Welcome to the Fall 2019 Edition of the OEHA Newsletter! As promised in the previous edition, we are highlighting Bill Emminger, 2019 REHS of the Year! Bill was awarded the Registered Environmental Health Specialist of the Year during the 2019 OEHA Conference.

Bill Emminger has worked in the Environmental Health field for 40 years. Bill graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Butler University, Indiana in 1978. He has a Certified Public Manager Certificate from Indiana University/Perdue University.

Bill’s first Environmental Health job was counting mosquitoes by letting them bite him in the Indiana wetlands. He then moved on to work as the General Mills Quality Assurance Manager from 1988-1990. Bill then took a position as the State Food Protection Manager with the Utah Department of Health, where he worked from 1992-2000.

Bill finally ended up in Oregon when he took a job with the Oregon Health Authority in 2000. He has been the Benton County Environmental Health Director since 2002.

While Director at Benton County Health Department, Bill has recruited countless interns to encourage the study of Environmental Health.

Bill helped to adopt the FDA food code in Oregon and was also instrumental in having Oregon adopt the Federal Food Code.

Bill Emminger has been instrumental in putting OEHA back on the map and becoming an active and vibrant organization. He has organized the OEHA history, developed detailed budgets and coordinated recent annual conferences.

Thank you, Bill Emminger, for your service in the field of Environmental Health, and congratulations on being recognized as Registered Environmental Health Specialist of the Year!
I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. It has been a busy one at OEHA. There are many goals for this year and we are looking forward to achieving these goals. OEHA is truly blessed with many thoughtful and dedicated leaders. Here is a sample of what we are working on this year:

Cultivating Leadership

We are not just education! OEHA this year is setting a new precedent to offer leadership and career development for environmental health professionals. We can all benefit from greater learning of new skills especially soft skills. As Environmental Health Specialists, we have a unique ability to relate and regulate many different facets in the environmental health world which makes us ideal leaders. Many employers do not have leadership training offerings, those that do often can be very limited in availability and not always accessible for EHS. OEHA will be offering leadership training at our Spring 2020 conference. Stay tuned for details.

Increasing Membership

As an organization, we would like to increase our membership by 25% this year to get more environmental health specialist involved in their professional association.

“OEHA brings together like-minded professionals in the environmental health field”

We all want to be a part of something bigger and OEHA brings together like-minded professionals in the environmental health field to give us that opportunity to have a voice in our industry and be a part of shaping the future of environmental health in Oregon and nationally. OEHA is an affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association. See the article below about NEHA 2019 Annual Educational Conference.

Updating our Bylaws

OEHA was founded in 1941 as the Oregon Association of Sanitarians, following the national name change as Environmental Health we became OEHA in 1970. We celebrate 78 years as a professional organization this year! chair.

With this long tenure comes many changes and we need to update and reorganize our bylaws to currently reflect how our organization operates. This is a very time-consuming task that our past president Bill Emminger has volunteered to.

As you can see, there is exciting work ahead! Remember to give is to receive! As you make your personal goals, please plan to volunteer for OEHA. We have many volunteer opportunities: newsletter, conference planning, bylaws committee, legislative committee, website, and membership committee. The continued success of OEHA depends on your participation....and the friendships you make along the way are an amazing bonus!

Cheers, Sarah
Funny Stories from the Field

The Case of the Baffling Bar Turtle

A call came in from a patron of a restaurant that had deep concerns that this restaurant had a turtle on its bar. She thought that this was not right nor sanitary and we should do something about this immediately. It was one of my restaurants and I did not remember any terrarium or fish tank present. I called the restaurant and talked to a manager who asked what the call was about. I said this was about a turtle. Perplexed, she said the turtle was actually a rock, which is carved to look like a turtle. Their semi annual inspection was due so I had to see for myself this “rock”. Attached is picture of the rock in a glass. Mystery solved.

All In for OEHA

Ever wonder why you should join the Oregon Environmental Health Association? What do you get for your annual fee?

Participating in OEHA helps build the collective voice needed to better advocate and promote the industry. The association also provides a pathway for which to lobby and introduce legislation supporting Environmental Health and protecting its practitioners. Through OEHA we can work toward increasing professional recognition, developing the future workforce and increasing wages.

Currently, of the 260 Registered Environmental Health and Waste Water Specialists in Oregon, only about 80 are members of OEHA.

“Creating a more livable environment”

Increasing membership will help us maintain our professional integrity and ensure the future of the industry. Together we can make a difference for you, the environment and our communities.

OEHA member benefits include:

• Professional Development & Networks
• Scholarships supporting college students in Environmental Health
• Continuing Education
• Conference Discounts
• Annual Educational Conference
• Legislation & Lobbying
• Newsletters and other updates

Volunteer Opportunities

State Drinking Water Committee

OEHA is recruiting for volunteers to represent OEHA on the State Drinking Water Advisory Committee.

Contact President Sarah Puls or a Board Member if interested.

Other Committees:

• Ethics & Standards
• Finance
• Legislative & Resolution
• Scholarship
• Membership
• Awards
• Nominations
• Education/Training
• Website
• Constitution & By-Laws
• Communication

www.oeha.org
I've been “sanitarian-ing” long enough, 39.75 years! It all began in Klamath County as a trainee. It was the day after Halloween 1979. You had to be tough to work in Klamath County back in the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's.

Politics were pretty unfriendly toward environmental health efforts but lucky for me due to turmoil of the 60's and 70's a “policy setting” public health board had been established.

The health board and DEQ held me in high regards but some of the local politicians practiced demeaning mean good-ole-boy behavior.

Being on the first wave of retaking the onsite wastewater program and the woodstove pollution issue was a real hoot. I blazed a lot of gnarly steep trails!

Then September 15, 1995 I started at DEQ. The groundwater concerns in south Deschutes and north Klamath counties were just beginning to whirlpool. I first took a position in Bend where Sandie and I wanted to raise our boys.

“I have loved working in the Onsite Wastewater program”

In short order I took a manager position in Pendleton, 2.5 years later budget cuts brought us back to Bend. I was excited to work for Dick Nichols and Bend DEQers’ like Don Bramhall, Tom Hall, Walt West, Jayne West, Peter Brewer, Frank Messina, Mike Renz and Cliff Walkey.

I hired Larry Brown again and away from Klamath County to join us at DEQ 12/95 and to my preference; Eric Nigg became my supervisor Fall of 2005.

It has been the DEQ mission and the DEQ/County staff both near and far that has kept me here. I have loved working in the Onsite Wastewater program and in the Bend DEQ office!

I’m going to miss interaction with all the dedicated professionals working for and with the Onsite Wastewater program. I truly will miss helping others and getting the job done!

My leaving and not working a couple more years has simply came down to the needs of my love for my loved ones! I need to spend every future moment I have with them. So this is a joyful moment for me!

Bob…Robert Baggett, REHS
541-633-2036
541-815-9993

Announcing the Retirement of Bob Baggett
“In My Serendipitous Honor!”

Bob’s Retirement Party took place on Thursday, August 1st, 2019

It always starts with ‘Good Communication’!
OEHA’s 2019 Mid-Willamette Regional Meeting will be held September 26, 2019 10:30 to 2:30 at Camp Lutherwood, an organizational camp located in the foothills of the coast range outside Eugene. The meeting will be an opportunity to share and learn about the various environmental health aspects of running an organizational camp, including public water systems, wastewater treatment and disposal, food safety. In addition, the camp experienced a serious fire where, the main lodge and kitchen was destroyed during Outdoor School season and right before summer camp. Camp staff scrambled to continue with programs that were scheduled. Learn how the camp responded and the coordination with Lane County’s Environmental Health Department. Find out more and register here: [http://www.oregoneha.org/aec.htm](http://www.oregoneha.org/aec.htm)

**Upcoming Affiliated Meetings and Events**

Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) meetings on the third Thursday of the month, from 9:30am - 1:30pm at the Portland State Office Building.

The OEHA Board meeting is open to all OEHA members. The Board typically meets on the third Thursday of every month from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

**ONLY @ OEHA!**

OEHA is on the cutting edge for providing training at our annual conference. Consider these “new” training novelties:

- At OEHA you can look a speaker in the eye when you ask a question.
- At OEHA You can talk to the speaker after the presentation and collect more insight.
- At OEHA You can hear perspectives on each topic from fellow EHS.

At our annual conference, OEHA teaches best practices in professional communication. Consider learning these new and novel communication techniques:

- At OEHA You can talk to someone rather than sending a text or email.
- At OEHA You can remember how to shake hands or share a warm embrace.
- At OEHA You can sit with another EHS at breakfast, lunch, dinner or a munch & mingle

**ONLY @ OEHA!**
Proposed House Bill 2600 may allow non-REHS staff to conduct Long Term Care Facility inspections. Jeff Freund, REHS with Deschutes County Environmental Health, pulled together some key information from CLHO to keep you informed on this important public health development.

**Staff Measure Summary**

Requires personnel at specified facilities to receive training to recognize disease outbreaks and infection control at the time of hiring, unless training received at another facility within the previous 18 months or annually as part of continuing education requirements. Authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS), in consultation with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), to establish training components by rule. Provides for training in person, in writing, by webinar, or by other electronic means. Requires specified facilities to establish and maintain infection prevention and control protocols for a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment that prevents development and transmission of communicable diseases.

Requires a facility to designate an individual to be responsible for infection prevention and disease control protocols. Requires DHS, in coordination with OHA, to communicate regularly with facility administrators on best practices and prevention protocols.

Authorizes DHS, in consultation with OHA, to notify facilities in a community where an elevated risk of infectious disease outbreak exists.

Requires DHS to inspect kitchens and other areas where food is prepared annually, except when DHS has scheduled a survey in the same year.

Allows DHS to charge an inspection fee of up to $200. Prohibits DHS or OHA from denying or delaying a license or refusing renewal of a license for a facility’s first failure to pass inspection, or if the agency fails to conduct inspection in a timely manner.

Requires DHS to conduct on-site inspection of kitchen and other areas where food is prepared upon receipt of a license application and fee to operate a facility. Requires Long Term Care Ombudsman to notify DHS or OHA of disease outbreaks reported by residents.

**Goals of HB 2600**

The goal of HB 2600 was to increase training of Long-Term Care Facility Staff to reduce outbreaks in these facilities. CLHO, Lane and Multnomah Counties all worked with Representative Nathanson to work to add the inspection of kitchens in Long Term Care Facilities to the bill. We worked very hard to try and require those facilities to contract with existing REHS staff in local public health, however, the industry had serious concerns about being “regulated” by two different agencies. In the end facilities will, starting in January of 2020, have one kitchen inspection each year by trained DHS staff.
Current OEHA Board Members
Thank you for your service!

- **PRESIDENT:** Sarah Puls, SPuls@eugene-or.gov
  Term Ends 2021

- **PAST PRESIDENT:** Bill Emminger, Bill.emminger@co.benton.or.us

- **PRESIDENT ELECT:** Connie Schrandt, Connie.Schrandt@state.or.us
  Term ends 2021

- **VICE- PRESIDENT:** Rick Hallmark, Richard.hallmark@chw.coos.or.us
  Term Ends 2021

- **TREASURER/MEMBER RECRUITMENT:** John Mason
  John.Mason@deschutes.org and Jeff Freund Jeff.Freund@deschutes.org

- **SECRETARY:** Kaline Chavarria, kchavarria@co.lincoln.or.us
  Term Ends 2022

- **NW REGIONAL REP:** Annette Pampush, apampush@co.tillamook.or.us
  Term End 2020

- **MID WILLAMETTE REG REP:** Randy Trox, randall.trox@state.or.us
  Term Ends 2022

- **SW REGIONAL REP:** Angie Scott, adscott@co.douglas.or.us
  Term Ends 2021

- **EASTERN REG REP:** Ramona Quinn, rquinn@co.klamath.or.us
  Term Ends 2021

Looking Ahead

Announcing the 2020 OEHA Annual Education Conference

The 2020 OEHA Conference will be held in Bend, two 3/4 days and one night, this coming Spring.