



VEHA BULLETIN-SPRING 2020

Message from the President - Sandy Stoneman

Dear VEHA Members,

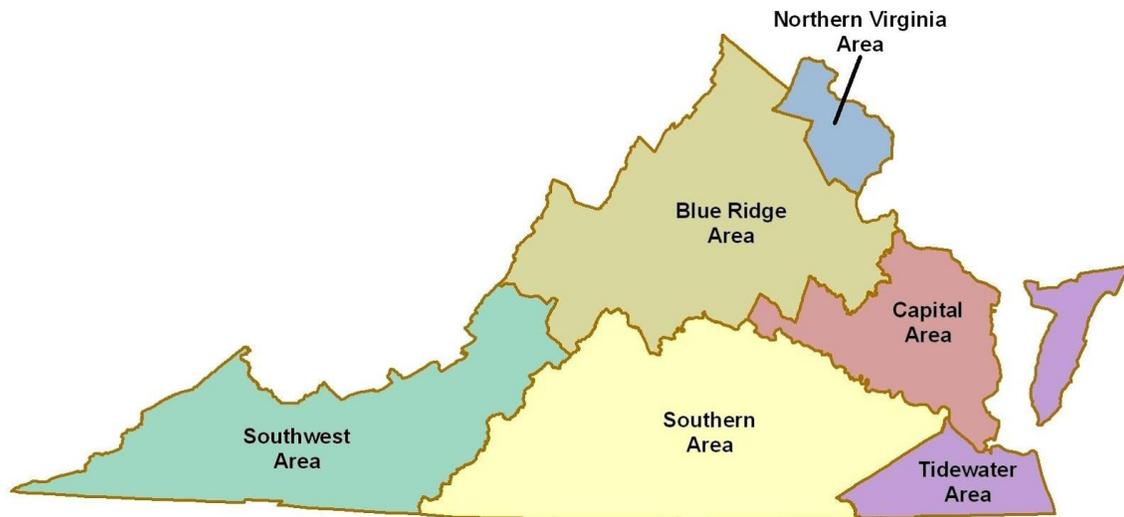
As I write this update it is dark and raining and I am anxiously awaiting to “Spring Forward” and spend more time outside. I am also looking forward to our VEHA Spring Food Safety and Onsite Education Days that are coming up April 24 in Charlottesville. These events are a perfect opportunity to gain a full day of continuing education credits in your specialty area! Registration is online at: <https://veha32.wildapricot.org/Events>.

The VEHA Board has been dedicated to provide interesting and beneficial continuing education for all Virginia environmental health professionals. The 2019 VEHA Fall Educational Conference was held at the beautiful Roslyn Center in Richmond last October. This event was well attended and received rave reviews for both the location and the speakers. Do you have an idea for a topic you would like to see offered at one of our upcoming events? Please reach out to me or someone on the VEHA Board.

It doesn't seem possible but I am nearing the last few months of my two-year term as VEHA President. It has truly been a pleasure to serve on the Board. If you enjoy promoting your field and helping others in your profession, I would encourage you to consider serving on the VEHA board or on a committee. No prior experience necessary!

Lastly, I want to remind everyone that you have a VEHA delegate for your region 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	<u>Sandy Stoneman</u>	2018-2020
VP of Professional Advancement	Bryant Wooden	2018-2020
VP of Programs	Tammy Faulkner	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	2019-2021
Blue Ridge Delegate	Reed Cranford	2019-2021
Tidewater Delegate	Kimberly Harper	2019-2021
Southwest Delegate	Leon Vinci	2019-2021
Capitol Delegate	<u>Tammy Faulkner</u>	2019-2021
Southern Delegate	Kelly Waller	2019-2021
Delegate At Large	Larry Madison	2018-2020
Delegate At Large	Peri Pearson	2018-2020
Past President	David Fridley	2018-2020



Please reach out to me anytime and I hope to see you all at the VEHA Spring Education Days in Charlottesville or the 2020 VEHA Fall Educational Conference in Fredericksburg.

-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. VEHA is a great association for your professional development in environmental health. Members are provided with opportunities for professional education and advancement, a chance to network with other environmental professionals and public officials across the state and region, 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.

Program Opportunities

VP of Programs - Tammy Faulkner

Members, VEHA is your organization. If there is a topic of interest that you would like explored at an education conference, forward the subject to the Board. We will see what we can do to make it happen. Also, on the reverse, the Board has a vision to present a Cultural Food program. The idea being that restaurant owner's, or chefs, from specialty ethnic restaurants can present their perspective and experiences with merging their cultural food preparation with Commonwealth of VA (and/or FDA) regulations. Their food preparation, storage, sourcing and such, could be insightful information for developing an understanding relationship. Is there a city that has a culturally diverse restaurant community where we could hold an event, inviting local facility owners to speak? Please let us know!

For on-site members, is there a project in your area that you would want to share as a case study? Have you come across an interesting learning experience that is share worthy; even it seems unlikely others will run into the same situation. It is the conversations and sharing of information about products and experiences that will help build a knowledge base for thinking 'inside' and 'outside' the box when needed.

Thank you for your support.

Scholarships & Awards

VP of Professional Advancement - Bryant Wooden

As Vice President of Professional Advancement for VEHA, I have participated 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 logistics for VEHA Educational Conferences.

I will continue to promote VEHA in order to encourage fellow environmental health professionals and students to become members of the organization and take advantage of the excellent educational trainings and awards that will be helpful for career advancement. I recommend that all members 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 bwooden@arlingtonva.us

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, 2020.** 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, 2020.** To apply, visit [VEHA's Scholarships-Awards page](#).

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 2019 Spring and 2019 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 fairly mild, not seeing much snow. (Of course as Climate Change continues to impact our area, the last few years have been the hottest on record.) Our major concern has been the severe flooding episodes due to heavy rains. As you know, as environmental professionals it is always important to be able to educate and have an open line of communication with our facilities and the general public to protect public health about water damage and flooding effects. It is a great opportunity to work with the VEHA organization as we continue to protect the environment as well as our 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 and to reach out to me or any of our area delegates.

VEHA is officially a member of the Interstate Environmental Health Seminar (IEHS), which gives our state members more opportunities for educational and professional growth! The IEHS has 9 member states and is holding the 74th Annual Conference this year at Ellicott City in Maryland at the Turf Valley Resort on July 30-31. This annual, multi-day seminar is sponsored by Environmental Health Associations from the member states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. It is held in a different state each year as it rotates between the member states. This permits the IEHS to draw speakers in the environmental health field

from a wide area including several levels of government and from industry. In addition to the speakers, there is an exhibit hall with displays from environmental health related industries. All environmental health personnel are welcome to attend the annual seminar. This annual seminar will be an excellent opportunity for networking and educational growth within environmental health that expands beyond our state to a regional level. GET READY!! The VEHA is planning to be the HOST for this conclave in the near future.

Meanwhile, our national organization: the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is hosting their July 11-15th Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in New York City this year. Their special hotel rates are LOW, so it is a good time to make the trip and visit the Big Apple. Don't Miss It!!

Past President's Message

David Fridley

EPA Tool for Mapping Environmental Health's Intersection with Community Demographics

Air toxin cancer risk and other air pollution; lead paint environmental risk; chemical and hazardous waste spills and storage sites; superfund sites; wastewater discharge pollution to surface waters. These are all familiar environmental health hazards.

Average income; average education; number of people age under 5 or over 64; ethnic background. These are all factors which can have measurable effects on community health outcomes.

Can these two types of information be tied together, and if so, how? The EPA has developed a mapping tool that allows you to explore this question. <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen> is the federal Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool. Using this web-based service, you can map and compare maps for the joint occurrence of any of these factors.

To the extent that our society aims toward people having an equal opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health, it is vital that information be transparently available about communities which bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies.

This kind of knowledge is an important part of the effort to improve and maintain a clean and healthful environment, especially for those who have traditionally lived, worked and played closest to sources of pollution.

As environmental health professionals dedicated to improving community health through safe food, water, air and other contributors to well-being, we are increasingly reminded that our actions toward individual clients and spots on the map are located in a context of history and large-scale circumstances—our actions are affected by that context, and the work we do alters that context.

What we do for a living and how we think about what we do are of real importance to many people we will never meet. Thank you for your dedication to our profession!

VEHA News & Save the Dates

Spring is here and it's time to register for our upcoming Education Day! This one day workshop will consist of either an onsite water/waste-water education session or a food safety education session. Attendees must choose the session during the registration process. Continuing education credits will be awarded for attendance.

Interested in attending this event? [Register on our website](#) so you don't miss these great opportunities to learn together and get those CEU's.

Onsite Workshop/Education Day 2020 – Friday, April 24th, at the [Virginia Department of Forestry](#) (900 Natural Resources Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22903)

Food Safety Workshop/Education Day 2020 – Friday, April 24th, at the [Virginia Department of Forestry](#) (900 Natural Resources Dr, Charlottesville, VA 22903)

NEHA Annual Educational Conference (AEC) Conference 2020 - July 13 – 16, held at Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel, New York, NY. For more information visit the conference website: [NEHA AEC 2020](#)

Interstate Environmental Health Seminar (IEHS) 2020 – July 30-31, 2020 at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, MD. [IEHS 2020 Save the Date](#)

VEHA Fall Educational Conference – October 2020, Save the Date coming soon!