



MISSOURI ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

A Message from the President....

Greetings once again & hope you are all finding ways to stay cool. The worse of the heat is nearly behind us. As I am working on today's message, I am giving thought to all the developments even since the last newsletter & AEC.

Fair & back to school season is upon us and for many it is the busiest time of the year. Almost shamefully, while I was born & went through undergraduate school here in Missouri, it is disappointing to admit I have never been to our state fair...maybe next year but to those that are working to make the fairs and back to school fun & safe, thanks!

*I did want to add a comment here about a recently released documentary that is getting a lot of attention in most food safety circles. "Poisoned: The Dirty Truth About Your Food" was released on Netflix this month & has successfully gotten people talking. The story line & its origins are from Bill Marler, an attorney that focuses on representing those that have been injured by foodborne illnesses. While he has done a lot to improve food safety & is even needed to persuade many companies to improve, as a personal decision I will not be watching it. I know individuals interviewed & the editing purposely attempts to create a bias & perception of incompetence. A lot of people work very hard every single day to ensure we have the safest food supply on the planet & in my opinion, the documentary attempts to marginalize many peoples life's commitment. I do applaud Mr. Marler for the impact he has made, I just do not appreciate the antics. Bottom line is that we **can and must** continue to do better but using fear tactics to drive change will never sit well with me.*

What are your thoughts?

Switching gears, I also am aware that another successful NEHA AEC in NOLA & IAFP in Toronto recently wrapped up. MEHA's board was represented at NEHA by Rick Hieman & IAFP by Rick & myself. While it can be expensive to attend these national conferences, I'd recommend trying to attend at least 1x. The networking & learning opportunities are immense.



NEWLETTER UPDATE

The newsletter is put together to benefit the members. Do you have something to share? Upcoming event or general feedback. Let us know!

mehamissouri@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



MEHA can **only** be successful if our members volunteer to help! Not sure how you can help? Don't have too much time? No problem!



APRIL 2-5, 2024

MEHA AEC

Oasis Hotel & Convention Center –
Springfield, MO

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MEHA ICYMI

Just in case you missed it, some hot button items in the food safety/environmental health space! Please contribute to this space by keeping us informed of developments in your world.

- The FDA Leafy Green STEC Action Plan: In July 2023, the agency has planned to begin swabbing harvester equipment used for leafy greens. At time of publication, the swabbing has not yet begun over concerns and clarification needed on potential outcomes. More info: [FY 23/24 Inspection and Environmental Sampling of Leafy Green Harvest Equipment for Listeria monocytogenes and E. coli O157:H7 | FDA](#)
- USDA announced last year that it planned to declare Salmonella an adulterant in breaded chicken products. The change could have a significant impact to poultry processors. More info: [USDA Announces Action to Declare Salmonella an Adulterant in Breaded Stuffed Raw Chicken Products | USDA](#)
- New USDA lab – A new USDA lab is coming to Normandy, MO; a city in St. Louis county. The lab is expected to open in mid-2025. More details: [New USDA food safety lab breaks ground in Normandy \(stltoday.com\)](#)

HOT TOPIC

MEHA In Action

Do you have pics or are aware of activities that you or your colleagues in action? Please share them!



Steve Sikes & Tori Bowen were recently covered in recent online article celebrating their MEHA Awards. [Two Jefferson County Health Department employees honored by MEHA - My Mo Info](#)



Rick Heiman @ IAFP



Nathan Mirdamadi @ IAFP Workshop



Rick Heiman @ IAFP

2023 MEHA Board Member Contact Info

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**Chair of
Training/Professional
OPEN**

Calls to Action

Believe it or not, planning for next year's AEC has already begun! For it to be the best AEC ever (I know lofty goals!) we need your help:

- MEHA currently is looking for someone to fill the Training/Professional Development position. The position helps organize the AEC and leads to the VP position. Only required qualification is willingness to learn and have fun!
- At the last AEC, we had several mention they were interested in helping. If someone has not reached out to you in the past month, please reach out to a board member to remind us.
- Awards are a great way to recognize the efforts of your colleagues. We have hundreds of individuals working throughout the state to keep the citizens and tourists safe. Take time to recognize their efforts by nominating them for an award.

Click on an award below for more information:

- [Industry Leadership Award](#) • [Lifetime Achievement](#) • [Wilbur S. Feagan Award](#)
- [Rookie Environmental Public Health Specialist of the Year](#) • [Special Recognition Award](#)
- [President's Award](#) • [Environmental Public Health Specialist of the Year](#)
 - [J.E. Edmondson Scholarship](#) • [Hainline Heritage Award](#)

NEVER STOP LEARNING...

International Association of Food Protection

- [Modeling Salmonella Growth and Inactivation for Small and Very Small Processors with Limited Data](#) Sept 11, 2023 (10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Eastern Time)
- [FDA's Food Traceability Final Rule](#) Sept 18, 2023 (2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Eastern Time)
- [Managing Meat Shelf Life and Spoilage to Ensure Food Security](#) Oct 24, 2023 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Eastern Time)
- [Neogen Webinar Series: For food processing and micro a number of valuable webinars can be viewed on demand from Neogen.](#) [Neogen Engagement - Food Safety Webinar Series \(on24.com\)](#)

NACHO

- "An Open Discussion and Q & A About Harm Reduction Efforts in Hamilton County, OH" 08.24.2023 @ 12:00 PM CDT
- How to Develop and Implement a Data Governance Program from a Local Public Health Informatics Perspective 08.31.2023 @01:00 PM CDT
 - [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

[Click Links for info](#)

MO DHSS

Date	Name of Event	Time	Location	More Info
9-7-23	The Missouri Telehealth Network and Show-Me Echo Program (pre-summit)	8:00 - 4:30	Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, 415 W McCarty Street, Jefferson City, MO	Click here
9-8-23	The Missouri Telehealth Network and Show-Me Echo Program	7:00 - 4:30	Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, 415 W McCarty Street, Jefferson City, MO	Click here
9-15-23	Save-The-Date: Lactation Conference	TBD	Cox Medical Center South, Foster Auditorium, 3801 S. National, Springfield, MO	TBD
9-20-23	2023 Public Health Conference - "Creating the Healthiest Nation - Overcoming Social and Ethical Challenges"	TBD	Columbia, MO	Sandra Boeckman, 573-634-7977
9-20-23	Joint Public Health Conference "Creating the Healthiest Missouri"		Holiday Inn Executive Center, 2200 I-70 Drive SW, Columbia, MO	For more information, click here .
9-21-23	2023 Public Health Conference - "Creating the Healthiest Nation - Overcoming Social and Ethical Challenges"	TBD	Columbia, MO	Sandra Boeckman, 573-634-7977
9-21-23	Joint Public Health Conference "Creating the Healthiest Missouri"		Holiday Inn Executive Center, 2200 I-70 Drive SW, Columbia, MO	For more information, click here .

Industry Events

UPCOMING EVENTS



Grand Rapids, MI
June 9-12, 2024



International Association for
Food Protection®

Long Beach, CA
July 14-17, 2024

APRIL 2-5, 2024
MEHA AEC



Oasis Hotel & Convention Center
Springfield, MO



Pittsburgh, PA
July 15 - 18, 2024



July 23-26, 2024 Detroit, Michigan



please SAVE THE DATE for
the ARKANSAS ASSOCIATION for FOOD PROTECTION

15th ANNUAL MEETING
SEPT. 26-28 in FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

RETAIL PROGRAM STANDARDS
SYMPOSIUM



Virtual – April 16-18, 2024

PREPAREDNESS
SUMMIT

Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Management:
Aligning to Address Cascading Challenges

March 25-28, 2024 | Cleveland, Ohio



MAY 6-9 | 2024

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center | Rosemont, IL

Bylaws Update

To allow for ease of planning the following changes to the bylaws are being considered by the board. If you have comments, please send them to mehamissouri@gmail.com

Proposed Bylaw Revisions

ARTICLE III OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 3. **[Effort should be made to accurately represent Association membership within the Executive Board. At minimum, at least two government Board members shall be represented from Federal, State, County or municipal government.]** ~~A majority of the Executive Board shall be composed at all times of members who are officially connected with Federal, State, County, or Municipal Government or with an educational institution.~~ If the status of any member of the Executive Board changes during term of office so that ~~a majority of members~~ officially connected herein, is not maintained in the Executive Board, then such member shall be deemed ineligible, without prejudice, for that office and such office shall be declared vacant.

ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. Active members of the Missouri Environmental Health Association shall pay annual dues as determined by the Executive Board ~~and approved by a majority of the voting members attending the Annual Business Meeting.~~

ARTICLE VIII MEETINGS

Section 1. The Association shall, unless extraordinary circumstances are declared by the Executive Board, provide an Annual Educational Conference, hereinafter the AEC. The AEC shall be held for at least three (3) days at a location **[and date]** ~~recommended~~ **[determined]** by the Executive Board ~~and approved by the members at the Annual Business Meeting the year prior to each AEC.~~ The location and dates shall be selected at least one year in advance whenever possible.

ARTICLE XI STANDING RULES

From time to time the Association may adopt, amend, or rescind certain standing rules related to the details of the administration of the Association. The rules may be adopted, amended, or rescinded with, or without, prior notice ~~at the Annual Business Meeting by a majority of the voting members in attendance~~ **[as voted and approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board]**.

STANDING RULES

1. Active membership **[dues]** shall be \$15.00 **[determined]** annually **[by the Executive Board]**.
3. The Annual Educational Conference (AEC) shall begin on the first Wednesday in April unless ~~held in conjunction with a national affiliate meeting of NEHA or IAFFP~~ **[the Executive Board determines an alternative date that will better serve the participants]**.