce – Sandy Stoneman, Food Safety Extension Agent, Virginia Cooperative Extension</i>	3:45pm	<i>Depart for 4:00pm Cavern Tour</i>
3:45pm	<i>Depart for 4:00pm Cavern Tour</i>		

**Registration:** Pre-registration is required. Visit <https://veha32.wildapricot.org/Events> to register and pay online.

**Conference Fee (Includes light breakfast and lunch):** VEHA Member=\$55.00 and Non-Member=\$95.00 (join or renew your membership for \$20/year and save on VEHA event registration)

**5.5 Hours CPE for DPOR OSE** licensure will be awarded by VEHA for attendance. **Continuing Education Hours are available for NEHA's REHS and CP-FS credentials.** Go to [NEHA's Continuing Education page](#) on their website to submit your request.