Environmental Health Section Newsletter

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President’s Message
By: Victoria Hudson, MPA, REHS
Orange County

Please let me take this opportunity to thank all of our memberships for their continued interest in the NCPHA-Environmental Health Section. So far, the 2016-2017 term has presented some obstacles, but nothing we cannot handle. I look forward to finishing with a list of accomplishments, renewed participation, and momentum for the future. The NCPHA-Environmental Health Section has some big projects this year.

First, NCPHA designated “advocacy” matters as the focus for this year’s Spring conference and the overarching message for its membership. What does advocacy mean for you? Advocacy is process and a benefit where we speak on behalf of you; we speak for the public’s health; we speak for environmental health. It is not a surprise that most fields of public health, including environmental programs, have objectives that are highly contested by opponents. Opposition comes from our own government, industry, the community and from within the public health field, itself. Advocacy is essential to sustaining programs and keeping Environmental Health on the Public health agenda.

How can you become an advocate? Please consider attending the Spring Conference in Raleigh on May 16th if you want to know more about how you can be an advocate for public health and your profession. The Environmental Health Section will be continuing this theme into the Fall Education Conference with more topics that highlight what we do in partnerships with leadership, population health, and epidemiology. Also, NCPHA has partnered with a proposal through the Alliance to provide effective leadership development training. The proposed course will build on lessons learned and maximizes individual potential around three key topics: Leadership in Public Health, Business Skills, and Individual Leadership. This course will be open to Environmental Health Specialists.

So, we listened. The Environmental Health Section wants to concentrate on membership needs. NCPHA is working on its website to make it more user-friendly. It has developed a good orientation and fellowship for young professionals, a couple years now. Additionally, NCPHA and professional associations is back on the CIT general training module for new hires. But we know our section needs to maintain the faithful and to attract former members who may have worked 5-15 years. Look for reminders to let you know when memberships are expiring and when corporate memberships at your counties are not full. The Fall Education Conference is dedicated to professional development and networking presentations determined not to compete or be redundant with SOP, district meetings, or other continuing education courses.

Lastly, the Environmental Health Section committed to participating in NCPHA’s Healthy Babies Strategic Plan. This plan supports perinatal health initiatives from all the sections. Environmental Health is focusing on continuing to support a healthy environment for women and children through our existing inspection programs. Our work to ensure clean water, food safety, childcare sanitation, lead prevention, and safe recreational waters fulfills this goal. We need you, however, to emphasize basic vector control principles during normal inspection activities. We have advocated funding local vector programs and requested more collaboration between local and state EHS.

You all do an excellent job, and I am honored to serve as the Environmental Health Section President for 2016-2017. Please let me know if you have any concerns or innovative ideas for the section. Gracious thanks to you again.
Meet Your 2017 NCPHA Environmental Health Section Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Victoria Hudson</td>
<td>Orange County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Nicole Thomas</td>
<td>Cumberland County</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Josh Jordan</td>
<td>DHHS</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Daniel Ortiz</td>
<td>Cumberland County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Stacey Robbins</td>
<td>Transylvania County</td>
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**President: Victoria Hudson, Orange County**

Victoria Hudson is an EHS from Orange County. She works primarily in FLI and holds authorizations in all programs. Victoria formerly worked for Richmond County Environmental Health and the USDA. She has served on the executive committee for NCEHD and has contributed to NCPHA on advocacy and award committees. Victoria, who resides in Orange County, loves to meet fascinating people, hats, food and beverage, and any project where something is learned.

**Treasurer: Nicole Thomas, Cumberland County**

Nicole Thomas graduated from Fayetteville State University in 2009 with a B.S. in Biology. She began working with Cumberland County Environmental Health in 2014 in Food, Lodging, Childcare, and Swimming Pools. She has been active in her district of NCPHA since she began. Nicole is currently serving her second term as President of the Southeastern District Environmental Health Section, having served as Secretary/Treasurer prior to that. This is her first year as an NCPHA officer.

**Vice President: Daniel Ortiz, Cumberland County**

At Campbell University Daniel received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology in 1995. Daniel Ortiz is the Environmental Health Director for the Cumberland County Department of Public Health. Daniel is the chairman of the Well Contractors Certification Commission and is an active member of the NC Environmental Health Supervisors Association. Daniel is the NC EHSRA representative on the Centralized Intern Training (CIT) committee for DPH Environmental Health. Daniel is the Past President of the South Eastern District Environmental Health Association and on the NCPHA –EH Resolutions Committee and recently appointed to the Registered Environmental Health Specialist Board (REHS).

**Secretary: Josh Jordan, DHHS**

Josh Jordan graduated from High Point University in 2006 and began his career with the Davidson County Health Department in 2008. Josh remained with Davidson County until becoming an Environmental Health Regional Specialist for the Food Protection and Facilities Branch in 2016. Josh has served as an officer with the West Piedmont Environmental Health Section executive committee since 2012 while becoming the Secretary for NCPHA Environmental Health Section in 2016. Josh resides in Lexington, NC with his wife and 3 children.

**Past President: Stacey Robbins, Transylvania County**

Stacey earned her BS in Science Education from Delaware State and her Masters in Liberal Studies from UNCG. She recently accepted a position with Transylvania County as an Environmental Health Specialist in the Food Protection Program inspecting food service, lodging, swimming pools, day cares and schools. She was with Guilford County for over 15 years, Randolph County for 2 years, and has taught middle and high school science. She has been a member of NCPHA since 2012 and a member of West Piedmont since 2005.
Testimonials from 2016 FEC

- "The topics presented were great topics. I gained so much from insight from others. This is my first year as a public health educator and I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to attend this conference."
- "I enjoyed the multiple options of sessions to attend. I also enjoyed the social interaction included in the afternoons to give public health workers a chance to connect and relax."
- "This conference was equal to and in some ways superior to any I've ever attended. The speakers and breakout sessions I attended were really point on and impressive."
- "Best aspect is the commingling of all disciplines educational opportunities and networking. The reason I feel this is the best is it is really the only time that we have an opportunity to share our ideas with other colleagues across the state and state counterparts."
- "I thought the flow of the conference was great. The sessions were excellent and the partnership with GSK continues to be a hit."

Save the Date! - 2017 Fall Educational Conference
September 27-29, Asheville NC
Crowne Plaza Hotel and Golf Resort

Here are just a few of the reasons to attend the 2017 FEC:

- Earn CHES credits, REHS CEUs, CNE Credits, or Social Work Contact Hours
- Learn Best Practices in Public Health
- Visit Exhibitors from Leading Public Health Organizations
- Network with your Public Health Peers
- Win a prize or a trophy at the 1st Ever EH Corn Hole Competition!

Come and join us at the Fall Conference and get that tossing arm warmed up!
## North Carolina Environmental Health State of Practice Committee

*Training by Specialists for Specialists*

Find us on [Facebook](http://ncehsop.org/cms-sop/)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Dates/Prices</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Soil Evaluation Training for Piedmont Soils</td>
<td>May 3-5, 2017</td>
<td>The Summit at Haw River State Park 339 Conference Center Drive Browns Summit, NC 27214 (May 3-4)</td>
<td>$125</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Upper Piedmont Research Station 1944 W entworth Street Reidsville, NC 27320 (May 5—FIELD DAY. Rain or shine.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seafood Quality &amp; Safety</td>
<td>May 17 &amp; 18, 2017</td>
<td>Center for Marine Science &amp; Technology, Morehead City, NC</td>
<td>$99</td>
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<tr>
<td>FD 218 Risk Based Inspection Methods at Retail</td>
<td>July 19-20, 2017</td>
<td>NC DHHS Building 3 3rd Floor Training Room 5605 Six Forks Rd, Raleigh</td>
<td>$99</td>
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<tr>
<td>The 2nd Annual Environmental Health Symposium</td>
<td>August 2 &amp; 3, 2017</td>
<td>MAHEC Education Building Asheville, NC</td>
<td>$75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care Sanitation</td>
<td>September 6-8, 2017</td>
<td>Cabarrus Health Alliance 300 Mooresville Rd. Kannapolis, N C</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Investigation &amp; Remediation</td>
<td>October 11-13, 2017</td>
<td>NC Zoo 4401 Zoo Pkwy Asheboro, NC</td>
<td>$125</td>
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2nd Annual Environmental Health Symposium

Wednesday-Thursday,
August 2-3, 2017

Location: MAHEC Mary C. Nesbitt Eflomare Campus
121 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville NC 28803

Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2017
Registration: 9:30 am - 10:00 am
Program: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (lunch provided)

Date: Thursday, August 3, 2017
Registration: 9:30 am - 9:00 am
Program: 9:00 am - 3:45 pm (lunch provided)

Early registration fees through July 21st:
Fee: $75.00
Students: $40.00
(Proof of enrollment required at check-in)

The North Carolina Environmental Health State-of-Practice Committee (NCEHSP) is providing environmental health professionals with this unique 2-day conference founded on improving public health practices through education and networking opportunities.

AUDIENCE
Environmental Health Specialists, especially those with regulatory and field responsibilities in the areas of permitting, inspections and public safety.

CREDITS
Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS): Application will be made to the NC State Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners for 10.25 hours of continuing education credits. Participants must attend 100% of the conference to receive credit.

CEUs: MAHEC designates this continuing education activity as meeting the criteria for 1.0 CEUs as established by the National Task Force on the Continuing Education Unit. You must attend the entire workshop to receive CEUs. 10.25 Contact Hours

OBJECTIVES
Upon completion of this educational activity, the participant should be able to:

- Discuss health directors’ perspectives of environmental health, including their expectations as well as their vision of environmental health in the future
- Recognize man-made and naturally occurring contaminants in private wells, review options to correct these contaminants and list agencies to contact for assistance
- Examine the different types of seafood fraud that exists and relay who needs to be notified when such fraud is discovered
- Explore GIS technology to improve the quality of onsite wastewater and well permits, reduce permitting errors and improve program efficiency
- Identify the emerging issues in Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and the Healthy Homes Program
- Discuss the latest national assessment of food safety procedures and practices in restaurants
- Implement the lessons learned by a retired, respected environmental health specialist who worked as a regional soil scientist for many years
- Review the status of the revision and adoption of the NC subsurface wastewater rules
- Demonstrate communication skills to help de-escalate intense situations
- Analyze the problems of lead in our water supplies and relay how to avoid such situations as are present in other parts of the US and how we can avoid situations like in Flint, MI
- Benefit from new and innovative approaches, such as social media, to enhance public health
- Learn to enjoy and appreciate the impact of our profession on public health and move forward with more positivity and awareness
SAVE THE DATE

2017 FDA Southeast Regional Retail Food Safety Seminar

October 17-19, 2017 • Wilmington, NC
Wilmington Convention Center

The complete agenda along with more details about registration and lodging will be available soon.

Also, coming to the 2017 FDA Seminar, in collaboration with NoroCORE, the #GoNoroViral! game. Participate, learn about norovirus, and win prizes!
UNC CEHS Community Outreach and Engagement Core Trainings

The trainings listed below are FREE. Instructors can travel to many locations across the state if 10 or more people are committed to attending the training and a room with appropriate space is available. Lots of resources are provided at each training, including fact sheets, educational materials and door prizes. For more information, visit: nchealthyhomes.com/request-a-free-training/.

To request a training, contact Megan Hoert Hughes at (919) 966-2463 or meganhughes@unc.edu.

Environmental Asthma Triggers
3-hour training
This training provides information on indoor and outdoor exposures that exacerbate asthma and allergies and strategies for health professionals to communicate with their patients about eliminating or reducing those exposures. Educational materials can be used with populations of varying literacy levels to help them understand current environmental health research about asthma and allergies and its implications for their daily lives.

Get the Lead Out! Sources and Solutions for Childhood Lead Poisoning
2.5-hour training
This training prepares health professionals to address childhood lead poisoning in their communities. The session includes information on sources of lead in the home and school and child care environments and solutions for reducing lead in these settings. Participants will be briefed on state and federal policies, such as the CDC Guidelines on Lead and Pregnancy, and other resources that will help them serve vulnerable populations.

5 Steps to a Healthy Home
2-hour training
This training prepares health professionals, childcare providers, and parents to identify and provide solutions for addressing environmental health hazards in the home. The training includes information on addressing lead, pests and pesticides, mold and moisture, indoor air pollution, and home safety. This training is especially appropriate for professionals who conduct home visits.

Neasha Graves, MPA
Community Outreach and Education Manager
Environmental Resource Program
UNC Institute for the Environment

Megan Hoert Hughes, MEM
Research Associate
Environmental Resource Program
UNC Institute for the Environment

Manager
Community Outreach and Engagement Core
UNC Center for Environmental Health and Susceptibility

NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHY HOMES

UNCGreenHouse
UNC-Chapel Hill
State Environmental Health Section Update

As I write this update at the end of February, the long session is well underway and the spring-like weather makes me think of baseball, mosquitoes, and ticks. More on vector control in a moment.

In the past couple of months, the Section has completed important administrative rule amendments. The lodging (.1800) rules have been updated and reformatted (similar to the Food Code structure) and the Bed and Breakfast Inn (.3000) and Bed and Breakfast Home (.2200) rules have been consolidated with the .1800 rules and subsequently repealed. As of this writing, the rules are scheduled to be reviewed by the Rules Review Commission (RRC) in April and are proposed to be effective July 1, 2017.

The On-Site Water Protection Branch continues to work on the overhaul of the Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (.1900) rules. The Section has received excellent comments and we thank you for time spent reviewing the draft as such feedback will provide a great product. The Commission for Public Health has adopted the Engineered Option Permit (.1971) as a permanent rule with a planned effective date of April 1, 2017 (after RRC approval); meanwhile, the temporary rule is still in effect.

The 2017-18 biennial session has already generated proposed bills that impact environmental health if adopted. Please continue to monitor the EH Listserv and other resources to maintain awareness. It’s so important that we all work together to guard against bills that could have a detrimental impact on the public’s health or the environmental health profession.

Finally, we have provided approximately $30,000 each to nine local health departments to serve as regional centers for mosquito and tick control, surveillance, and education. The participating LHDs are: Albemarle Regional, Haywood, Pitt, Carteret, Mecklenburg, Transylvania, Forsyth, New Hanover, and Wake. This opportunity is made possible by a combination of funding from State Appropriations and the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant.

As usual, there’s a lot happening in environmental health. I encourage all REHSs to support and be active in district education meetings, Section-related regional meetings, SOP courses, NC PHA, NEHA, and other related organizations. Active participation and communication is essential to our success as a profession.

Larry Michael
Healthy Homes Provide Cost Savings and Reduced Emergency Department visits and Hospitalizations for Children with Asthma

Sally Herndon, MPH Head, Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, NC Division of Public Health

Per the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, low income families occupy many of the 30 million structurally damaged houses in the United States, which expose residents to hazardous environmental conditions that impact their health. These conditions include poor indoor air quality, poor movement of heat and moisture, radon, slips, trips and falls, tobacco smoke and fires. The health effects most commonly linked to poor housing conditions are respiratory problems, including asthma and lung cancer.

In 2008, The Community Guide for Preventive Services recommended home-based multi-trigger, multicomponent asthma interventions for children and adolescents, and it provided economic cost-benefit analyses demonstrating that these interventions, combined with asthma education, “provide good value for the money.”

In September, 2016, North Carolina hosted a Forum on Sustainable In-Home Asthma Management, that brought together a wide variety of participants from North Carolina with experts from the Centers for Disease Control, Housing and Urban Development, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Center for Healthy Housing. The forum provided expert presentations and an opportunity to dialogue about how to advance sustainable funding sources for a statewide network of coordinated evidence-based asthma care that reduces costs, emergency department visits and hospitalizations.

The State Center for Health Statistics provided data, including data on ED Visits and Hospitalizations for children with asthma.

Neasha Graves from the UNC Institute for the Environment moderated a panel of North Carolina programs that are impacting asthma management through evidence based in-home asthma interventions. All three of these programs, led by Mission Children’s Hospital, Wake Community Care of NC in partnership with Wake County Health Department, and Vidant Medical Center in partnership with ECU School of Medicine are showing strong results in asthma management, cost savings, reductions in ED visits and hospitalizations.

For a full report on the Summit and a view of all the presentations, go to the Asthma Alliance of NC website.

The Division of Public Health’s latest Asthma Initiative is to work with the Asthma Alliance of NC and the NC Association of Local Health Directors to establish a directory of providers for evidence-based in-home Asthma Interventions. A survey is going out to Local Health Directors in late February to assess interest and need. This could be a step toward creating a resource list for the most at-risk communities, to assess the need for a statewide network, and possibly a sustainable infrastructure for these cost saving intervention strategies. The Division of Public Health Asthma Initiative is seeking funding from the EPA to offer training in partnership with Neasha Graves, Community Outreach and Education Manager for the Environmental Resource Program (ERP) in the UNC Institute for the Environment, and some small seed funding to local health departments to begin this process in the summer of 2017 to:

1. Advance the number of children with asthma or their caregivers, especially in high risk communities, that are educated about environmental management of asthma and childhood exposure of secondhand smoke in the home.

2. Continue education and actions supporting the delivery, infrastructure and sustainability of financing evidence-based asthma interventions at home or school.

To learn more about this initiative, contact Sally Herndon sally.herndon@dhhs.nc.gov
NCPHA Spring Advocacy Conference
May 16, 2017
North Raleigh Hilton, Midtown

9:00 am – Registration and coffee

9:30 am - Opening Session
   Josh Swift, NCPHA President
   Mandy Cohen, MD, Secretary, NC Department of Health and Human Services
   Keynote by Dr. Andrew Taylor, Professor of Political Science, NCSU

10:45 am - Break

11:00 am – Plenary Session:
   How a bill becomes a law (real life version vs the book version)
   Pam Seamans, Former Policy Director at NC Alliance for Health
   How to navigate the NCGA website and other online advocacy tools, Betsy Vetter,
   Regional VP of Government Relations, American Heart Association

11:55 am - Lunch
   Aliana Havrilla, Community Coach, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

   Panel discussion with 3 professional lobbyists
   Chip Baggett, Director, Legislative Relations, NC Medical Society
   Maeve Gardner, Director, Government Relations, GSK
   Joe Stewart, ED of NC FreeEnterprise Foundation

1:30 pm – Concurrent Sessions - the difference Branches of Government and the Impact each has on policy
   1. Legislative Branch – Former Representative Rick Glazier, ED of NC Justice Center
   2. Executive Branch – Gary Fuquay, President, Fuquay Solutions
   3. Judicial Branch – The Honorable Barbara Jackson, NC Supreme Court Associate Justice

   Each session lasts 30 minutes so attendees can visit each session
   1:30 – 2:00
   2:15 – 2:45
   3:00 – 3:30

3:30 pm - Closing Session
   NC State Health Director (TBD)
   Peg O’Connell, NCPHA Advocacy Chair
   Josh Swift, NCPHA President.

Please note this agenda may change as necessary.
EASTERN DISTRICT NCPHA
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

To: Members and potential members of Eastern District NCPHA,
Environmental Health Section

From: Scholarship Committee
EDNCPHA Environmental Health Section

RE: 2017 Ken Sigmon/McCall Brothers Scholarship

The EDNCPHA Environmental Health Section is now accepting applications for
the 2017 Ken Sigmon/McCall Brothers Scholarship. The $300 scholarship will
be awarded at our annual conference which will be held April 26-28, 2017 in
Atlantic Beach.

The scholarship may be used towards academic degrees (Graduate,
Undergraduate, Associate), Environmental Health job related certification, or
continuing education deemed appropriate by the scholarship committee.

Applicants must be employed in Environmental Health within the Eastern
District counties and submit evidence of acceptance or ability to be accepted
into the program that they propose using the scholarship towards.

Applicants should complete the attached application and submit it to:

Melanie Campen, REHS
Pender County Health Department
15060 US HWY 17 N.
Hampstead, NC 28443

The deadline for applications is April 17, 2017.
Do you know an ECU or WCU student who is studying Environmental Health? Perhaps you have decided recently to go back for more education. Take a look at these great opportunities and apply! The NCPHA EH Section Scholarship applications are due by June 30, 2017.

Tim Hilton Environmental Health Specialist Scholarship ($500 per year)
1. Applicant must be a practicing Environmental Health Specialist within the geographical boundaries of Western District NCPHA are eligible. This includes the counties of: Alamance, Rockingham, Guilford, Randolph, Montgomery, Stokes, Forsyth, Davidson, Stanly, Union, Surry, Yadkin, Davie, Rowan, Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Alleghany, Wilkes, Alexander, Iredell, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston, Ashe, Watauga, Avery, Caldwell, Burke, Cleveland, Rutherford, McDowell, Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Buncombe, Henderson, Polk, Haywood, Transylvania, Swain, Jackson, Graham, Macon, Cherokee, and Clay.
2. Applicant must be a current member of NCPHA and the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA.
3. Course work must be related to the professional environmental health field.

The applications are due June 30, 2017, and these scholarships will be awarded at the Fall Educational Conference in September.

Dewey L. Padgett Scholarship ($300 per year)
Applicant must be an ECU Junior or Senior student majoring in environmental health. Applicant shall have GPA of 2.5 or above, and have a financial need. If a qualified student does not apply, the scholarship may be offered to a practicing environmental health specialist (member).

Stay Covil Scholarship ($300 per year)
Applicant must be a WCU Junior or Senior student majoring in environmental health. Applicant shall have a GPA of 2.5 or above, and have a financial need. If a qualified student does not apply, the scholarship may be offered to a practicing environmental health specialist (member).

Environmental Health Section Scholarship Fund ($300 per year per scholarship)
One scholarship is to be awarded to an ECU student and one to a WCU student. Application from ECU and WCU applicants are approved by the Executive Committee and shall have a GPA of 3.0 or above.

The applications are due June 30, 2017, and these scholarships will be awarded at the Fall Educational Conference in September.

Practicing Environmental Health Specialist Scholarship ($300 per year)
1. Applicant must be a practicing Environmental Health Specialist in North Carolina.
2. Applicant must be a current member of NCPHA and the Environmental Health Section of NCPHA.
3. Course work must be related to the professional environmental health field.

The applications are due June 30, 2017, and these scholarships will be awarded at the Fall Educational Conference in September.
2015-2016 NCPHA Membership

Each dot represents a member. Counties without any members shown in green.

Each dot represents a conference registrant. Counties without any registrants shown in grey.

Note: dots are located in the county of the registrant, but not necessarily in the exact geographic location.

Maps produced by K Jones, ECU Department of Public Health. Data provided by NCPHA.
National Environmental Health Association, Region 7 Update:

If you have an event you want posted to the NEHA Online Community Calendar, please send requests to vhudson@orangecountync.gov. This year, the NEHA Annual Education Conference in Grand Rapids, MI and it is open for registration. The conference will be July 10-13, 2017 and scholarships are available. NEHA’s lobbyist on Capitol Hill has made herself available for EHS’s questions. E-mail advocacy questions that you want passed on to vhudson@orangecountync.gov. This could be particularly important with the change in federal administration for government agencies to adopt comprehensive, dedicated, cohesive, proactive, and standard approaches to environmental health services. Governmental environmental health services are essential to providing basic needs to the public such as safe drinking water, clean air, lead poisoning prevention, climate change adaptation, and more. Finally, NEHA announced the release of the newly updated 5th edition of its Professional Food Manager.

NEHA Annual Educational Conference (AEC)

The NEHA AEC is so much more than a conference. It is the nexus for environmental health training, education, networking, and advancement. It is the event environmental health professionals attend to acquire practical and real-world information and expertise. It is the event from which environmental health professionals leave, trained, motivated, inspired, and empowered to further advance their organizations and themselves. NEHA’s AEC is the most comprehensive training and education investment your organization can make to achieve immediate and long-term benefits. By attending the NEHA AEC, you will gain the skills, knowledge, and expertise needed to help solve your organization’s daily and strategic challenges and improve your bottom-line results. You also can earn Continuing Education (CE) credit to maintain your professional credential(s).

Educational Highlights for Annual Conference 2017

- **Invited Keynote:** Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Senator (MI), Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

- **Opening Session: Aiming for Equity,** an environmental justice panel facilitated by Dr. Renée Branch Canady, Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Public Health Institute

- **The Great Debate on Restaurant Grading:** Is restaurant grading effective practice or are we misleading ourselves and the public? Listen to the pros and cons of restaurant grading as Terri W Illiams, director of environmental health for Los Angeles County and Mick Miklos, senior manager at the National Restaurant Association, face-off to discuss this controversial issue.

- **Emerging Issues: Antibiotic Resistance Panel,** Sponsored by NSF International; Listen to former USDA Undersecretary for Food Safety Dr. Richard Raymond lead a panel discussion on one of the most important environmental health issues of the modern era, antibiotic resistance.

- **Closing Session on Sustainability,** sponsored by NEHA’s Business & Industry Affiliate and moderated by Josh Jacobs, Technical Information and Public Affairs Manager for UL
**District News**

**Northeastern**

President

- 90 paid memberships in 2016

- Awards granted were for the following:
  
  Rookie of the Year: No nominations
  REHS of the Year: Dianne Anderson of Lenoir County

- Northeast Environmental District draws for 2 FREE memberships to NCPHA throughout the year. First free membership is drawn at the January meeting and a 2nd membership is draw at the July to encourage membership and participation in NCPHA.

- At our January meeting Stacey Harris of Beaufort County presented to NEEHD on the 1st Embargo case in NC to go to court, following Hurricane Matthew.

**Southeastern**

Nicole Thomas, President

The Southeastern District Environmental Health Association began our quarterly section meetings for the 2017 year starting at the Cumberland County Health Department March 16th and the next at the Johnston County Health Department scheduled for June 1st. Requests for nominations for Environmental Health Specialist and Rookie of Year were announced at the March meeting. Our 2017 officers, continuing their positions from last year, are (President) Nicole Thomas from Cumberland County, (Vice President) Kory Hair from Bladen County, and our (Secretary/Treasurer) Dana Person from Johnston County.

We are looking forward to a great 2017 and hope to have a great turn out at our next meeting. Bring a co-worker!
If you want your article featured in the next issue of the NCPHA Environmental Health Section Newsletter, please contact one of the section officers!!