



NJEHA *News*

A Publication of the New Jersey Environmental Health Association
An Affiliate of the National Environmental Association

Summer 2006

President's Message

Summertime....it always seems like summer flies by and before you know it, September is here. Time flies, and the past two years have done just that. This is my last President's Message, as my term expires in September 2006.

It feels like yesterday I was discussing my new role with Kim Zagorski, NJEHA Past President. The responsibilities and work ahead of me seemed enormous, but I was eager to step in and try my best.

I can't even begin to tell you what I have experienced in the past two years. What an educational as well as a humbling experience. Not only have I learned more about our organization and our national affiliate, NEHA, but also I know a lot more about people, working with people, teamwork and cooperation.

Although the faces have changed over the years, the association still has the same goals and values. When I reflect back, I have to say I truly enjoy environmental and public health. So supporting the professionals in this association has been an honor.

We have accomplished so much over the past years. There was an idea of a 3-day conference, and now we have 3 successful conferences completed. Ever since I joined the NJEHA Executive Board in 1991, there have been discussions about getting the national conference to come to New Jersey.... and now with the hard work of a lot of people, the National Environmental Health Association will be coming to Atlantic City in 2007. I just returned from the NEHA Annual conference in San Antonio, Texas. There is a lot of excitement about next year, so again, please make every attempt to be part of it.

In addition, New Jersey's Chapter XII's revision process is almost complete. These are reflective of the requirements of the US FDA Food Code. The 60-day comment period ended in April 2006. NJEHA members worked on Best Practices and provided comment for this revision.

Lots of activity, so as you can see the Board has been busy. Although our lives are very hectic, I would like to take the time to thank many of you for your support over the past 2 years. Our Executive Board has provided me with great support. I would also like to extend a special thanks to Dalynn Knigge, who served as the Board's Administrative Assistant for the past 3 years. Dalynn stepped down from her role in June. I cannot express how valuable she has been to the association. We will miss her and wish her much success. I also would like to thank the general membership. It has been a privilege representing you the past 15 years that I have served on the Board and the past 2 years as President.

This September starts a new opportunity with Cinthia Weaver as your new President. I wish Cindy the best in her new role and am confident she will lead us down the right path.

New Jersey Officers

Theresa Lombardi President
Cynthia WeaverPresident-Elect
William Dotts.. 1st Vice President
Aimee DeLotto2nd Vice President
MaryAnn Orapello Secretary
Kristin Reed Treasurer

Administrative Assistant

Newsletter Editor

Wendy Reissman

Contributors

Kathy Chort-Holmes
Marconi Gapas
Kathleen Chort-Holmes
Theresa Lombardi
Kristin Reed
Michele Samarya-Timm
Cinthia Weaver

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*Please send articles, advertisements
and other contributions to:*

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Spotlight on the NJEHA

This issue, we're turning the spotlight on Marconi Gapas



Marconi Gapas is currently employed as a Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist with the Union Township Department of Health and Environmental Protection. He has over 17 years of public and environmental health service in government and continues to find the profession challenging as both a supervisor and field investigator.

In addition to fulfilling the responsibilities of an REHS, Marconi is particularly proud of the Townships history as a training provider for those pursuing licensure. His departments' commitment to a variety of environmental programs such as childhood lead poisoning prevention, food safety, industrial plan review, water quality and noise control (to name a few) coupled with a diverse industry and population

base provides a comprehensive training environment. As the internship manager, he feels honored to share his experience with upcoming REHS' and always looks forward to seeing them develop professionally.

Marconi received his Bachelor of Science degree in Health Science from William Paterson College in 1989 while employed as a public health investigator and lecturer at a Speakers Bureau in Bergen County. Since 2003 Marconi provides Lead Inspector Risk Assessor Training for NJEHA following certification as a training provider and program manager by the NJDHSS. He also serves on the NJEHA's Nominating, Continuing Education-Lead, and Constitution/By-Laws committees. Marconi has been on the Executive Council Board since 2004 and enjoys the enthusiasm NJEHA members bring to the profession.

September is National Food Safety Education Month

September 2006 marks the twelfth annual National Food Safety Education Month(R) (NFSEM).

The goals of NFSEM are:

- To reinforce food safety education and training among restaurant and foodservice workers.
- To educate the public to handle and prepare food safely at home where food safety is equally important--whether cooking from scratch or serving take-out meals or leftovers.
- Restaurants and foodservice operations, hospitality associations, colleges and universities, Federal, State, and local government agencies, and consumer organizations across the country participate in National Food Safety Education Month (R) in a variety of ways each year.

The theme this year is "Don't Compromise-Clean and Sanitize." Industry can find help with planning 2006 activities at The National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) Web site: <http://www.nraef.org/nfsem>

Food safety educators can visit: <http://www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/september.html>

National Food Safety Education Month(R) is sponsored by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation's International Food Safety Council, an initiative focused on heightening the awareness of the importance of food safety education to the restaurant and foodservice industry and supported by many public and private sector organizations.

FDA's CFSAN Food Defense and Terrorism Web Site Now Revised

The FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition's Food Defense and Terrorism Web site was revised July 2006. Information related to Food Defense programs; training materials and announcements; FDA's actions on Bioterrorism legislation; consumer information; and upcoming events is now consolidated and enhanced. FDA's Food Defense and Terrorism Web site can be viewed at: <http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/defterr.html>

National Environmental Public Health Conference

December 4-6, 2006 Atlanta, GA

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is hosting the 7th Annual National Environmental Public Health Conference from December 4-6, 2006 in Atlanta. The conference theme is Advancing Environmental Public Health: Science, Practice, New Frontiers. Registration is FREE. For complete conference details please visit, www.cdc.gov/

**NJEHA
Financial Report
January 1, 2006-June 30, 2006**

Business Checking Account

Starting Balance:	\$9,916.85
Plus Total Credits:	\$67,214.58
Minus Total Debits:	\$18,875.86
Ending Balance:	\$ 57,535.57

Matthew S. Klein Scholarship Account

Starting Balance:	\$ 7,506.58
Plus Total Credits:	\$ 216.38
Minus Total Debits:	\$ 0.0
Ending Balance:	\$ 7,722.96

Fidelity Investment Account

Starting Balance:	\$ 5,214.50
Plus Total Credits:	\$ 106.85
Minus Total Debits:	\$ 0.0
Ending Balance:	\$ 5,321.35

**USDA Food Safety and Inspection Services
Issue Public Health Alert For Frozen, Stuffed,
Raw Chicken Products**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), in collaboration with the Minnesota Departments of Health and Agriculture, has recently investigated cases of salmonellosis associated with a class of frozen entrees that contain raw chicken.

These frozen, breaded, boneless chicken products that may also be stuffed or filled and appear browned are raw and must be cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature of 165°F. More than 25 companies produce and distribute frozen, raw chicken entrees at the retail level. The entrees come in many varieties, such as Chicken Cordon Bleu, Chicken Kiev, and Chicken with Mushrooms and Wine Sauce.

Because these products are often filled with additional ingredients, they may also take longer to reach a safe minimum internal temperature of 165°F than chicken breasts that do not contain fillings. FSIS is requiring new labels for these products that clearly state that they contain raw chicken and must be fully cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature of 165°F.

July 11, 2006

***Handwashing Ordinance Passed in
In New Jersey***

The Franklin Township Council has passed a handwashing ordinance by unanimous vote, demonstrating its commitment to helping ensure the health of the public.

Franklin Township's Handwashing Ordinance provides that all restrooms made available to the public must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times, have conveniently located hot and cold running water, and have a supply of hand soap and paper towels or other sanitary drying devices.

This ordinance will allow enforcement and education in establishments that are not covered under the Retail Food Code.

During a regular meeting in June 2005, the Franklin Township Advisory Board of Health discussed barriers to handwashing in community settings. Identifying inadequate handwashing supplies to be a hindrance in public restrooms, the advisory board subsequently recommended this ordinance to the Township Council.

Councilwoman Shirley Eberle, who is a member of the Advisory Board of Health, was enthusiastic about the passage of the Hand-washing Ordinance. She said, "This ordinance will help keep the township healthy. Making sure public restrooms have soap will encourage people to wash their hands, and it gives everyone the ability to keep germs from spreading."

According to the Centers for Disease Control anti Prevention (CDC), handwashing is the single most important action one can take to prevent the onset of illness. Handwashing is cheap, it's easy, and it works to prevent disease. And disease prevention is-what the ordinance is all about.

The full text of the ordinance can be found at:
www.franklintwpnj.org/comag012406/3593%20-2OHand%20Washing.pdf.

For more background information, contact Michéle Samarya-Timm, Health Educator with the Franklin Township Health Department, at Michele.Samarya-Timm@twp.franklin.nj.us.

Joanne Scigliano, Content Editor
Journal of Environmental Health
NEHA

The New Jersey Environmental Health Association
is pleased to announce:

**Lead Inspector & Risk Assessor
8-hour Refresher Course**

Thursday, September 7, 2006 8:30 am - 5:30 pm
Wayne Municipal Building, Health Annex, Room 2
475 Valley Road, Wayne NJ 07470

(Directions and parking information provided upon request, after registration)

This course is offered to licensed Public Health Officials only.
3 CEU's will be earned by attending this course.

Pre-registration is required, no walk-ins will be accepted. Space is limited! Registration must be received before **September 1, 2006**. Payment or Purchase Order must be received **prior** to start of class. Please mail payment to the following address, or bring it with you the day of the class. Please complete the registration form below, and return via fax or mail to:

New Jersey Environmental Health Association
P.O. Box 527, New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0527
908-232-0112 (phone/fax)

NJEHA members.....\$100.00
Non-members.....\$125.00
(Lunch and materials are included)

Name: _____ Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Lead License ID #: _____

I am currently a member of NJEHA: Yes _____ No _____

Form of Payment: Voucher/P.O. _____ Check _____ (Payable to NJEHA)

NJ Legislative Update

SANITATION IN RETAIL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOOD AND BEVERAGE VENDING MACHINES (a.k.a. CH XII) N.J.A.C.8:24 (Proposed repeal & new rules)

The Public Hearing was held March 3rd, 2006 and the written comment period ended April 7th, 2006.

A summary of the proposed new rules and full text of the rules are published in the Feb 6th, 2006 issue of the NJ REGISTER. Adoption of the rules and response to comments pending. Further information can be obtained at www.state.nj.us/health

NJ SMOKE-FREE AIR ACT & SMOKE FREE AIR RULES

The NJ Smoke-Free Air Act (**P.L.2005 Chapter 383, C.26:3D-55et seq**) was effective 4/15/06.

The Proposed Rules: **N.J.A.C. 8:6** were published in the NJ REGISTER May 15th, 2006. A public hearing was held on June 3, 2006 and the written comment period ended July 14th, 2006. Adoption of rules and response to comments pending. A NJDHSS news release dated 6/23/06 stated that "New Jersey's Smoke-Free Air Act Removes Cloud of 50 Carcinogens from Workplaces; Surgeon General's Report on Secondhand Smoke Further Documents the Risks and Reinforces the Benefits of the Smoking Ban"

Further information can be obtained at www.smokefree.nj.gov

STANDARDS FOR LEAD CERTIFICATION-N.J.A.C. 8:62

Adopted new rules - published in 2/6/06 NJ REGISTER, effective 2/6/06

Proposed August 15th, 2006

ANIMAL FACILITY OPERATION; ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER CERTIFICATION; PILOT SPAY/NEUTER CLINIC FEES-N.J.A.C 8:23A

Published in NJ REGISTER 10/17/06, New expiration date: 9/15/06

NJDHSS NEWS RELEASE-6/23/06- Comment period extended on Ringwood Mines/Landfill

(Passaic County) Public Health Assessment until August 7th, 2006. The assessment, determined that the landfill site remains a public health hazard to the community, and that further testing is needed to better understand nearby residents exposures to lead, arsenic, and other contaminants. Further info available at www.state.nj.us/health.

NJ LEGISLATURE - "ASK BEFORE YOU EAT!" CAMPAIGN

In 2005, the NJ Legislature directed the NJDHSS to conduct this campaign to help protect NJ's residents from the dangers of food allergies. Fact sheets have been created for NJ's restaurants with advice on how to serve enjoyable and safe meals to customers with food allergies. The NJDHSS and researchers at Rutgers University's Food Policy Institute & Department of Nutritional Sciences developed a website to serve as a resource for restaurant owners & families with or without food allergies to learn to "Ask Before You Eat!" The website is: www.foodallergy.rutgers.edu

CDC NEWS - "STATES LINE UP FOR ANTI-FLU MEDICATION"

Across the country, states are working to meet an **August 1** deadline to request help from the federal government to buy anti-influenza medications in preparation for a possible pandemic. The USDHSS is stockpiling enough Tamiflu and other medicines to treat 44 million people. That amount is in addition to what States can purchase from Roche Laboratories (the maker of Tamiflu) The federal government is negotiating a price with the pharmaceutical co. & will pay 1/4 of the costs for each state. Further information can be obtained at: www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/14989507.htm

Kathleen Chort-Holmes
Principal Sanitary Inspector
Burlington County Health Department

Job Openings

Senior Environmental Health Specialist - The Morris Township Health Department is searching for a full time Senior Registered Environmental Health Specialist. Candidates must have experience with retail food, septic, daycamp and recreational bathing inspections in addition to environmental complaint investigation. REHS license required. Certifications in noise, lead, pool operation and pesticide applications a plus. Microsoft Office skills, additionally a plus. The Township offers an attractive benefit package. The salary range 40-52k, commensurate with experience. Please forward resumes to: Kevin Breen, MPH. Morris Township Health Department, PO Box 7603, Convent Station, NJ. 07961

Sr. Registered Environmental Health Specialist -The Westfield Regional Health Department is seeking a full-time Sr. Registered Environmental Health Specialist. Candidates must have several years experience with retail food inspections, environmental complaint investigations, day care inspections, recreational bathing inspections, etc. REHS and a NJ Drivers license required Certification in noise, lead, pool operation, pesticide application, and computer skills a plus. Supervisory experience or valid Health Officers license preferred. The Department offers an attractive benefit package. The salary range is 56,195-62,235 commensurate with experience. Please forward resumes to: Att: Robert M. Sherr, M.A., Health Officer, Westfield Regional Health Department, 425 East Broad Street Westfield, NJ 07090 , Fax: (908) 789-4076 or email: rsherr@westfieldnj.gov

Registered Environmental Health Specialist -The Township of East Hanover is seeking a full-time Registered Environmental Health Specialist to conduct inspections pertaining to, but not limited to: retail food establishments, day care, public recreational bathing, animal control, communicable disease investigations and other public health concerns for the Township. Candidates must have a valid NJ REHS and a NJ Drivers license. Excellent communication and computer skills are required to meet the demands of an automated Health Department. East Hanover offers a competitive salary and benefits. Interested candidates shall send a cover letter and resume to: Township of East Hanover Department of Health & Human Services 411 Ridgedale Ave East Hanover, NJ 07936 Att: Carlo DiLizia, M.A., Health Officer The Township of East Hanover is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Part-Time Registered Environmental Health Specialist: - Montville Township Health Department, Morris County Part-time position funded through December 31, 2006 (subject to continuance) To concentrate on food inspections 2 days per week. Valid REHS and NJ Driver's License Required Salary Commensurate with experience.. Contact: John Wozniak, Health Officer. Montville Township Health Department, 195 Changebridge Road., Montville, NJ 07045, Phone: 973-331-3316, Fax: 973-331-9287, Email: jwozniak@montvillenj.org

Environmental Health Specialist-The Passaic County Dept. of Health is interviewing for the position of Environmental Health Specialist. Description: Performs environmental investigations and inspections. Prepares supporting paperwork for all inspections and investigations. Prepares legal documentation to support inspections and investigations. Responds to hazardous materials emergencies. Performs all pertinent job duties requested by the Director/Health Officer or Assistant Director in order to enhance environmental quality in Passaic County. Education: Bachelor's Degree in a Science related field, with preference toward Environmental Sciences or Chemistry. REHS license preferred. Starting Salary: in the area of \$37,000 Please fax a resume and cover letter to the Passaic County Department of Health, attention, Deborah Rucki-Drake, Director/Health Officer. If you have any questions or need an alternate contact method, please contact Steven Peters, Assistant Director. Passaic County Department of Health, 317 Pennsylvania Avenue, Paterson, New Jersey 07503, Telephone: (973) 881-4396, Fax: (973) 225-0222

Full-time Assistant Animal Control Officer: -The City of Passaic Division Health has an immediate full-time opening for an Assistant Animal Control Officer. The applicant must meet the following requirements: 1. Possession of a current and valid certificate as an Animal Control Officer issued by the NJ Dept. of Health and Senior Services. 2. Possession of a valid New Jersey Driver's License. 3. Resident of City of Passaic. Previous employment experience as an Animal Control Officer; and bilingual English/Spanish are considered a plus. Position is for 32.5 hour work week and includes weekend and after-hours assignments. Salary for position is \$35,126 to \$39,040 and includes an excellent benefits package including uniform allowance. Please no telephone inquiries and applicants meeting above requirements need only apply. Please mail, fax or email your resume to: City of Passaic, Attn: Health Officer, Division of Health, 330 Passaic St., Passaic, NJ 07055, Fax: 973-366-2242, Email: cperez@cityofpassaicnj.gov

NEHA 's 71st Annual Educational Conference

NEHA is pleased to announce the Call for Abstracts for the 71st Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition in Atlantic City, New Jersey, June 18-21, 2007. Share your knowledge and expertise by participating in an exciting conference that brings environmental health professions together from across the country.

NEHA seeks abstracts covering a broad spectrum of environmental health disciplines such as:

- air/land (ambient and indoor air quality, solid waste/land management);
 - children's environmental health;
 - drinking water quality and water pollution;
 - emerging pathogens;
- environmental health leadership development and management;
 - environmental health research;
 - food safety and protection;
- general environmental health (GIS, swimming pools/recreational waters);
 - hazardous materials and toxic substances;
 - injury prevention/occupational health;
- institutions and schools environmental health;
 - onsite wastewater systems;
- terrorism and all-hazards preparedness; and
 - vector control and zoonotic diseases.

Traditionally, NEHA allows presenters to attend the conference Free on the day of their presentation. This might be a great way to be able to share your programs or experiences with other Environmental Health Professionals, and stay within your training budget!

We'd especially like to showcase all that NJEHA and our wonderful state has to offer our profession! NJEHA member Michéle Samarya-Timm has been re-appointed as the Food Safety and Protection Chairperson for this conference, and is willing to advise anyone who may be interested in submitting an abstract. You can contact her at michele.samarya-timm@twp.franklin.nj.us or you can contact NEHA staff member Kristen Kuhar at 303-756-9090, ext. 341.

NJEHA's New Website

The New Jersey Environmental Health Association website has a new look. The NJEHA Executive Council sought to give NJEHA's presence on the world wide web a new look, and to make our website more user friendly. Assistance was sought from professional website designer, George Nyeki of NYesoftware (www.nyesoftware.com), to redesign the entire NJEHA website with a new professional appearance. Along with frequent updates, we continue to strive to meet the needs of our members. Your comments are welcomed about any aspect of the new website. Visit us at www.njeha.org.

HOME ABOUT US NEWS MEMBERSHIP GALLERY FAQ CONTACT US

Saturday, Apr 22

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President

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2006 NJEHA CONFERENCE
Presentations & pictures

NJEHA Scholarship
Click here for details

Current Event

- Smoke-free air act
- Lead Refresher 4/20

• ALL REHS's must use a NJLMN online account to register CE's/LE's

• Proposed FOOD CODE comments due

• 2006 membership renewal Members receive timely email updates on regulations and job postings before they are listed on the website

NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

The mission of the New Jersey Environmental Health Association is to support the professional growth of environmental health specialists, provide a unified and informed voice in the development of public health practice and policy, and enhance the ability of members to aptly promote environmental and public health locally, regionally and globally.

An affiliate of NEHA

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

***NJEHA Welcomes
New Administrative Assistant***

NJEHA welcomes Wendy Reissman, our new Administrative Assistant. Wendy comes to us with many years experience as an administrative professional with the majority of these years for environmental organizations. Wendy was the Administrative Assistant to the General Manager for the Northeast Region of Marine Spill Response Corporation. She provided support to the management of this five office region with responsibility for offshore marine oil spill response from the Canadian Border of Maine to South Carolina. Wendy was also the Administrator for the Union/Middlesex Hazardous Materials Advisory Council (HMAC). In this capacity she was responsible for seven committees, including providing support for numerous seminars, bulletins, newsletters, and the website throughout the year.

Wendy looks forward to working with NJEHA. "I have dedicated a major portion of my life's work to supporting environmental organizations. I am excited about the opportunity to work with an organization as vital as the New Jersey Environmental Health Association." We look forward to a long relationship with such a fine dedicated professional as Wendy.



**Please take note
of our new
phone/fax:
908-232-0112**

**NJEHA News
PO Box 527
New Brunswick, NJ 08903-0527**