The Purpose of OEHA is to provide assistance in creating a more livable environment through equipping its membership with the professional ability to accomplish this goal.

The OEHA Board meeting is open to all OEHA members. The Board typically meets on the third Thursday of every month from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

OEHA Board Members
President Bill Emminger
Past President Delbert Bell
President-Elect Craig Geddes
Vice President Rick Hallmark
Treasurer John Mason
Secretary Kaline Chavarria
NW Regional Rep. Annette Pampush
Willamette Regional Rep. Phebe Howe
SW Regional Rep. Angela Scott
Eastern Regional Rep. Ramona Quinn

The OEHA Annual Education Conference was at Mt. Bachelor Village in Bend this year. There were 55 attendees, per CEU certificates sent out, and overall things went well without a hitch! Surveys received were very positive in summary. The Board is already planning and looking forward to 2019!

Congratulations to John Mason for receiving the “EHS of the Year” award, and to Amy Chapman for receiving the “Vern Reierson Meritorious Service” award. John is employed by Deschutes County, has been the OEHA Treasurer for many years, and he travels around the State to teach Swimming Pool/Spa Operator courses throughout the year. Amy has been Lincoln County EH’s Manager for over 33 years, and is said to be patient, supportive, and dedicated with/to both coworkers and customers. Both of these folks have provided extensive time and support to OEHA and the Environmental Health profession!

Thanks to all who contributed to the OEHA scholarship fund; $592 was raised by the silent auction.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We are continuing to rebuild Oregon Environmental Health Association (OEHA) infrastructure and membership base. Much of this work has been behind the scenes and done by volunteers. I am happy to report that the work we are doing to date has helped to lay a solid foundation for the future. None of the officer, board or committee members receive payment for our service. We do this because we believe in our profession and the work we do.

**Tax Exempt Status:** In March 2015 we as a board became aware that OEHA lost our tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501C6 organization in May 2013. Our internal review revealed that the reason cited by the IRS was because no tax return was submitted before April 15, 2011. A change of the OEHA mailing address and using volunteers who were not aware of IRS reporting requirements were possible contributing factor that resulted in a failure to report. On December 12, 2015 we set on a process to have our tax exempt status reinstated. This involved a series of meeting with the OEHA Board to consider what the process would be to reinstate our tax exempt status, an assessment of the pros and cons of a various tax exempt status such as 501C3 Charitable Organization, 501C4 Social Welfare Organization, 501C5 Labor, Agricultural and Horticultural Organization, 501C6 Business Leagues, and 527 Political Organizations, and if pursuing tax exempt status was in the best interest of the association.

After careful review we determined that the 501C6 status was the most attractive option. It offered the following advantages. 1) Political Campaign Activity – Permitted so long as it does not constitute the organization’s primary activity. 2) Lobbying – Unlimited amount of lobbying in furtherance of its exempt purpose permitted. 3) General Advocacy – Unlimited amount in furtherance of exempt purpose.

We then retained the services of Robert A Goetz, EA, LTC of Alpine Accounting who assisted us in preparing seven years of tax returns as part of the tax exemption application process. We are continuing to retain this CPA to assist us in meeting future tax reporting requirements.

I am happy to report that as of November 3, 2016 our tax exempt status was reinstated. Further the tax exempt status was made retroactive to date of revocation in May 2013. As a result no break in our tax exempt status occurred which is a positive outcome for anyone who contributed to OEHA during this time period.

**Updating OEHA Financial Management Systems:** Our financial management system has been updated to Quicken Software. This will allow us to more accurately track income and expenses for budgeting and tax reporting purposes.

**OEHA Membership:** We are rebuilding OEHA membership base and putting into place better processed for tracking membership and membership renewals.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (CONT’D)

OEHA Website: We are working on making incremental changes to our OEHA website by updating content. The most obvious change you may have noticed is we have now adding the ability to renew membership and conference registration online. This was the most often requested improvement that we heard from OEHA members and are happy to make it a reality in time for this conference.

Partnerships: We are continuing to pursue partnerships with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Health Authority, Oregon State University as well as others. I am happy to announce that Sarah E. Rothenberg, D.Env. from Oregon State University has agreed to work with our 2019 OEHA Conference Planning Committee. This will enhance an important and valued relationship with the Environmental and Occupational program at Oregon State University.

Expanding the Scope of OEHA: To help position both OEHA and our membership to be better prepared for continuing work related to public health modernization. We are expanding the scope of OEHA from regulatory environmental health to include non-regulatory environmental health.

The Oregon Environmental Health Association Award for Excellence in Scientific Research in Environmental Health. This award is given during regional and statewide science fair competitions sponsored by Intel Northwest Science Expo (INWSE). OEHA encourages judges to make this award to a student or team whose science project shows the greatest promise in protecting human health through protecting the environment by: Demonstrating the use of the scientific process in studying an environmental health issue, or demonstrating a practical application in protecting human health and the environment. In 2017 we made a total of seven awards to high school student participating in the Intel Northwest Science Expo. The 2018 competitions is currently in progress. Six of the seven awards are regional awards and one is a statewide award. High school fairs in the INWSE follow the rules governing participation in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), a program of Society for Science & the Public (SSP), is the world’s largest international pre-college science competition. There are now 15 categories in which high school students may enter projects. Judges typically have an MA, MS, or Ph.D. in the category in which they choose to judge, or in a closely related field. Professionals at the Bachelor’s level with three or more years of relevant experience are also eligible to serve as high school judges. OEHA members who are Registered Environmental Health Specialist are often valued as judges in these events as experts in helping to decide what high school science project qualifies for Oregon Environmental Health Association Award for Excellence in Scientific Research in Environmental Health.

There is more we can and should be doing, but we can only do as much as we have people willing to help. If you have an interest in helping to lay a solid foundation for the environmental health profession in the future I would encourage you to volunteer to help. To learn more about OEHA see me or one of our board or committee members.

I am looking forward to serving as your President in 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

William B. Emminger, Jr., REHS
There are 7 accredited public health schools in Oregon for faculty who teach public health classes to choose from. The statistics and charts at [http://www.educationnews.org/career-index/public-health-schools-in-oregon/](http://www.educationnews.org/career-index/public-health-schools-in-oregon/) help analyze the current state of the public health academic community in Oregon, and the future trends in public health training at the following levels:

- Public Health Certificate
- Bachelors degree in Public Health
- Masters degree in Public Health
- PhD degree in Public Health

Linn-Benton Community College
6500 Pacific Blvd SW, Albany, Oregon 97321

Northwest Christian University
828 East 11th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon 97401-3745

Oregon Health & Science University
3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Rd, Portland, Oregon 97239-3098

Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

Portland State University
724 SW Harrison, Portland, Oregon 97201

Willamette University
900 State St, Salem, Oregon 97301

Western Oregon University
345 North Monmouth Ave, Monmouth, Oregon 97361-1394

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**REMEMBER**

CAN BE POSTED ON OEHA’S WEBSITE;

ALSO WELCOMING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER!!!

**email them to** secretary@oregoneha.org

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PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS HEADLINES—WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!

- Shell Eggs Salmonella
- Kratom powder Salmonella
- Romaine lettuce E. Coli
- Continued algae blooms/advisories
- Cyanobacteria in Salem drinking water

[www.oregoneha.org](http://www.oregoneha.org)
JUST FOR FUN—

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH WORD SEARCH

ANIMALBITES  CAMPS  CHILDCARE
EVENTS  FOOD  INSPECTIONS
LICENSES  LODGING  OUTBREAKS
PROTECT  PUBLIC  RESTAURANT
RVPARKS  SANITARIAN  SPAS
SPECIALISTS  SWIMMINGPOOLS  TRAINING
TRUCKS  VENDING  WATERSURVEYS
Clean Team Handwashing
Demonstration Trailer

‘Come and get it” for only $50, and refundable deposit!

Our Western Oregon trailer went to three (3) County Fairs (Jackson, Lane, & Douglas) this summer!!!

For hand wash trailer availability and scheduling, please contact:

♦ Craig Geddes MPH, REHS
  Malheur County (VALE, EASTERN OR)
  541-473-5186, email = Craig.Geddes@malheurco.org
  OR

♦ Angela Scott BS, REHS
  Douglas County (ROSEBURG, WESTERN OR)
  541-440-3569 , email = adscott@co.douglas.or.us

OREGON HEALTH INSPECTIONS ON-LINE:


UPCOMING AFFILIATED MEETINGS/EVENTS

• REHS Board Meeting 10/5/2018, 9:30AM at Salem office
• Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) Council Meeting 8/23/18, 9AM to noon at Salem office
• Oregon Public Health Association (OPHA) 2018 - SAVE THE DATE
  October 8th & 9th, 2018 in Corvallis; OSU campus
• Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CHLO) meetings 3rd Thursday monthly, 9:30am - 1:30pm at Portland State Office Bldg