

VEHA Bulletin-Spring 2019



Message from the President - Sandy Stoneman

Dear VEHA Members,

With the official arrival of spring I know we are all looking forward to putting away the heavy coats and basking in the sunshine! In this addition of the Bulletin you will hear from some new additions to the VEHA Board and get updates on the upcoming educational opportunities at the state, regional and national levels.

This is my first President’s report since being elected last fall. Thank you for your trust and support. I want to encourage all of our current members to communicate with the VEHA Board. We need to know what we can do to best support our membership and all Virginia Environmental Health professionals. Everyone has a delegate for their region that serves on the VEHA Board that would be happy to hear your ideas and pass them along at the monthly Board meetings. Here is our current VEHA Board member list as well as the regional delegate map:

| Position | Name | Term |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| President | Sandy Stoneman | 2018-2020 |
| VP of Professional Advancement | Bryant Wooden | 2018-2020 |
| VP of Programs | Tammy Faulkner – Interim (2019 only) | 2018-2020 |
| VP of Member Services | Jessica Stewart | 2018-2020 |
| Secretary | David Wachsmann | At Will |
| Treasurer | Lauren Grimmer | At Will |
| Northern VA Delegate | Tiffany Johnson-Wiggins | 2017-2019 |
| Blue Ridge Delegate | Phil Davis | 2017-2019 |
| Tidewater Delegate | Adam Feris | 2017-2019 |
| Southwest Delegate | Leon Vinci | 2017-2019 |
| Capitol Delegate | Tammy Faulkner | 2017-2019 |
| Southern Delegate | Kelly Waller | 2017-2019 |
| Delegate At Large | Larry Madison | 2018-2020 |
| Delegate At Large | Peri Pearson | 2018-2020 |
| Past President | David Fridley | 2018-2020 |



I would also encourage any member that is interested in serving on the Board or a VEHA committee, please let us know. Due to extenuating circumstances, Rachel Stradling, had to step down from her position as the VP of Programs. We are currently seeking a replacement for this position. This is the board position that heads up the planning for the VEHA Educational Conferences. Tammy Faulkner (Past VP of Programs and our current Capitol Delegate) has graciously agreed to step in and fill the position for the current year but we will need a replacement for 2020, the second year of the two year term. If you would be interested in serving in this position please let me know.

Last year VEHA upgraded to a new membership software solution and website. You may have noticed that now you are receiving automatic reminders when your VEHA membership is about to expire and that you can update your VEHA profile, renew membership, and register for VEHA events on the website as well. If you have not visited lately, I encourage you to go to www.virginiaeha.org, sign in with your email and update your profile. If you have news to share or suggestions for the website, reach out to our VP of Member Services, Jessica Stewart (jessica.stewart@virginiaeha.org).

I look forward to seeing many of you in person later this year at our upcoming educational field days and the 2019 Fall Conference!

-Sandy

Membership

VP of Member Services - Jessica Stewart

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage those who are not currently active members of VEHA to become members. Members are provided with opportunities for professional education and advancement, a chance to network with other environmental professionals and public officials, and work to improve public health. Members also receive discounts on VEHA sponsored conferences and credentialing opportunities. Joining VEHA is easy and affordable! Simply go to our website www.virginiaeha.org and click the “Join VEHA” icon then follow the instructions to get started.

Scholarships & Awards

VP of Professional Advancement - Bryant Wooden

As the recently elected Vice President of Professional Advancement for VEHA, I have been able to participate in the monthly VEHA conference call meetings with fellow board members to discuss business and continued success of the organization. I have been able to attend and assist with the Fall and Spring VEHA Educational Conferences.

I will continue to encourage fellow environmental health professionals and students to become members of the VEHA organization in order to take advantage of the great educational trainings and awards that will be helpful throughout ones career. Several examples of the awards and recognitions that are available through VEHA include student scholarship opportunities, the Certificate of Merit, the Environmental Health Professional of the Year, and the A. Clark Slaymaker Award.

I inspire all members to visit the VEHA website to gather an increased understanding of the great opportunities available, and to nominate well-deserved environmental health professionals for the various awards available.

It is a great opportunity to work with the VEHA organization and I encourage any professionals and students interested in scholarships and awards to reach out through email to the Vice President of Professional Advancement bryant.wooden@viriniaeha.org

VEHA Educational Scholarship: Each spring VEHA solicits undergraduate and graduate students in the Environmental Health field of study to submit their applications for the annual VEHA Educational Scholarship. This scholarship is currently funded at \$500.00 and is awarded to the most qualified applicant(s) at the Spring Educational Conference. Application deadline is March 31, 2019. To apply, visit [VEHA's Scholarships-Awards page](#).

Certificates of Merit: Every NEHA state affiliate is invited to designate an individual and/or a team of its members to receive a Certificate of Merit, thereby nationally recognizing one of their own for outstanding contributions to the profession of environmental health. Recipients are recognized during NEHA's Annual Education Conference awards program and in the Journal of Environmental Health. This is an opportunity for special recognition of one of our own members in front of a national audience. **Nominations must be received by June 1, 2019.** To apply, visit [VEHA's Scholarships-Awards page](#).

Environmental Health Professional of the Year: The nominee for the Environmental Health (EH) Professional of the Year award must be an EH Professional currently engaged in the practice of Environmental Health who has made outstanding contributions to the EH Profession, and the EH Programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Nominees must be current VEHA members and should exemplify the values, quality of work, and ethical integrity held in high regard by the EH profession. Sponsors who make the nomination must also be current VEHA members. This award is presented each year at VEHA's Fall Educational Conference. **To nominate a deserving EH Professional, submit your nomination form by September 30, 2019.** The nomination form can be found on [VEHA's Scholarships-Awards page](#).

A. Clark Slaymaker Award: A. Clark Slaymaker was a Virginia Department of Health employee from 1943 to 1970. He ended his career as the EH Manager (then called Chief Sanitarian) in Alexandria, Virginia. In 1966 he won NEHA's prestigious Walter S. Mangold award, the **ONLY** VDH employee ever to do so. This award was created to recognize an individual, association, corporation, or organization that is not actively engaged in the field of environmental health but has made outstanding contributions and supported the EH Profession and the EH programs in VA. The individual(s) who wish to submit a nomination for this award must be a current member of VEHA however, it is not necessary for the nominee to be a member. **The deadline for nomination is September 30, 2019.** The nomination form can be found on [VEHA's Scholarships-Awards page](#).

Blue Ridge Area Update

Delegate - Phil Davis

Over the last year, I have been honored to serve on the VEHA Board, which is working diligently to offer our members quality educational opportunities. I am always available for members in my Blue Ridge Area who may have ideas or concerns that I may present to the Board on their behalf. I attended the Spring Educational Conference in April 2018. I assisted the Vice President of Programs with the Fall Educational Conference at Natural Bridge in November 2018, and helped to secure one of the speakers and secure the meeting location. 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.

Southwest Area Update

Delegate - Leon Vinci

As the year commences, it has been a great opportunity to serve as the SW Virginia Area Regional Delegate for VEHA. I have been able to take part in the monthly VEHA conference call meetings with fellow board members to discuss matters and business of the organization. I attended the 2018 Spring and 2018 Fall VEHA Educational Conferences and met with speakers and attendees during the afternoon sessions in both food safety and subsurface disposal.

I encourage my fellow colleagues from the South West Virginia Region to attend the VEHA Educational Conferences coming up this year to network and obtain educational credits for professional credentials. As for the SW Virginia region, this winter has been consistently frigid with temperatures and wind chills dipping below freezing on several days. As you know, freezing weather can cause major water main breaks, which often temporarily interrupt water service to many restaurants, hotels, and other permitted establishments. As environmental professionals in situations like this, it is always important to be able to educate and have an open line of communication with the facilities to protect public health. It is a great opportunity to work with the VEHA organization as we continue to protect the environment and communities through further understanding of public health. I encourage anyone interested in making the VEHA organization a continued success, to visit our website at virginiaeha.org or reach out to any of our area delegates.

Past President's Message

David Fridley

Dear Members,

As I look back on my almost twenty years on the VEHA board, one of the things that stands out to me is the vital contribution individual people make in the success of what our Association does.

The enthusiasm and energy of specific people who have steered educational programs, professional development, liaison with NEHA, scholarships and awards, and interaction with governmental and other non-governmental players in Virginia's environmental health scene have made all the difference.

The fifteen volunteer members of the VEHA Board of Directors work together year-round to help maintain a high level of service to its members. But, many hands make light work, and if you have the interest and ability to help add to our efforts, we would be more than happy to talk with you.

Standing committees in the Association include:

- Programs and Education: helping scout locations, themes and speakers for our regular and special educational events.
- Professional Registration and Professional Advancement: encouraging and assisting with improving national registration of VEHA members as Registered Environmental Health Specialists and Certified Professionals in Food Safety. Also, seeking to advance the standing and livelihood of all professionals involved in environmental health in Virginia.
- Awards: Seeking candidates for recognition including the Environmental Health Professional of the Year, the Slaymaker Award, and the NEHA Certificate of Merit.
- Bulletin: developing content for the VEHA *Bulletin*.
- Legislative Affairs: Analysis and stakeholder response to legislative proposals, particularly during the brief but fast-paced Virginia General Assembly sessions.

As you can see, there are many ways to become involved with helping VEHA serve you and the rest of our profession. If you are interested in becoming part of any of these efforts, please contact your Area Delegate!

VEHA News & Save the Dates

Spring is here and it's time to register for our upcoming education days! In lieu of a general combined spring conference this year, VEHA will be hosting two specialized education days, one for the Onsite track and one for the Food Safety track. Agendas, registration fees, and more details for these events are forthcoming and will be posted on the VEHA website. Interested in attending one or both of these events? Register on our website so you don't miss these great opportunities to learn together and get those CEU's.

Onsite Workshop/Education Day 2019 – Wednesday, May 15th at the New Kent Forestry Education Center in Providence Forge, VA [VEHA Events 2019](#)

Food Safety Workshop/Education Day 2019 – June, location/date TBA

NEHA Annual Educational Conference (AEC) Conference 2019

Nashville, TN – July 7-11, 2019 [NEHA AEC 2019](#)

Interstate Environmental Health Seminar (IEHS) 2019 – July 24 - 26, 2019. This year's seminar will be held at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY [IEHS 2019](#)

VEHA Fall Educational Conference – October 2019, Save the Date coming soon!