Oregon Environmental Health Association
Furthering the Education of the Environmental Health Professional
Newsletter
September, 2010

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MEMBERSHIP
OEHA membership is made up of Registered Environmental Health Specialists and Waste Management Specialists from Oregon’s Public Health Agencies and private industry; Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Health Services, Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Agency, Oregon Department of Agriculture, local county health depts. This variety provides an excellent cross-section of knowledge and expertise to handle day-to-day issues concerning public health and the environment.

OEHA Board will no longer need to track which members remain in ‘good-standing’ and which ones do not. In addition, employers are more likely to pay a membership fee that is incorporated into a training conference. The original due date was originally created because the annual conference was held in the spring. Now that the education conference is held in the fall the financial pressure has greatly decreased during the spring months.

The disadvantage of this change is that OEHA may become financially unstable during the period leading up to the annual education conference. Without membership renewal fees arriving in the months leading up to the conference, it may prove difficult to generate facility deposits for the upcoming conference while still providing scholarships and other benevolent activities.

OEHA provides more to Environmental Health Specialists throughout Oregon that just an annual education conference. We play an active role in environmental health policy development in the State of Oregon. We have active members serving and/or advising several legislative advisory committees such as:

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Contemporary Issues at the Oregon Environmental Health Registration Board by Ian Stromquist

We, registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS), are members of a regulated profession, sanctioned by the Oregon State Legislature, who are exclusively mandated to administer quality sanitation evaluations of public facilities including all natural and built environments. As required by statute, we are highly educated professionals overseen by the power of law.

On July 27th, 2010, we were informed that the Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA) had proposed increasing our annual professional license fee by 83% along with other fee increases. Immediately, OEHA responded by passing the news to our members and colleagues.

Thanks to the work (and words) of many of our members, on August 10th, 2010, during a meeting of the Environmental Health Registration Board, it was announced that no license fee increase would take place. However, fees for applications would increase by 33% (as proposed).

This event once again sparked discussion regarding the role of the Oregon Health

By Jim Solvedt

The Good: I was thrilled to represent OEHA at the NEHA conference this spring. It was an honor to be selected by fellow board members; actually I was selected by default since our OEHA President could not attend.

The Bad: I chose many training seminars in various Environmental Health disciplines to walk away a brilliantly educated man and bring back to Oregon a wealth of knowledge. I attended classes concerning solid waste, onsite sewage, emergency response, vectors, green chemistry, and foodborne illness. Instead I walked away with very little new information. The classes were just too general. Maybe I did learn something the last 16 years – 12 of those years in Oregon. I took away the fact that Oregon does a great job of preparing and training Environmental Health Specialist.

The Ugly: The timing of the travel was not good. I arrived in New Mexico during record setting heat (102° F). And due to the bad economy, the conference did little to satisfy your hunger and thirst. No snacks during breaks. The water cooler was the water hole, and it did remind me of a water hole. The containers were dirty and the containers were filled with tap water, awful tap water. Apparently the tap water was good enough for the cockroaches. I had one large cockroach greet me one evening in my room. I guess I am a spoiled Oregonian with high expectations.

“The Effect of Atorvastatin Calcium on the Regeneration of Planaria” and “The Effect of Lipitor on the Regeneration of Planara.” by Jane A Crotteau

“Bacteriological Water Quality Monitoring, Comparing Dry and Rainy Days, in Four Tributaries of the Sandy River.” by Elijah Kolmes

“The Toxicity of Primary Neurons Treated with Herbicides.” by Reddy Tejaswini

The winners were awarded $60 per project. Congratulations to you all!
**Membership renewal, continued**

Oregon Drinking Water Advisory Committee, the Committee of Local Environmental Health Supervisors, and the Oregon Health Licensing Agency. Whenever policy issues arise, we act to protect both our profession and the quality of public health in Oregon.

Without strong financial support from our membership, there may come a time when our volunteers are not available to do this important work because of personal financial constraints.

While you consider this issue leading up to our general membership meeting on September 13th, 2010 in Bend (first day of the annual education conference), consider the advantages of these changes and the repercussions for the future.

Look on your website for how to update your membership with OEHA.

Make sure to spread the word to all EHS, old or new!

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**A look at your 2009-2011 board**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Ian Stromquist</td>
<td>Hood River County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Gerhard Matheis</td>
<td>Multnomah County</td>
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<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Jim Solvedt</td>
<td>Polk County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Terry Westfall</td>
<td>Douglas County</td>
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<td>Treasurer /Member Services</td>
<td>Jenifer George</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Morgan Poloni</td>
<td>Tillamook County</td>
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<td>Randy Howarth</td>
<td>Multnomah County</td>
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<td>Bob Anderson</td>
<td>Private Industry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest Regional Director</td>
<td>Greg Adams</td>
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<td>Eastern Regional Director</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
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Each year OEHA sponsors annual and regional conferences covering topics which may include food production & safety, waste water disposal, industrial hygiene, epidemiology, disaster response, and other educational seminars as the need arises. The speakers for these educational conferences are recruited not only from Oregon, but also from other parts of the U.S. Speakers come from local, state, federal agencies, universities, and private industries.