

In This Issue

Governing Council

NEHA Region
VP Report

In Memory Of

Member Spotlight

Chapter Reports

Information and
Notices

Message from the President

Greetings,

Business as usual, plus a lot more just might be a quick description of the Governing Council meeting held April 13th. Yes, it was Friday the 13th, but outside of a technical glitch that resulted in about a thirty minute delay, we didn't encounter any real issues. The council pressed through a very lengthy agenda and several action items were assigned. Significant highlights of the meeting included:

- Cindy Corley provided an update on the preparations for the 57th Annual Education conference. She and her team have developed an impressive agenda thus far and we are excited about the speakers they have committed.
- Several ideas to promote the association were presented by Joanna Meyer and she continues her quest to establish clear boundary lines for local chapters in an effort to make certain all jurisdictions are fully represented.
- Steve Berry and Janet Tucker presented some very impressive web-site enhancements that will greatly increase our ability to serve our members.
- Cheryn Hargrave, Chairperson of the By-Laws committee, presented an update on proposed revisions.
- Ben Stobnicki presented a powerpoint presentation he developed to promote our profession at "career day" type events.
- A special committee was appointed to begin interviewing applicants for the Executive Secretary/Treasurer position.



As we move closer to the AEC, I reiterate my request of all members to strongly consider increasing involvement in our association. Soon, reminders will be sent via email to solicit nominees for association awards, scholarships and governing council members for both the local and state levels. New people see things from a different perspective and often generate new ideas – we must continue the charge to think outside the box to remain strong. If you have not served in the past (or even if you have), please consider doing so and feel free to contact me or any of the governing council if you would like to learn more.

Lastly, it has been a very challenging year. In fact, I don't recall any year since being a member of the association that we bereaved our own friends and colleagues at the rate we have this year. As many of you know, in February, Mr. Pat Buzbee (Gulf Coast Chapter) was involved in a tragic fatal accident. In March, we learned that Ms. Linda Thompson (North Texas Chapter) passed away. And as you recall, we honored Mr. Roy Ressel (North Texas Chapter) in the last edition of The Beacon. Significant contributions were made to our profession and association by each of these individuals. Many of us continue to grieve from these losses so please remember the affected families, friends and colleagues in your prayers.

Best regards,

Steve Killen

In This Issue

Governing Council

NEHA Region
VP Report

In Memory Of

Member Spotlight

Chapter Reports

Information and
Notices

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**NEHA REGION V
JANUARY 2012 REPORT**
Sandra Long, REHS, RS, CP-FS

The annual spring board meeting is scheduled for April 19-21, 2012 in Reno, NV. A Spring 2012 newsletter will be sent with information from this meeting.

2012 NEHA AEC – San Diego, CA

The education for the 2012 San Diego AEC is shaping up to be another great program. NEHA will be holding a Drop in Learning Lab which is new this year. This lab allows attendees to drop in and participate in a self-directed and/or self-paced learning lab. This learning lab will be set up with eight booths that attendees can pick and choose the activities that spark their interests. This type of lab was developed in response to feedback on the 2011 Columbus AEC attendee survey, which indicated people wanted sessions that they could come and go as they pleased.

NEHA is working on getting some great tours at a nanotechnology facility and one at the U.S. Marine Corps training base in San Diego to observe and tour their new recycled blackwater for sub-surface irrigation system. We have a great agenda lined up with many local and national perspectives for people to gain great knowledge and training in their area of expertise and beyond!

Keynote Speaker

Senior Futurist - Thomas Frey

At each NEHA AEC, the keynote speaker provides perspectives and visions for the future of environmental health. This year's Keynote Address will be made by Senior Futurist, Thomas Frey.

As things continue to change across our communities, there are "new normals" emerging. Thus, Frey's presentation at the NEHA 2012 AEC will continue to explore where things are likely to go in the future, and continue the discussion of "new normals" that began at the NEHA 2011 AEC.

Frey's presentation will motivate and inspire you with provocative knowledge, humor, and tantalizing information bits that you can immediately put to use to help environmental health be effective in our communities in the future.

In This Issue

Governing Council

NEHA Region
VP Report

In Memory Of

Member Spotlight

Chapter Reports

Information and
Notices

In This Issue

Governing Council

NEHA Region
VP Report

In Memory Of

Member Spotlight

Chapter Reports

Information and
Notices

Community Event

We are excited to be holding our second annual volunteer community event and expect that it will be even better than last year. This year the event will be held at the Balboa Park, the nation's largest urban cultural park which is home to 15 major museums, renowned performing arts venues, beautiful gardens and the San Diego Zoo. The volunteers will be helping the park rangers maintain and improve the park for the many visitors that come to this great city attraction. The city is very grateful for our assistance since in recent years they have not had sufficient resources to fully commit to the funding needed for the park. While the exact details on what attendees will be doing for the city park rangers has not yet been determined, it will be held July 27, 2012 from either noon or 1 pm until 4:30 pm depending on if we can get a sponsor to help provide lunch for the volunteers. Through this volunteer event, our attendees will be giving back to the community and this event is an important part of NEHA's commitment to improving the AEC's sustainability efforts and in reducing our carbon foot print.

Online Registration Available for the NEHA 2012 AEC

Complete your AEC registration using NEHA's NEW online registration system. Follow the steps provided to set up your login and password. Once you're set up, you can visit the site over and over again to easily view your transaction history, make additional purchases, and update your

Opportunities for Input

Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC) Module Open for Comment

The Disinfection and Water Quality module of MAHC has recently been released for public comment by CDC. The comment period will be open until April 27, 2012.

Innovative Food Defense Grants Available From FDA

FDA is seeking grant funding applications from state, local, tribal, and territorial government food regulatory agencies to generate innovative food defense tools and resources that complement, develop, or may improve state, local, tribal, and territorial food defense programs and which may then be applied to food defense programs nationwide. Applications due June 15, 2012.

Upcoming Award Deadlines

Don't forget the following deadlines for these notable environmental health awards:

- Davis Calvin Wagner Sanitarian Award: April 15
- Walter F. Snyder Award: April 30
- Excellence in Sustainability Award: May 1

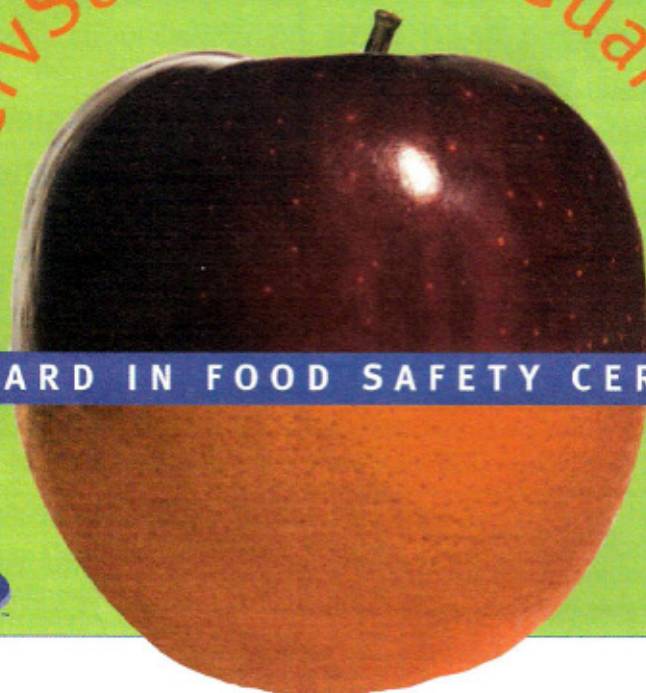
In Memory Of

Long time TEHA members:

Patrick Buzbee

Linda Thompson

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TEHA

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Cheryn Hargrave, United Supermarkets

Cheryn Hargrave lives in Lubbock with her husband Donny and son Jacob. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a degree in Microbiology. Cheryn was born in the Philippines and has lived in Kansas, Florida, New Mexico, and Texas. She has over 20 years of experience in the food industry as both a regulator and as an operator. For the past 5 years, Cheryn has worked as a Food Safety Specialist for United Supermarkets. Cheryn's responsibilities include food safety for the retail stores, convenience stores, distribution centers, and the United owned manufacturing plants. She is Safe Quality Food (SQF) certified and uses SQF audits when she inspects the plants. Additionally, she works with other teams within United to help create a food safety culture. She is currently assisting the Facilities and Design team with designing new stores.

For over 11 years, she served as a Food Service Director for ARAMARK, K-12. In this position, Cheryn was responsible for managing the food service operation as well as establishing food safety programs, implementing HACCP, and training other ARAMARK Directors and school foodservice employees.

Before ARAMARK, Cheryn worked as a Sanitarian for Grayson County Health Department and for Plainview-Hale County Health Department.

Cheryn is Past-President of the Panhandle/West Texas Chapter. She served three terms as Chapter President from 2009-2011. She is currently active in the Conference for Food Protection (CFP) as an industry committee member on the following three committees: Certification of Food Safety Professionals, Plan Review, and Program Standards.



Cheryn is also a member of the Food Marketing Institute (FMI) Food Protection Committee. Finally, Cheryn enjoys working as an executive board member of the Oak Ridge Elementary PTA. She organized a Fun Run to encourage healthy lifestyles. Cheryn looks forward to working with the PTA and the students again next year.

TEHA

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Cummings, City of Longview

Kevin Cummings is currently the Director of Development Services with the City of Longview, where he has been for the past five years. Prior to that, Kevin was the Environmental Health Manager for Longview, after having worked as an Environmental Health Specialist for the City of Garland for five years and as an Animal Control Officer for the City of Plano for two years.

He holds a Bachelors degree in Biology from the University of North Texas in Denton.

Kevin and his incredibly tolerant wife, Mindy, just celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. Together with their 13 year old son, Carter, they enjoy traveling, reading, cooking, and many other pointless activities that cost too much, but are enjoyable.



Have you Heard!

Bob Hendershot, Supply Sanitation Systems, will be speaking at the NEHA AEC in San Diego on June 30. My topic is "What's Hiding in Your Sandwich". It covers HACCP and foreign material in food. I'll be showing numerous pictures of real items found in food products.

Terry Gratton, DrPH, University of North Texas, was awarded the rank of Professor Emeritus in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health within the School of Public Health after 10 years as a full time faculty member by The Board of Regents of the University of North Texas System.



Emma and Ellie
Heinicke

Geoff Heinicke, City of Plano and his wife Edie welcomed their new daughter, Ellie on April 13, 2012. Big sister Emma is very proud of her.

Jimmy Stephens, City of DeSoto, is getting married to Michelle Robbins on August 4, 2012.

Tom Vyles, City of Plano, has been the Chair-elect for the joint committee for NSF Standard 50 since September 2011 and will become the chairperson September 2012.

TEHA

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Have you Heard Continued!

The City of Plano Environmental Health Department has had a number of changes in the past six months. We have welcomed four new employees: Megan Johnson, Environmental Health Specialist, Ryan Janowski, Storm Water Specialist Geoffrey Heinicke, Environmental Health Manager and most recently, Cathleen Grossman, Storm Water Specialist.

Janice Tower, City of Richardson, saw a promotion in the American Patchwork and Quilting magazine that they were sponsoring a Million Pillowcase Challenge. They were encouraging sewers/quilters to make 1 million pillowcases and donate them to their favorite charity. Janice thought it was a great idea and sent an email to a couple of her friends - She has some great friends and 3 of them were up to the challenge. So they got together a couple of days earlier this spring and sewed. They used fabric they had stashed or bought because it was "too cute". It takes a yard of fabric to make a pillowcase and the magazine stipulated that they needed to be 100% cotton.

Janice and her friends selected Texas Scottish Rite to be the recipient of their pillowcases. Last month they delivered 132 pillowcases to Scottish Rite. This is a way for the kids at the hospital to have something in their room that is theirs and hopefully something that is bright and cheerful. They are hoping to sew more when they can schedule a day everyone is available and they have replenished their stash of fabric.

The local paper has interviewed Janice and it will be printed in the next edition of the Wylie News.

Retirements

Steven Mark Parsons retired from the City of Austin after 28 years of public health service on March 30, 2012.

Cheryl Sandling retired from the City of Austin after 29 years (27 with Austin) of public health service on March 30, 2012.

Sue Simons retired from the City of Austin after 24 years (8 years with Austin) of public health service on April 20, 2012.

James Jenison retired from the City of Plano Environmental Health Department on February 10, 2012. James worked for the department for 21 years, 7 months and 11 days. He, and his wife Shelly, moved to New Mexico where James works for the New Mexico State Health Department in the Taos area.

James Jenison



In This Issue

Governing Council

NEHA Region
VP Report

In Memory Of

Member Spotlight

Chapter Reports

Information and
Notices

Chapter Reports

Central Texas

Howdy y'all, it's that time again for the Central Texas Chapter spring conference May 16th & 17th in San Marcos, TX. We will be offering a food and environmental track, an OSSF track as well as an animal care track. We will also be having our world famous happy hour on the river. So please come join us for this excellent education opportunity.

Monty J. McGuffin R.S. D.R.

Chapter President

East Texas

2012 has been a very busy year so far. Just like everyone else, we are working to adjust to the many questions about changes in regulations in ADA, food, and more. It is great watching an organization like ours make changes to adjust and meet the demands and challenges of the day. The East Texas Governing Council has been working to evaluate ways to include more of our area professionals in training and support activities. You may be one of the folks tasked to inspect or enforce something. You may not feel like you have enough information to adequately equip you to do what you are tasked to do. I hear that from folks in various city and municipal venues. We want to bridge those chasms. If you are a city that has an official "inspector" and you neighbor communities that don't have that "official" trained inspector, please invite them to our meeting or link them to information being passed down about free and low cost training and CEU's. We can really impact our area if we help our neighbors. (Share what you know so we all benefit)

Our Chapter has also been very busy planning a 3 track "Spring Training". We will do a one day 8 hour training at Tyler Jr. College West Campus on April 27th 2012 from 8AM-5PM. Registration begins at the door at 7AM. There is no cost for this training. The training will include Animal Control, Food, Code Enforcement, Swimming Pool Inspection and Regulation info, Backflow prevention and more. We also have offering a Pest Applicators and Vector class being offered on May 9th, 2012 at Tyler Jr. College West Campus. This class cost is \$130.00 Please see our East Texas Chapter area info on this website to view the training brochures. Please come to one of our events so you "stay in the loop".

We can appreciate the many challenges faced by Enforcement, Inspectors, and control officers. If you need some support or have a suggestion to provide better support to you and folks in our communities, please contact me at 903.575.4149. Please put the Annual Education Conference on your calendar now. It will be October 9-12, 2012 in Austin. It won't be the same without you!

Ben Stobnicki CEO

Chapter President

In This Issue

Governing Council

NEHA Region VP Report

In Memory Of

Member Spotlight

Chapter Reports

Information and Notices

Gulf Coast

The Gulf Coast Chapter held a one day conference in Baytown on March 22, 2012. There were about 90 people in attendance with three tracts to choose from. We will have a governing council meeting in Spring, on April 26, 2012 to start planning the next one day conference in the Fort Bend area for mid-August.

Scott Nichols
Chapter President

North Texas

The North Texas TEHA chapter had a meeting on March 8th with five speakers and a variety of topics. The meeting was held at the Tarrant County Public Health Office.

David Jefferson spoke on syndromic surveillance of water systems. This included the need for public health departments to work with medical providers when collecting data for monitoring purposes.

Aimee Carpenter talked about special concerns with sanitation in child care settings. This primarily focused on pest control and integrated pest management.

It was a pleasure to welcome Terrill Overstreet with Sparkling Water Pools to highlight pool safety from the pool man's perspective. His presentation was well received.

After lunch Katie Moore talked about the new ADA rules. She explained how the new rules affect a range of pool facilities, answered many questions, and discussed how some answers were going to be decided by lawyers in court.

Our final speakers were Rebecca St. John and Claire Bellott talking about raw milk.

Our next meeting is May 3rd in Plano. We have six speakers lined up for a wide variety of topics. We even have an hour of OSSF on the agenda.

North Texas Council approved not charging council members for attending meetings. Also, TEHA members who attend as a speaker will not be charged.

Tom Vyles, REHS
Chapter President

Panhandle/West Texas

The Panhandle/West Texas chapter has scheduled a chapter meeting for June. We are also organizing a couple of training opportunities. One on foodborne illness outbreak investigations and hazardous waste. Look for additional information for both of these training opportunities in the near future.

Stuart Walker, RS
Chapter President

In This Issue

Governing Council

NEHA Region
VP Report

In Memory Of

Member Spotlight

Chapter Reports

Information and
Notices

Information and Notices

Student Program - NEHA REGION V

As the NEHA RVP and EHAC council member I will again be inviting EH students from Baylor and Texas Southern University to attend the TEHA AEC in October. This was a very positive experience for both the students and the TEHA members in 2011 and would like to keep the momentum.

For Governing Council members who are not aware Texas has two Universities with accredited Schools of Environmental Health, Baylor University and Texas Southern University, as well as other state colleges and universities with EH based programs. Last year both under graduate programs were invited. Only Baylor was able to attend. Bryan Brooks brought students from the program at Baylor.

Please let me know if the arrangements from the 2011 AEC are still available for the students:

1. Students attend the conference for the student member rate of \$20. Bear in mind these students will not be submitting for CE's.
2. If they elect to stay for the banquet a cost could be assessed for the banquet ticket or tickets could be donated by members who have paid for full conference registration and would be leaving prior to the banquet. (They did not stay for the banquet last year, but is an option.)
3. I would like to have the same hotel rate available to them as TEHA members, in the event they would like to stay at the hotel. Basically, I am trying to make this as low cost for the student as possible to encourage them to attend.

I would like to continue the mentor / member program we had in 2011 to introduce the students to members and answer questions the students may have and guide them through the conference. The mentor would not have to be with the student at all times, but meet with the student at set times during the day or between sessions.

TEHA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE & CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Information promoting the Award and Certificates will be sent the week of March 6, 2012 to Chapter Presidents and various jurisdictions. If a Chapter President did not receive this e-mail please have them contact me at sandral@plano.gov so that I have the correct e-mail address to send the information. Reminders will be sent approximately April 19, May 15 and June 18, 2012. The information advised of a July 15, 2012 submittal deadline.

The Committee will review the submittals for the Award of Excellence and Certificates of Achievement. Rating sheets will be e-mailed to the committee members to be returned to Sandra Long, by Sept. 1, 2012. Additional correspondence will be via e-mail. Award recipients will be selected by Sept. 15. Calls will be placed to the Award recipients as notification of Award or Certificate.

If anyone knows of a program which should be considered for an Award or Certificate please let me know so that I can make contact with them and encourage them to submit.

In This Issue

Governing Council

NEHA Region
VP Report

In Memory Of

Member Spotlight

Chapter Reports

Information and
Notices

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