

# The Montana Environmental Health Association Newsletter

## President's Message

First, I want to say it is quite an honor and privilege to be serving as president of this association.

I did not have time to express my gratitude in Butte last October when Karen handed me the gavel. That may have been a sign of how this year is going to fly by! At least I can take a minute now to share a few words with you.

A few of you knew me at the beginning of my career in Missoula, and witnessed me with a youthful eagerness. Although I wasn't quick to join a cause, once I did I stuck with it tenaciously.

Twelve years, and many restaurant inspections later, I left Bozeman at the end of 2002. I was burnt out. I was ready to leave my environmental health career behind. My husband John accepted a job offer in Sheridan, Wyoming. I worked full time, but not at anything fulfilling.

That fall I attending the conference for my CEUs. When I entered the meeting room for lunch, I joined the buffet line and joined the conversation around me like I had never left. Looking around the room I found that I wanted to be at every table. What a sense of brotherhood!

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Angel-Winged Butterfly,  
Unknown Species, Ross  
Creek Giant Cedar area,  
Lincoln County.

Less than one year went by in Wyoming before I realized I needed to return. I supposed I had to leave RS work behind for a while to realize how rewarding being a sanitarian can be. I was ready for my next step –joining Food & Consumer Safety to help the entire state of Montana, mostly one sanitarian at a time.

As the years are going by, I often wish I had more opportunity - so much still needs to be done. While I plug away at the bigger projects of rule-writing, and program improvement, I am re-energized when I can make one person's day just a little easier, or more effective, or more motivating.

One goal of mine as a MEHA Board Officer is to encourage a culture of brotherhood and camaraderie, regardless of whether it is for a small county, large county, at the state, within MEHA, or partnering with another association. We truly need one another. Individually, good things get accomplished. Together, our synergy is exceptional! This year's conference theme speaks of working together (see page 3). Although we fight like brothers and sisters at times, when we collaborate for improving the health of our communities, great results are accomplished.

Thanks for being my team, my association, my brotherhood, and even my "devil's advocate" through my 20 years serving Montana.

Respectfully,  
Ruth Piccone

## Meet the Association Board Officers

President –Ruth Piccone, working for Food & Consumer Safety in Helena.

President –Elect –Laurel Riek, working for Lewis & Clark County in Helena.

First Vice-President –Erik Leigh, working for Lincoln County in Libby.

Treasurer—Joshua Juarez, working for Yellowstone (a.k.a. Riverstone Health) in Billings.

Secretary—Anna LaFountain, also working for Yellowstone (a.k.a. Riverstone Health) in Billings.

Alternate Treasurer /Director—Toots Tazut, working for MSU in Bozeman.

Director –Jarrod Mohr, working for DEQ in Kalispell.

Director –Sandy Johnson, working for Cascade county in Great Falls.



Ruth Piccone, R.S.  
MEHA President

## Meet the Foundation Board Directors

Past-President—Karen Solberg, working for Powell, Deer Lodge and Granite Counties in Anaconda.

Past-Past-President –Christine Hughes, working for Lake County in Polson.

Treasurer/Secretary –Joshua Juarez, working for Yellowstone (a.k.a. Riverstone Health) in Billings.

## Spring Business Meeting April 23, 2013

The spring business meeting is scheduled for April 23, at 5:30 pm. The last couple of years has been difficult to plan the business meeting. With focused training going on in the spring sponsored by Food & Consumer Safety, not all members get together at once. Still, many plan to be at the Certified Pool Operator Class on Tuesday, April 23 or at the FD218 class on Wednesday and Thursday, April 24 and 25. With many folks coming and

going, the Officers are hoping for a decent turn-out in person. The great news for those who won't be coming to Helena –we are again going to set up a conference call, so you can participate. Calling information will be sent to MEHA members when it is set up. The feedback from last year's conference call was all positive, mainly expressing gratitude for the ability to join in remotely. It's the next best thing to being there.

## 2013 Fall Educational Conference – Save the Date

As requested by a majority of members, MEHA is teaming up again with the Montana Public Health Association (MPHA) to deliver the fall educational conference. A focused “preconference” will be offered Monday, October 7 from 1pm to 5pm. That evening a fun mixer is planned. Then the full conference begins Tuesday morning, October 8, with keynote speakers. Up to five tracks will run until the conference ends, Wednesday, October 9.

The theme this year is “partnering for health change”, which aptly describes the recognition MEHA and MPHA have to our interdependency. No one improves environmental and public health alone. The logo of four hands is meant to represent MEHA, MPHA, Tribal Nations, and all other partners working together for a better future in health.



## Partnering For Healthy Change

October 8 – 9, 2013 • Great Falls, MT  
*MPHA / MEHA Conference*

The conference goals are to provide a broad array of health professionals the opportunity to expand their knowledge base regarding public health topics, to maintain and improve the standards of performance in public health and to foster collaborative relationships.

This year our gathering will be held at the Great Falls Best Western Heritage Inn. This facility will easily accommodate our 150 plus attendees with a large atrium for the mixer and informal gatherings, vendors appealing to environmental health and public health professionals, large and small meeting rooms and comfortable sleeping accommodation. I hope to see you there!



Have you ever wanted to make a presentation at the MEHA Fall Conference? Do you know someone who has been through something interesting? We are now accepting abstracts for the fall conference. Go to the MEHA web site at [www.mehaweb.org](http://www.mehaweb.org), then click on “Presenters, More Information is Here!”

Presentation submissions are due by May 3, 2013. All presenters will be notified of their acceptance (or non-acceptance) status on June 7, 2013.

## Treasurer's Report from October 2012

MEHA - working budget Fiscal Year 2013: November 1, 2012 Through October 31, 2013		
<b>EXPENDITURES: DESCRIPTION</b>		<b>ASSUMPTIONS</b>
		<b>Proposed Fee - \$50</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	2013 Membership Dues	\$5,000.00
	Fall Conference Registration	\$9,900.00
	Fall Conference Vendor	\$700.00
	Interest Income	\$50.00
	Dividend Income	\$0.00
	Fall Conference Profit	\$3,700.00
	Spring Conference	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$19,350.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	Awards	\$450.00
	Bank and Check Charges	\$20.00
	Corporate Filing & AI/BL Filing Fee	\$30.00
	Educational Materials	\$0.00
	Fall Conference	
	Door Prizes/Speaker Gifts	\$300.00
	Other	\$1,000.00
	Room Rental (venue)	\$7,500.00
	Lobbyist	\$3,333.00
	Misc	\$100.00
	NEHA	
	Annual educational conference	\$4,000.00
	President's Membership	\$190.00
	NEHA Regional VP Support	\$500.00
	Newsletter Editor's stipend	\$100.00
	Postage	\$50.00
	Office/computer/printing supplies	\$300.00
	Photographs/archive costs	\$100.00
	Spring Conference	\$0.00
	Telephone	\$400.00
	Credit Card Discount	\$0.00
	Credit Card Payment costs	\$70.00
	Web Editor's stipend	\$150.00
	Wild Apricot Website	\$270.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>\$18,863.00</b>
	<b>Margin</b>	<b>\$487.00</b>

100 members @ \$50

**2013 Fall Conference - 55 @ \$180**

4 @ \$175

**Fall conf. profit**

no spring conference

**article by-laws amendment filing fee**

brochures etc?

trim if needed

AV, setup, (AV depending on locale)

includes venue and speakers and food

**MEHA/MPHA/AMPHO Lobbyist**

max 132.06 - 2010

TBD based on spring conference

N/A if using PayPal non-profit  
PayPal non-profit assuming 50 CC transactions @ \$50

## Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

Changes to the Association Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were officially unveiled at the 2012 Fall Conference in Butte. Thanks to Mary Lou Gilman for precipitating meaningful additions to our Purpose to reflect the National Environmental Health Association preamble. See the text below for the draft language to the Purpose. It's important that you take a look at the draft because we will be voting to approve, disapprove, or approve with amendments at the Spring Membership Business meeting in April. For the complete document, check out our web page at [www.mehaweb.org](http://www.mehaweb.org) or get a copy from Ruth at [rpicone@mt.gov](mailto:rpicone@mt.gov).

### Article III - PURPOSE - Section 1:

The purpose of the Montana Environmental Health Association shall be to maintain and improve the ~~standards of performance of professionals in capability and ethics of~~ Environmental Health professionals by encouraging education and disseminating information who work to preserve, protect, and improve the health and well-being of the people of Montana and those visiting Montana through controlling those environmental constituents, including food, water, air, land, shelter and other resources upon which humanity is dependent for survival. MEHA shall accomplish this by:

- A. ~~Requiring Encouraging~~ the highest degree of skill, efficiency and professional competence among those who practice in the profession of Environmental Health;
- B. Sponsoring educational conferences, maintaining programs of continuing education, disseminating educational material, and supporting scholarships;

- C. Creating a forum for the exchange of technical information, thought, opinion and philosophy in a climate of mutual respect;
- D. Formulating environmental health policy and actively pursuing the resolution of environmental health issues at the state and federal level;
- E. Supporting the promulgation of regulations that provide oversight for public health and environmental protection;
- F. Networking with other organizations with common purposes; and
- G. ~~To engage Engaging~~ in any other lawful activities appropriate to a professional organization; provided, however, that the Association shall not endorse the products or services of any manufacturer or other commercial organization; nor shall it sanction such endorsement by or in the name of the Association by any of its members.

**IN THE NEXT ISSUE: Legislative Update, Board of Sanitarians, NEHA Region 3 Report and more details to the Fall Conference. Submit YOUR news ideas MEHA today!**



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