



# NJEHA News

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

Winter 2005-2006

## President's Message

In looking back at this past year, I have to say it has certainly been a challenging one. The world has been faced with many issues, problems and tragic events. Extreme public and environmental health tragedies have plagued communities. National disasters have left areas devastated. Diseases such as SARS and avian flu are causing panic and hysteria. Even acquiring a flu vaccine this year is becoming an effort. Bioterrorism and disaster preparedness is playing an important role throughout the country and the world.

So what does all of this tell us? In my opinion, it shows us the important role we play - the importance of public and environmental health. Where are we without it? Being prepared for such severe events is something our profession has been striving to do. We know the importance of being prepared, and that our skills and expertise will be needed to assist areas and populations affected by such disasters. Communities have been hit with such intensity during these disasters. Basic necessities such as clean water and food are crucial. It brings back many memories for me, reminding me why I entered this field many years ago. I vividly remember sitting in my college epidemiology class, learning about the spread of cholera, and how John Snow discovered that, indeed, the cholera infections occurred through drinking water. After studying this, I was hooked. I, too, wanted to have skills that could one day protect the public's health.

The REHS plays such an important role within each and every community. Sadly, it is only when one's health is threatened that someone realizes the importance of this role. The role is so important, in fact, that I can only see it growing and gaining even more importance over the next decade. The NJEHA Executive Board is in the process of planning the 2006 NJEHA conference. Our theme is "Challenges of the 5<sup>th</sup> Generation of Public and Environmental Health." We are currently putting together a wide range of speakers that will educate and enlighten all of us. I am so excited about this conference, and am looking forward to spending time with all of you. As we have stated in the past, organizing the conference is a huge undertaking. If anyone would like to volunteer to assist us, please contact me.

With all this being said, I want to wish each of you a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

### New Jersey Officers

Theresa Lombardi ..... President  
Cindy Weaver ..... President-Elect  
William Dotts..... 1st Vice President  
Aimee DeLotto .....2nd Vice President  
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Dalynn Knigge

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Aimee DeLotto  
William Dotts  
Richard Matzer  
Mary Lou Pruent  
Peter Tabbot  
Robert Uhrk  
Kimberly Zagorski

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Please send articles, advertisements  
and other contributions to:

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

www.njeha.org  
njehainfo@yahoo.com

## Spotlight on the NJEHA

*This issue, we're turning the spotlight on our Second Vice President, Aimee DeLotto!*



Aimee DeLotto has been a member of the NJ Environmental Health Association since 1998, and was elected to the Executive Committee in 2001. She began as a Member-at-Large, in charge of the Lead Training Program, and has advanced within the

organization to her current position as Second Vice-President. In 2003, she was awarded the NJEHA President's Plaque for meritorious contributions and dedicated service to the organization.

Aimee graduated from Montclair State University in 1998 with a degree in Biology, and a concentration in Environmental Science. She began her career in public health at the Township of Dover Health Department as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist, where she gained valuable experience with retail food inspections, animal complaints, lead inspections, environmental complaints, and property maintenance issues. She also served as the Township's representative on the Picatinny Arsenal Environmental Restoration Advisory Board. She later obtained a position as a Senior REHS with the Morris Township Health Department, where she added septic, youth camp and public pool inspections to her list

of experience. She also participated in the Morris County West Nile Virus Task Force. Following Morris Township, she was employed by the Passaic County Health Department, conducting NJ Department of Environmental Protection inspections on gas stations, and responding to hazardous materials incidents. She currently holds a position as an REHS at the Wayne Health Department, where she applies her extensive range of experience to a full spectrum of public and environmental health inspections and investigations conducted there.

When asked about her thoughts on the public health profession and the NJEHA, she replied: "As a Committee member, I am so excited by the continuing improvements being made within our Association, especially the recent introduction of our annual conference. The NJEHA has made great strides over the past few years to foster a growing sense of unity and professionalism among our membership, and nowhere is this more evident than at these conferences. Whereas public health officials tend to be somewhat isolated in their daily activities, our conference provides an opportunity for them to share their experiences, frustrations, and successes with hundreds of other like-minded professionals. It is a heart-warming feeling to see so many fellow public health officials gathered together, learning not only from the seminars, but from each other as well. I feel honored to

## UMDNJ Announces Public Health Leadership Program

The New Jersey Center for Public Health Preparedness at UMDNJ announces the Public Health Leadership Initiative for Emergency Response (PHLIER). This eight-session leadership development program is designed for mid-career health officers and other public health professionals (**REHS's**) who aspire to become health department executives.

The goals of PHLIER are to foster the next generation of public health leaders, promote excellence in leadership, and explore responses to public health emergencies.

PHLIER is case study based and each session will focus on specific public health challenge including Principles of Leadership, Design a Health Department, Public Health Law, Infectious Disease Epidemic, and Disaster Response. Working in groups, the PHLIER Fellows will be challenged to identify new and creative case solutions. Expert presenters and panelists will be used to help the fellows explore the cases and evaluate their presentations. Site visits will enhance the immersive learning experience.

Potential fellows are encouraged to apply for the inaugural PHLIER class of 20. The PHLIER Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from the NJ Health Officers Association, NJ Association of County Health Officers, NJ Environmental Health Association, NJ Department of Health and Senior Services, and NJCPHP, will consider all applications and make the final selection. The seminar series will begin with a two-day retreat in January and follow with seven more monthly one-day seminars. **There is no fee for PHLIER, and Health Officer and REHS leadership credits will be applied for. Registration Deadline: 12/9/05**

**Fellows Selected: 12/19/05**

**Opening Retreat: 1/23/06 – 1/24/06**

**Seminars: Monthly**

For more information and to apply, please visit the NJCPHP website: [www.njcphp.org/phlier](http://www.njcphp.org/phlier), or call 732-235-9704.

**NJEHA**  
*Financial Report for Period*  
*07/01/05 - 09/30/05*

**Custom Business Checking**

Starting Balance	\$42,154.84
Credits Total	\$20,740.00
Debits Total	\$47,113.79
Ending Balance	\$15,781.05

**Business High Performance Account**

Starting Balance	\$7,475.66
Credits Total	\$10.26
Debits Total	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$7,485.92

**Fidelity Investment Account**

Starting Balance	\$5,102.83
Credits Total	\$30.12
Debits Total	\$0.00
Ending Balance	\$5,132.95

## *Member-At-Large Position*

The NJEHA Executive Council will have an opening for "Member-At-Large," effective January 1, 2006. This position provides an opportunity to contribute to the development of our profession, in part, through committee duties and partnerships. Exposure to our collective decision and planning processes, as well as to a multitude of organizations in academia, government and private sector, shall prove to be a rewarding way to make a difference.

Candidates amongst the current membership are being sought. Eligibility includes employer commitment to allow participation. For additional details contact Council representatives through the website.

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

## *NJHOA Promotes Public Relations and Clean Air*

The NJ Health Officers Association has embarked on a comprehensive campaign to bring public health issues into New Jersey's classrooms, living rooms and legislative halls. The Association's new public relations initiative is designed to bring vital attention to the environmental, clinical, administrative and educational aspects of public health throughout the state.

The NJHOA Executive Committee, over the course of 2005, engaged in discussion regarding the significance of making public health - and the work of local health officials - more visible to the public and our legislators. To that end, the NJHOA formed a Public Relations Committee and charged it with the planning, budgeting and implementation of various initiatives that will, optimally, affect high impact strategies to illustrate the work involved in protecting the public's health.

The Public Relations Committee, after acquiring the services of a reputable public relations firm, has taken several steps in what promises to be an ongoing campaign to bring attention to public health issues. The NJHOA initiatives include: a newly designed, dynamic booth at the League of Municipalities Conference; the production of an educational DVD that is suitable for the general population and elected officials alike; an essay contest that will bring together students, teachers, legislators and public health professionals; and more. Please support the NJHOA public relations efforts in *your* community!

In other NJHOA news, the Executive Committee has made passage of the Clean Indoor Air legislation one of its top priorities. This bill stands a good chance of becoming law over the next few months during the state legislature's "lame duck" session. Local health officials have been distributing petitions at flu clinics, rabies clinics and other functions, in an effort to deliver a minimum of 10,000 signatures to Trenton for consideration. Please support the Clean Indoor Air legislation and help in the NJHOA fight to make public places free of second hand smoke!

Finally, the NJHOA made John Hopper, Health Officer with the Borough of Paramus, its new President at the Association's November 17th annual meeting. Kevin Sumner, Health Officer with the Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, will serve as President-Elect. Both John and Kevin look forward to future collaborations between the NJEHA and NJHOA.

Peter Tabbot  
*Health Officer, West Caldwell*

## *Annual Pesticide Meeting and Awards Ceremony*

The NJEHA held its Annual Pesticide Meeting and Awards Ceremony on September 28, 2005 at the PNC Bank Arts Center, in Holmdel, NJ. Attendees included Registered Environmental Health Specialists, Health Officers, Health Educators and private sector professionals from several states.

The day's events began with a welcome by NJEHA President Theresa Lombardi, and an introduction of Bob Custard, NEHA Region 8 Vice President. Bob's excellent presentation, *5<sup>th</sup> Generation of Public Health*, was a chronological journey through almost 200 years of public health heroes and their contributions to the field, including Dr. John Snow, Florence Nightingale, Walter Reed, Franklin Roosevelt, and others. Bob brought us through the history of numerous significant environmental developments and events such as DDT, Love Canal, oil spills and regulatory developments, such as the Clean Air Act, EPA and OSHA.

Richard Cooper, Entomologist and Technical Director of Cooper Pest Solutions, then gave an interesting presentation on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the urban environment, detailing information on the re-emergence of the bed bug as a public health concern. Mr. Cooper's presentation included current management and control methods in both commercial and residential applications.

A personal highlight just before lunch was the introduction of Professor Bruce DeLussa, MPH - this year's recipient of the National Certificate of Merit Award. As former students of Professor DeLussa at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Kathy Chort-Holmes and I were both honored to present him with this award. Professor DeLussa's accomplishments and contributions to the public health sector in New Jersey are many, and include the development and national accreditation of the Environmental Health program at Stockton. My own career in Public Health began with the interest and encouragement of Professor DeLussa.



Following a delicious buffet luncheon, Joe D'Ambrozio, JD Pest Management Service, shared with us everything we ever wanted to know (or not know!) about the biology, inspection and control of rodents, rats and mice. *Did you know that there are four million rats born worldwide every day? Or that one pair can create a family of 15,000 a year?* Amazing.

The day concluded with a presentation by Jeffrey O'Neill, Zoecon Professional Products, who spoke about IPM methods and products used in food processing facilities. A lively question and answer session was conducted following the presentation.

By most accounts, the day was an exceptional one, with excellent speakers giving interesting and dynamic presentations. In conjunction with the comfortable facility, good food and camaraderie shared by everyone present, the event proved to be a memorable experience.

On behalf of the NJEHA Executive Council, I would like to once again thank all who attended and participated in this event, and wish the best of luck to Professor Bruce DeLussa in his retirement. Congratulations!

William Dotts, Food and Drug Administration  
First Vice President, NJEHA

## *NJEHA American Red Cross Donation*

The New Jersey Environmental Health Association wishes to thank all of the members who contributed to the Hurricane Katrina/Rita Relief Fund 50/50 raffle that was held at the September meeting. Your donations were sent to the American Red Cross, along with the following letter, on October 20, 2005.

**The New Jersey Environmental Health Association is proud to donate to the Hurricane Katrina/Rita Relief Fund. On September 28, 2005, the Association held its annual awards meeting and had a 50/50 fundraising raffle. Two hundred and thirty-one dollars were raised. The NJEHA board and its members are greatly honored to contribute \$231.00 towards the Hurricane Katrina/Rita recovery efforts.**

**Sincerely, The New Jersey Environmental Health Association, Executive Council and Membership**

## *NJ Legislative Update*

### OCTOBER 2005 UPDATE

#### **NJDHSS - Sanitation in Retail Food Establishments, Chapter XII New Jersey State Sanitary Code-N.J.A.C 8:24**

At the (MAFP) Metropolitan Association for Food Protection's Fall Seminar on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005, Bill Manley, NJDHSS Retail Food Project leader, reported that the Chapter XII draft rule is moving through appropriate channels nicely. It has been approved by the Public Health Council and the Governor's office. The document is now at the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) where it will be put in a format suitable for publishing. After that, it will soon be published in the NJ Register for the 60 day comment period.

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### **NJ REGISTER - OCTOBER 17, 2005 - Rule adoptions, NJDHSS**

#### **Rabies Reporting: Animal and Bird Importation - Testing and Quarantine**

Extension of expiration date, from 9/16/05 to 9/15/06

#### **Animal Facility Operation; Animal Control Officer Certification; Pilot Spay/Neuter Clinic Fees**

Extension of expiration date, from 9/16/05 to 9/15/06

### **NJ REGISTER - AUGUST 15, 2005 - Rule proposal, NJDHSS**

#### **Standards for Lead Certification – Proposed Re-Adoption**

(past comment period - 10/14/05)

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### **NJDEP NEWS**

#### **10/25/05 - Recycling Awards Announced**

\$3.4 million in municipal and county grants awarded to support local recycling programs.

#### **9/26/05 - Worker Inspection Process to Improve Safety Measures Adopted**

New measures to include workers in inspections at industrial sites covered by NJ's TCPA (Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act) to provide greater protection for residents living nearby. These inspections will help identify environmental health and public safety hazards and potential sources of toxic release. Currently, 101 facilities fall under the requirements of NJ's TCPA program.

For further information: [www.nj.gov/dep](http://www.nj.gov/dep)

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### **CDC PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

#### **11/2/05- President Bush unveils \$ 7.1 billion plan for flu pandemic.**

The President said that health officials must be ready if an avian influenza virus mutates and becomes easily transmissible among humans. So far, the strain (H5N1) has infected a reported 121 people and killed 62. Bush noted that viruses from birds contributed to all three of the pandemics that have affected the US in the last century. The plan asks Congress for funding to help other countries train personnel and create plans to detect and contain outbreaks; buy vaccine for 20 million Americans; fund a "crash program" to accelerate the development of new technology to speed vaccine production; stockpile antiviral drugs; and fund state's plans to detect and contain outbreaks and treat patients.

For further information: [www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/conditions/11/01/us.flu.plan/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2005/HEALTH/conditions/11/01/us.flu.plan/index.html)

## *Environmental Scrabble Scrambler*

Environmental Scrabble Scrambler is simple. Create a public or environmental health word from each 'rack' of letters below. Add up total points for the word you create from each rack, based on points assigned per letter. If you are able to form a topical word of seven letters, add a 50 point bonus to the score for that rack. Send your completed Scrabble Scrambler to Dalynn Knigge, Administrative Assistant, at [njehainfo@yahoo.com](mailto:njehainfo@yahoo.com). The first entry received with the highest point total will win a special prize!

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
C 3	E 1	I 1	N 1	C 3	A 1	V 2
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
E 1	E 1	I 1	S 1	S 1	D 2	A 1
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
U 1	P 3	E 1	G 2	A 1	L 1	C 3
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
A 1	R 1	Z 10	D 2	A 1	H 4	S 1
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
L 1	P 3	C 3	Y 4	I 1	O 1	R 1

Rack 1 - 1<sup>st</sup> Letter Double

Rack 1 Score \_\_\_\_\_

Rack 4 Score \_\_\_\_\_

Rack 3 - Triple Word Score

Rack 2 Score \_\_\_\_\_

Rack 5 Score \_\_\_\_\_

Best Score - 239

Rack 3 Score \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL SCORE \_\_\_\_\_

## *NJ Learning Management Network*

Effective January 1, 2006, the NJ Learning Management Network (NJLMN) will be fully implemented as a single portal for access to public health professional education and training opportunities. The NJLMN is a web-based system which provides ready access to continuing education course calendars, online course registration, and electronic recordkeeping. A record of all completed courses and CE/LE contact hours are maintained in your own personal transcript. All sponsors seeking CE/LE contact hours for their courses will be required to be a member of the NJLMN. For licensed Health Officers and Registered Environmental Health

Specialists, the NJLMN will be the sole method for determining the achievement of annual CE/LE requirements associated with licensure - your participation is therefore essential. Orientation programs for both sponsors and public health professionals are being planned for this fall. If you have not yet joined the NJLMN, please visit the "Create a New Account" section of the NJLMN at:

<https://njlmn.rutgers.edu>.

Richard F. Matzer, MPH  
Division Director, Local Public Health Practice, NJDHSS

*3rd Annual Educational Conference and Exhibition*  
***Challenges of the 5th Generation of Public and Environmental Health***  
***March 5 - 7, 2006***  
*Tropicana Resort Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, NJ*

## *Job Openings*

*Environmental Scientist* - The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services is seeking an Environmental Scientist in the Food and Drug Safety Program. Working in cooperation with the Retail Food Project Coordinator; responsibilities include:

- The administration and management of Memoranda of Agreement, which cover the inspection of retail food facilities, employee training and new facility plan review;
- Location of the retail facilities to include the New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway and various other facilities on State properties;
- Working in tandem with the Retail Food Coordinator to introduce, promote and educate local health officials on the new Chapter 12 (retail food) requirements;
- Becoming a Standardized Retail Food Specialist as prescribed by the FDA;
- Coordinate and implement an outreach and education initiative in food safety education;
- Participate in food defense activities, especially as they relate to retail food;
- Development and implementation of the Best Practices in Retail Food Protection Programs;
- Assessment of the food safety aspects of complex retail food equipment; and
- Complete Retail Food inspection activity and supervision of inspection teams.

Applicant must have a strong interest in food safety, excellent communication skills, and the ability to conduct individual and group training programs.

Educational/licensing requirements include: graduation from an accredited college or university with a Master's degree, valid Health Officer and Registered Environmental Health Specialist licenses as issued by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services.

Interested applicants may contact Richard Ritota, Program Manager, Consumer & Environmental Health Services, PO Box 369, Trenton, NJ 08625-0369, Phone: 609-58887483.

Salary commensurate with experience.

*Registered 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, day camp and recreational bathing inspections, in addition to environmental complaint investigation. NJ 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 benefits package. Salary commensurate with experience. Please forward resumes to: Kevin P. Breen, MPH, Morris Township Health Department, PO Box 7603, Convent Station, NJ 07961.

*Registered Environmental Health Specialist* - Township of Union Department of Health, Union County, seeks a full-time Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS). Salary commensurate with experience.

- *Definition* - Under direction, performs sanitary inspection work involved in enforcement of relevant public health laws within the Township of Union.
- *Nature of Work* - Conduct inspections/investigations, research and surveys to enforce sanitary codes and public health laws. Documents case finding and collects evidence in preparation of corrective action. Routinely inspects retail food establishments, public recreational bathing places, childcare facilities/camps, etc.
- *Education* - Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Public Health or a degree with 32 hours in Physical, Chemical, Biological or Environmental Sciences, or Environmental Engineering. Successfully complete the Environment and Public Health Course at Rutgers University.
- *Experience* - A minimum of two years experience as an REHS preferred, involving the above noted work and preparation of relative reports (e.g., public health nuisances, housing complaints, retail food, public recreational bathing, communicable disease investigations, etc.). Candidate must be able to communicate effectively to their professional peers and the public, as well as educate in areas where required.
- *Licenses* - Must possess a driver's license valid in New Jersey, a Registered Environmental Health Specialist license issued by NJDHSS, a Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor license issued by NJDHSS and certification to measure "sound levels," issued by Rutgers University.

Apply by mail. Please send resume with cover letter to: John J. Ferraioli, Health Officer, Township of Union Department of Health and Environmental Protection, 1976 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083. Phone (908) 851-8507 Fax (908) 851-4673

## 2006 NJEHA Membership

As 2005 draws to a close, we encourage you to renew your membership with the New Jersey Environmental Health Association. Joining the NJEHA is more than paying dues and getting out of work for a day to attend a meeting. It is interacting with fellow professionals who also care about public health. It is receiving support and encouragement at times when it is needed most - from those who have been there and understand. It is uniting with other colleagues to better establish a public and environmental health network. The NJEHA provides you with a voice and platform by which you can make a difference. Don't remain silent and isolated! The connections made through the NJEHA could lead anywhere. Keep abreast of the latest public health issues affecting you, and those around you - your family, your friends, and your municipality. Improve your daily performance by attending our seminars. Be proud of your profession.

In order to keep the NJEHA at the forefront of public health, we need you. The stronger our membership, the greater our influence on public health in New Jersey. Raise awareness within your own health department, and with other public health professionals you rub elbows with.

2006 renewal applications have been mailed. Don't hesitate! Renew today! If you did not receive your application, or require more, we would be happy to provide them. They will also be available on our website: [www.njeha.org](http://www.njeha.org).

We are looking forward to another successful and exciting year!

Mary Lou Pruent  
Denville Health Department  
*Membership Chair, NJEHA*

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