Message From The President
By James Hodina, President, IEHA, 2015-2016
Dear IEHA Members,

I must start off this edition of the Saniscript extolling the success of our 2015 NEHA Region 4 Conference. High marks were received on the conference survey for many things including the registration process, effective moderators, and our excellent speakers. The latter was reinforced with your written comments. The variety of presentations and the choices offered helped meet many of the educational needs of our attendees. Networking with our peers is always noted by conference goers, but extending these opportunities with fun activities such as dodge ball, the pub crawl, yoga, and the live tattoo demonstration brought it all together. A couple of my favorite quotes, which I believe sum up the experience wonderfully:
• “I believe in the 8 years that I have been attending these conferences, this was one of the best.”

• “IEHA and NEHA members are such a great group to spend some time. So much positive energy to take home with you!”

Thank you to all who were involved in planning and working at the conference and those who presented during the conference. Your efforts were truly outstanding.

Of course, we are already preparing for the next conference. IEHA is represented on the 2016 Iowa Governor’s Conference Planning Committee by Sandy Heinen and me. The committee recently met and selected the abstracts for the spring conference. I am pleased to say that there were enough high-quality abstracts submitted that the conference will include a full two-day track for environmental health.

Our annual membership survey was recently completed. Approximately half the membership responded. Many of you identified preferences for future training. Environmental nuisances along with many water quality related topics garnered the greatest interest. More than a quarter of our membership also expressed interest in food code, climate change, and emergency preparedness training. When asked “on a scale of 1-5, how well does IEHA provide benefits for the membership,” about half of those surveyed responded favorably (4 or 5) and about one-third were neutral (3). A quarter said the quality of our training was only “fair” (2). On a more positive note, 84% of the respondents expressed feeling satisfied with their membership dues investment in IEHA. So, in 2016, I fully expect to see a greater effort made to build upon the positive relationships we have among IEHA members and improve and expand training opportunities outside the two traditional conferences held in the spring and fall. Finally, communication is always vital for any successful organization, particularly one as diverse as ours. Ninety percent of the survey responses indicate our website and newsletter is good to excellent and while less than half of you follow us on Facebook, more than half suggest we use Twitter to share information and IEHA
highlights with the public. We will work on that last suggestion.

As we wrap up 2015, we have a lot on our plate in preparation for a successful 2016. I hope that you read the announcement sent November 23rd informing you that our Executive Director, Jaci Miller, is stepping down in December. While that is very disappointing, it does give us the opportunity to reevaluate our options for her replacement. A fiduciary goal is to create a balanced budget by the year 2020. Our original strategic plan, approved in 2013, was to hire an executive director and then grow revenues by doubling our membership base to 300. Before Jaci’s announcement, the current IEHA Board revisited that growth projection and our 5 year budget plan and we propose to make some changes. These include reducing planned expenses by nearly 30%, better managing our conference expenses so that these events are profitable, and increasing our current membership base by 50 members to 220 by 2020. We believe these targets are achievable. The Board will consider and hopefully approve the FY16 budget at our December 11th Board Meeting. The budget reflects a projected $6,500 shortfall in 2016 that will be covered by a small portion of the approximately $70,000 in reserves IEHA currently holds.

With that, please feel free to contact any of your officers, board members, or committee chairs with questions and feedback. With the Executive Director vacancy, emails to “IEHA” will be fielded by the board and most likely, me.

Take care,

Jim

Treasurer’s Notes

By Janet Ott, Treasurer

The 2015 Fall Regional Conference proved to be a financial success for IEHA. To date, we made just shy of $6000 in profits from the conference. This does not include the grant funds of $3500 that have yet to be collected. (We are currently in the process of submitting the required reports and reimbursement forms.) The IEHA raffle and silent auction brought in $1278 to support the IEHA scholarship fund. A big round of applause is needed for the IEHA Conference Planning Committee on their due diligence and planning efforts to assure it was a financially sound and successful conference event.

Be an active participant in your association, not an active listener.
The Board of Directors has been dedicating time to approving a 2016 budget that is sound and as close to target in predicted expenses as possible. Stay tuned for more information to come on the 2016 budget.

We are coming upon that time of year of holiday hustle and bustle. At the beginning of December (the 1st) - it is Giving Tuesday. The day that many non-profit organizations recognize those that have given financial to support their cause. This has reminded us how important our association relies on your generosity to continue to exist. Many of you as members have generously contributed to IEHA this past year, and most recently through the silent auction/raffle event at the fall conference. For those of you that were not able to donate financial, you have contributed your time and knowledge to IEHA. Many thanks to every one of you for being willing to support your professional organization personally and financially.

IEHA Committee News

IEHA Awards Committee would like you to be thinking of your peers and making sure to nominate them for one of the annual IEHA awards to be presented at the Iowa Governor’s Public Health Spring Conference. Nominations will be accepted electronically this year. Watch for more information to come soon!! Award categories are: EH Professional of the Year; Galen Robertson Memorial Award; Harry Grant; Rookie of the Year; Health Department of the Year; Local Board of Health; Industry; and Distinguished Service Award.

Food Safety Task Force met November 3rd in Cedar Rapids. Presentations focused on genome sequencing and the progress that SHL is making towards the transition. A mini-conference on preventative controls was held for task force members. This conference focused on the Food Safety Modernization Act that was signed into law almost four years ago and how it represents a paradigm shift to prevention by establishing a modern system of food safety protection. Want to learn more on preventative controls? Visit http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm247559.htm.

GET INVOLVED TODAY —- In one of the IEHA committees. If you are interested in learning more please contact the Executive Director at iowa.eha@gmail.com.
2015 IEHA Membership Survey

The Iowa Environmental Health Association (IEHA) membership survey was recently completed. Thank you to our membership for providing valuable feedback on issues important to you! Your input is essential for guiding IEHA’s strategic directions for this next year. The Board of Directors is busy reviewing your input and feedback.

You can access general membership survey results on the Members Only page of the website membership survey tab.

Thank you for taking the time to help guide the future of IEHA!

IEHA Scholarship Program

Another great fund raising event occurred at the Region 4 NEHA Fall Conference in Waterloo. Through the generosity of IEHA members and many organization, scholarships continue to support individual seeking to obtain higher education in an environmental health field.

A few pictures of the grant items that were donated to the scholarship fund raffle and silent auction.
Thank you to the following for their generous donations to the silent auction:

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<th>Holland Family Vineyard</th>
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<td>Bankers Life &amp; UNI - Tina Alberg</td>
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Iowa Environmental Health Association

*Remember IEHA is a nonprofit organization with a 501 c 3 tax status with the Internal Revenue Service. Your tax deductible donation can be made anytime online (IEHA Website / Scholarship Opportunities page) or during the fall conference.*

**Recognition of IEHA Members**

**NEHA CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Each affiliate in good standing is invited to designate one of its members to receive a Certificate of Merit from NEHA, thereby nationally recognizing one of their own for outstanding contributions to the profession of environmental health. Each affiliate may nominate a single individual if the affiliate president is an active NEHA member.

**Iowa’s Certificate of Merit Recipient: Jon McNamee (Black Hawk)**

Jon’s career in public health really started with his service in the United States Navy during the years of 1969-1973. Jon served as Fleet Marine Force Corpsman while at Camp Pendleton in California. Part of his duties included assisting with surgeries and infirmary visits. While stationed on Okinawa, Jon encountered more in the field of public health. Interesting delicacies such as baluts buried in the sand and disease intervention. Jon learned the importance of communication when working with the local mama-san in effort to decrease the frequency of certain communicable
diseases. Jon was honorably discharged in 1973. He worked briefly at the “old” St. Francis Hospital in Waterloo after the service. Who knew?... 13 years later, he would be back in that same building working as a health officer.

Jon has been with Black Hawk County since March of 1986 and is heading towards the sunset of his environmental health career. He has dedicated his professional years to the field of environmental health. Jon has a vast knowledge of all aspects of public health and has been mentor to many.

Much of his early years were spent working code enforcement for the City of Waterloo, mosquito surveillance, larviciding (and in very early years fogging), local and regional food inspections. His other duties included, but have not been limited to:

- Emergency management, disaster response and preparedness.
- Iowa Association of Housing Officials
- Rabies and bites, follow-up, referral and animal quarantine
- Radon education
- Lead-previous lead inspector.
- Funeral homes
- Tanning
- Household Hazardous Materials collection days (uncertain of how many years.)
- Currently he serves on the School’s Safety Committee.

He has been an IEHA member in good standing throughout his career.

Some of his roles with IEHA include:

- President and Past President
- ISAC Board
- Legislative committee

Jon has proven to have a great rapport with legislators and has been able to discuss important environmental health issues. Most recently, he has been in touch with various representatives in both the House and the Senate. Those representing our area and beyond know that they can contact Jon for accurate, helpful information regarding the many aspects of Environmental Health.
NEHA Region 4 News

By Keith Johnson, RS

The NEHA board just met in Indianapolis, and I can tell you with some certainty that the AEC will be a new look and feel this year. The president's banquet will be replaced with a large informal gathering with appetizers and beer offsite from the hotel. The awards ceremony becomes a keynote gathering instead, and sessions will increasingly lean toward hands on experiences.

Student involvement is also being emphasized. A student registration will include all meals and events this year, and more student mentors are being sought. The students will become the lifeblood of this profession, and we need to involve them. An in-depth look at affiliates and their success will see an increase in conference emphasis. These are exciting times in NEHA, and I think the AEC in San Antonio is going to reflect that.

I'm not telling you anything new when I say that the region 4 conference in Waterloo was a tremendous success! Over 200 participants, great sessions, and a dodgeball tournament—what's not to like? Congratulations to IEHA and the committee. For the record, Minnesota will host in 2017 and Nebraska has stepped up for 2019.

The NEHA board has two committees working on increasing members and member service right now. Lynne Madison from Michigan heads one, and Vince Radek from CDC heads the other. If you have ideas on what NEHA can do for you, I would encourage you to contact them. Or me! Any of us would love to hear your ideas. Our contact info can be found in the Journal.

Memories of the Fall Conference

It has been requested to share the excitement of the “killer” dodgeball competition as captured with the membership. EVERYONE showed up to try and earn the title as CHAMPIONS of the region 4 fall conference dodge ball tournament. A big thanks to Aimee Devereaux and Tammy McKeever for organizing such a fantastic event!
2016 Iowa Governor’s Conference on Public Health

Navigating a Changing Landscape: Partnerships for Population Health
April 12th and 13th, 2016
Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport
Des Moines, Iowa

2016 Conference Co-Chairs
Sandy Heinen, Iowa Environmental Health Association
and Tricia Kitzmann, Iowa Public Health Association
The Conference Planning Committee is hard at work planning the conference educational sessions. There will be 50 breakout session opportunities with an educational track dedicated to environmental health. Keynote speakers include: Edward Ehlinger, Commissioner Minnesota Department of Health; John Auerbach, Associate Director of Policy, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and Denise Stapely, The Unexpected Gifts of Survivor.

Mark your calendar now. You don’t want to miss out!

Odds and Ends

RESOURCES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS
By Sandy Bubke

Have you ever thought about the available resources that we have at our fingertips? I got to thinking about it and thought I would share a couple that I am using.

The National Ground Water Association has a website, www.wellowner.org and has some awesome information. This website is packed full of helpful resources to help answer questions concerning wells for homeowners. What is so neat about this website you ask? Someone that I work with stated - “I don’t need to know about my well as long as it works and I get water!” How many times have you heard this type of statement from a homeowner! The Private Well class is a free online service, grant funded, to educate homeowners about their private wells. All the homeowner needs to do is sign-up and start learning about their well and they can do it from home or library. Other resources available on this website are: finding a contractor; IDNR contact person – Russ Tell and his information; well basics; how to read your water test results; and much much more. If you get a chance - please check it out. There is also a link on the IEHA website under Education & Training.

The next big event for Environmental Health workers is National Radon Month in January. I found an awesome resource for schools and hopefully you will find it useful also. The resource is on the EPA website - Radiation Education Activities – Radon. Here is the link - http://www3.epa.gov/radtown/docs/radon-activities.pdf#ga=1.179000868.1613506058.1381947067. Another resource that I have found useful, The Radon Activity book found on the American Lung Association website - http://www.healthhouse.org/radon/RadonLessonHandouts13.pdf.
I hope you find these resources helpful. Remember to check out the IEHA website, education & training page for up-coming trainings. The Members Only section has links to resources that are available to you as a member benefit. If you have a resource that you would like to share and place on the IEHA website or in the Saniscript, please let us know.

**Municipal Zoning for Local Foods in Iowa Guidebook & Webinar**

*By Denise Attard Sacco, MPH, CHES*

The *Municipal Zoning for Local Foods in Iowa: A Guidebook for Reducing Local Regulatory Barriers to Local Foods* provides information on strategies as well as samples of zoning code language that aim to reduce barriers to local food production and sales. The guidebook highlights the intersection between local foods and municipal zoning and addresses a number of common urban agricultural uses and associated activities, including crop agriculture (community gardens, urban farms, farming on vacant lots & front-yard gardening), animal agriculture (hydroponics, aquaculture, aquaponics, bees, chickens & goats), composting, urban agriculture districts, direct-to-consumer sales (farmers' markets, farm stands, community supported agriculture (CSA) drop-sites) & food trucks and pushcarts.

The Guidebook also provides information on standards and best practices and speaks about the public health, safety and welfare concerns linked with each urban agricultural activity. Each category is divided into four sections related to the topic under discussion – an introduction, followed by land use concerns associated with the particular agricultural practice, existing regulations governing the said practice, including operating standards and restrictions, and finally, sample code language derived from various municipalities across the nation.

The information provided within this guidebook is based on scientific publications, including those from the United States Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Cooperative Extension publications from several university extension services.

The Municipal Zoning for Local Foods in Iowa guidance document was produced Gary Taylor, J.D., AICP, of the ISU Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development Program, as part of the 2014 Leopold Center Policy Initiative competitive grant. The document may be accessed at this [link](#).
The guidebook was launched on September 30, 2015 via a webinar that introduced the document to local officials and persons involved or interested in local food systems. The webinar also provided information on research conducted by the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Program to identify urban agriculture ordinances adopted in different municipalities, the motivations linked with the adoption of these urban agriculture ordinances and the roles that groups or organizations play in the adoption of such ordinances. One hundred and thirty two municipalities across the nation were surveyed as part of this research. Research findings showed that cities that have low motivation to adopt urban agriculture ordinances were more likely to rely on government agencies for the drafting of policies, whereas in communities that were motivated to adopt urban agriculture policies for health and cultural reasons, the drafting of such ordinances was usually a team effort between the city, planning staff, nonprofit groups, residents or groups of residents, as well as food policy councils, extension offices and public health departments. A recording of this webinar is available at this link.

References:
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Leopold Center. Reducing Regulatory Barriers to Local Foods: Municipal Zoning for Local Foods in Iowa Guidebook. Webinar broadcast retrieved from https://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p830qmr4vtd/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=normal


DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know..... That there is an Iowa Food Safety Task Force website? This website provides you with an abundance of information on different food safety topics. Check it out at: https://ia.foodprotectiontaskforce.com/.

Did you know..... The IEHA Board of Directors has been working diligently on revising, reviewing and drafting new policies and procedures that support IEHA. These policies can be found on the Members Only section of the website - Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures tab. Policies are divided into those recently reviewed and adopted, those in draft, and those that are in the review/revision process. This has been in the works over the past year.
Did you know..... The EPA is combining different types of data to characterize impacts of chemicals to human health and the environment? The research is generating chemical, biological and toxicological information to advance the understanding of relationships between chemical characteristics and potential impacts of use. http://www2.epa.gov/chemical-research/analyzing-life-cycle-chemicals#_ga=1.121918731.1872763008.1444749261

Did you know..... Despite the field’s central role in protecting the basic fundamentals of health - such as safe water, food and air — environmental health work remains a mystery to the average American. Check out this new toolkit: Public Health Messaging Helps Public Understand Environmental Health. http://thenationshealth.aphapublications.org/content/45/8/1.2.full

Did you know..... That larger cities have asked for help to realize the potential of regional food systems as an entrepreneurial strategy for urban economic development, paying special attention to urban agriculture. To learn more check out Urban Agriculture —Best Practices and Possibilities. University of Missouri Extension. Click here to access.

Did you know..... The Integrated Food Safety Centers of Excellence provide assistance and training to other state and local health departments to build their capacity to track and investigate food borne disease. Find out more about the online products developed by the Centers are available at: http://www.coefoodsafetytools.org
Goodbye Note From The Executive Director

Today is my last day as the Executive Director of IEHA. I feel incredibly lucky to have had the opportunity to be a part of the Iowa Environmental Health Association. What a journey it has been. Our work has been deeply meaningful to me and it is very difficult to see my part in the journey end. The association has gone through many changes in the last two years. I know change is not always easy or welcome, however, I have been lucky to work with individuals that see change as a catalyst for reaching new levels of growth for IEHA. This has also brought along opportunity for many members to grow personally and professionally.

I have had the privilege to witness incredible board members and see how they adapt to any situation with integrity and a bit of humor. I will very much miss the environmental health professionals, members, and ambitious volunteers of the association that I got to work with each day for the past two years.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported me along the way. I am honored that you have put your trust in me these last two years. In particular, I want to thank the IEHA Past Presidents (Eric Bradley, Michael Wichman, Tim Dougherty, and Sandy Heinen), current President (James Hodina) and President Elect (Sandy Bubke), who have been incredible mentors as I navigated my way through the role of the Executive Director.

I hope as a member of IEHA, you continue to meet change without fear of the unknown, embrace the challenges ahead, and support the mission of your association.

With gratitude,

Jaci
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Board Member: TBD

Board Member: Michelle Clausen Rosendahl  
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