

Washington State Environmental Health Association General Membership Meeting

October 8, 2007
2007 Joint Conference on Health
Room B
Yakima Convention Center
Yakima, Washington

Present

WSEHA Officers – Vikki Brus (*Eastern Region Vice-President*),
Geoffrey Crofoot (*Northwest Region VP*), Jodie Holdcroft (*Olympic Region VP*),
Tom Kunesh (*2007 JCH Speaker Chair*), Ross Lytle (*Secretary*),
Bruce Scherling (*Southwest Region VP*), Ned Therien (*President-Elect*),
Mike Vinatieri (*President*)

Other members - Rob Blake (NEHA), plus 22 WSEHA members.

Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Agenda

It was noted that we need to work on a lunch/meeting schedule for next year's Joint Conference. Also, Mike reminded the membership that we need the Training survey Form.

Presentation by Rob Blake – NEHA President

Rob Blake led the WSEHA membership through a review of new programs that NEHA is working on for the coming year, and a preview of events to be held at the 2008 NEHA AEC in Tucson, Arizona.

Pre-conference workshops will include environmental health emergency preparedness and integrated pest management – all of which will soon be posted on the NEHA website. He also informed the membership of a new EPA page which will be added to the Journal of Environmental Health.

Approval of Minutes

Copies of the minutes of the WSEHA General Membership meeting of April 27, 2006, held at the Vancouver AEC, were distributed to the membership.

Dave Riggs made the motion to approve the minutes as printed. Jodie Holdcroft seconded the motion. Motion approved

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Treasurer's Report – *Ned Therien for Carol Spaulding*

Ned drew the membership's attention to the 2006 and 2007 Profit and Loss Report. He noted that the organization is "a little in the hole" so far this year, but that we hope to make it up in the remainder of this year. WSEHA is generally solvent and stable for the year. He added that we have not had to dip into WSEHA's investments since March of 2006.

The decline in WSEHA membership continues to be a source of concern.

Regional Vice-Presidents' Updates

Olympic Region – *Jodie Holdcroft* – Jodie noted to the membership that her goals have not changed from last year's meeting. She is still hoping to get more commercial vendors involved in future AECs, and in other training opportunities. She also said she would like to see more state involvement in training.

Northwest Region – *Geoffrey Crofoot* – Geoffrey noted progress in initiating the e-voting, and changing the WSEHA By-laws. He is hoping that this will help in allowing for better interactions within the membership. He admitted that the system didn't work too well this time – we need to work out some technical glitches. Declining WSEHA membership continues to be a concern, but the Joint Conference on Health appears so far to be a success.

Southwest Region – *Bruce Scherling* – Bruce expressed his concern that we have a lot of sanitarians working, but not many of them are signing on with WSEHA. He noted that there has been better networking with WSPHA, thanks mainly to the efforts of Jeff Mero. He also stressed a desire to work more closely with the Washington Board of Registered Sanitarians.

Eastern Region – *Vikki Brus* – Vikki said she wanted to try to get more people involved in WSEHA. She's working with Washington State University to arrange campus tours.

Central Region – The Central Region Vice-President's position is currently vacant. Ned said that he has talked to most of the 15 WSEHA members in the Central Region – so far, no one has been interested in the position.

Committee Reports

Annual Education Conference/Joint Conference on Health Committee – Tom Kunesh announced that he will be stepping down from this position, so we are now looking for a new chairperson. He has already heard back from WSEHA members about this year's JCH, noting that many have requested shorter session for next

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Committee Reports (cont.)

Annual Education Conference/Joint Conference on Health Committee (cont.)

year. He invited the membership to “talk us up”, i.e., to be active in recruiting for WSEHA.

Nominations & Awards Committee - Ned reminded the membership of the statewide WSEHA officers’ positions in which they can serve (President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, and Treasurer). There are two awards to be given this year: the Nordine Outstanding Sanitarian Award and the “Rookie of the Year” Award.

International Health Committee – Ross thanked the WSEHA membership for their Continued support of the Silent Auction this year.

Publications - Ned suggested that we need to get out more newsletter per year...that maybe we don’t need to be “quite so fancy”.

Finance Committee – Peggy Johnson has volunteered to serve on the Finance Committee.

Education – Larry French (retired) has volunteered to serve on the Education Committee.

Policy and Legislation Committee – one unnamed person has volunteered to serve on the Policy and Legislation Committee

Elections

Before announcing the Officer’s Election results, Ned reminded the membership that WSEHA is committed to the Joint Conference on Health in Yakima for 2008. We are looking for feedback about the JCH. Attendance is down with regard to people in the environmental health field.

Treasurer – Steve Garrett was unanimously elected the new WSEHA Treasurer.

President-Elect – Bruce Scherling received **17** votes for President-Elect. Jonnie Hyde received **12** votes.

Pass the Gavel – Mike passed the WSEHA President’s gavel to Ned. Mike was presented a plaque from the WSEHA Board for his years of service to the organization.

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Meeting adjourned 1:09 pm.