

Spring 2017



Kansas Environmental Health Association

- President:
Guy Crabill, RS
gcrabill@franklincoks.org
- 1st Vice President
Shawn Esterl
Shawn.Esterl@saline.org
- 2nd Vice President
Keena Privat, RS
kprivat@flinthealth.org
- Secretary
Lisa Davies
ldavies@gcphd.org
- Treasurer
Beth Rowlands
Beth.rowlands@ks.gov
- Past President
Ann Mayo, MS, RS
indiangrass1@gmail.com
- At Large
Tom Morey, R.S.
Tom.morey@ks.gov
- General Section Chair
Tim Simons
Tim.simons@snco.us
- Special Section Chair
Emma Tajchman
Etajchman@marioncoks.net

Message from the President

Greetings to our membership.

Having assumed the duties of President of KEHA for 2017, I wish to encourage your attendance at the Spring Conference being held March 23 and March 24, 2017 at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. While KEHA has had a long history of holding our Spring Conference at Rock Springs 4H Camp, economic and logistic concerns have lead us to choose the Bluemont as the conference site. This choice is also based on the positive feedback we have received from the membership concerning the venue.

As many of you know, members of the KEHA Executive Board have met with members of the Kansas Small Flows Association Board to work out a Memorandum of Understanding so that we can go forward with planning a joint Fall Conference. This will be in Wichita on October 11, 12 and 13 at the New Century Hotel.

On December 8, 2016, I attended the second meeting of the Council on the Future of Public Health in Kansas, held at the Kansas Health Institute in Topeka. As some of you may recall, during our 2016 Fall Conference, Michelle Ponce, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) spoke to our membership concerning this project. Our past president Ann Mayo had attended the first meeting of the Council in August of 2016 but felt that an active Board member should be in attendance to represent the KEHA membership.

The Future of Public Health in Kansas is organized as the Kansas Public Health Systems Group which is a coalition of member organizations that works to protect and promote the health of Kansans and designed to strengthen and support the Kansas public health system and its workforce. KEHA participation in the Kansas Public Health Systems Group will be vital to our profession in the coming years, as the future implementation and practice of Public and Environmental Health in the State of Kansas will be defined by the recommendations of this study. A third meeting is scheduled on April 6th, 2017. If any of you have any questions or concerns about the Kansas Public Health Systems Group please feel free to contact me or approach me at the Spring Conference in March.

On a different note, many of us have had some training in preparing for natural disaster response in our communities. The assumption of much of this training is that local response will be short term until State or Federal resources are brought to bear. But how will we respond if outside resources are not forthcoming? This is part of the scenario in "Lights Out: A Cyberattack, A Nation Unprepared, Surviving the Aftermath" by Ted Koppel. Mr. Koppel, the former host of "Nightline" has written a book, while not driven by paranoia, is adamant that the Federal Government is under prepared for such an attack and outlines how vulnerable our electrical grid is to hacking. Such a cyber attack could shut down the electrical grid in large portions of the nation without a restoration of services for weeks to months. As public health and environmental health professionals our available resources would be overwhelmed in short order. Anyone who has had their computer hacked or suspect that they have been hacked, should consider the infrastructure controls that can be vulnerable to such an attack. No internet, no systems controls for water supplies, waste treatment, no working utilities or services, compromised health care, no refrigeration, a lack of food distribution. The list goes on, but you get the idea. So far, I have been too lazy to be a prepper, but Mr. Koppel's book has given me pause as to my basic assumptions about our infrastructure. Our communities may be looking to us for answers we don't have. "Lights Out" is a quick, concise read but I don't recommend it before bedtime.

Microfibers released in washing machines can wreak havoc on soil treatment systems over time.

New studies indicate that the fibers in our clothes could be poisoning our waterways and food chain on a massive scale. Microfibers — tiny threads shed from fabric — have been found in abundance on shorelines where wastewater is released. In fact, 85 percent of the human-made material found on the shoreline were microfibers, and matched the types of material, such as nylon and acrylic, used in clothing. Microfibers are so small, too small to see. They can be as small as 3 microns. In comparison, a human hair is 50-100 microns.

In a recent study, researchers at the University of California at Santa Barbara found that on average, synthetic fleece jackets release 1.7 grams of microfibers each wash. That's approximately 1,900 individual fibers. For those connected to a sewer system, the microfibers travel to the local wastewater treatment plant, where up to 40 percent of them enter rivers, lakes and oceans, according to the research findings. Synthetic microfibers are particularly dangerous because they have the potential to poison the food chain. The fibers' size also allows them to be readily consumed by fish and other wildlife. These plastic fibers have the potential to bioaccumulate, concentrating the toxins in the bodies of larger animals higher up the food chain.

These tiny particles also have the potential to impact septic systems, since most washing machines don't filter out particles and the current available add-on filters designed to keep lint out of septic tanks still don't catch the tiniest fibers. Since the particles are so small they will be resistant to settling in the septic tank and will pass through effluent screens. It is likely that most of these fibers are captured in the soil treatment system, creating concern for plugging of soil pores over time.

Submitted by Rich Basore, KDHE

NEHA and EPA sign Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on Environmental Health Issues

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) has signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the EPA Office of Research and Development. The purpose of the MOU is to facilitate cooperation and coordination between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Research and Development (EPA-ORD) and NEHA.

Through this MOU, NEHA and EPA-ORD will have the opportunity to collaborate on a multitude of areas such as communication about respective programs, environmental public health work, outreach and stakeholder engagement.

“This MOU is an important step in our journey toward a national future defined by greater professional cohesion, shared goals, and healthy families living in safe and secure communities,” said NEHA Executive Director, David T. Dyjack, DrPH.

A major benefit of signing this MOU is the streamlined communication and collaboration process between NEHA and EPA-ORD. With such similar missions and responsibilities in protecting environmental and public health, NEHA and EPA-ORD will seamlessly be able to coordinate programs, events and topics of specific interest quickly and efficiently.

The major topic areas of specific interest include, but are not limited to chemical safety, human health risk assessment, water quality, climate change and health, sensors and technology, air quality, health impact assessment, sustainable and health communities and environmental justice,

With the ever-increasing need to focus on keeping communities safe by protecting environmental and public health, this MOU will serve NEHA and EPA-ORD immensely moving forward.

2016: Hottest Year Ever Recorded

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the [globally averaged temperature for 2016](#) was the highest among all years since record keeping began in 1880. During 2016, the average temperature was 1.69 °F above the 20th century average. Since the start of the 21st century, the annual global temperature record has been broken five times (2005, 2010, 2014, 2015, and 2016).



**Kansas Environmental Health Association
2017 Spring Conference Registration**

March 23rd – 24th, 2017

Bluemont Hotel, Manhattan, KS

Please return completed form via email ASAP to: Beth.Rowlands@ks.gov

NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Conference Registration:

KEHA member\$50.00 \$ _____

KEHA *non-member*\$70.00 \$ _____

Note: Room rate of \$91.00 + taxes is not included in registration fee.
Please see attached for hotel registration information.

RESERVATIONS NEED TO BE CONFIRMED BY 03/09/17 to assure rate and availability.

Scholarship Donation \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.....
(Money does NOT have to accompany form.)

\$ _____

Please make sure information is complete and include one form for each person attending the conference.
This information will be used to update the KEHA Membership list.

Please send payment along with a copy of the registration form to:

Beth Rowlands, KEHA Treasurer
P O Box 1969
Lawrence, KS 66044-1969
Phone: 785-842-4600

Administrative Use Only:

Beth Rowlands, KEHA Treasurer

Date: _____

Amount: _____

Bluemont Hotel Reservation Information

Booking Instructions:

1. Go to www.bluemonthotel.com
2. Click "BOOK NOW" in the top right corner.
3. Click "Click Here for Group Reservations"
4. Type in Group ID code KEHA0417 and password keha
5. Click "Log In"
6. Make sure the dates are correct.

Liz Block

Group Sales Manager | Bluemont Hotel

1212 Bluemont Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502

Hotel Phone: 785.473.7091 | Cell: 702-884-2150 Fax: 785-320-7432

Liz.Block@bluemonthotel.com

You can also make a reservation by calling the front desk at 785.473.7091 and saying you are with KEHA - Kansas Environmental Health Association.

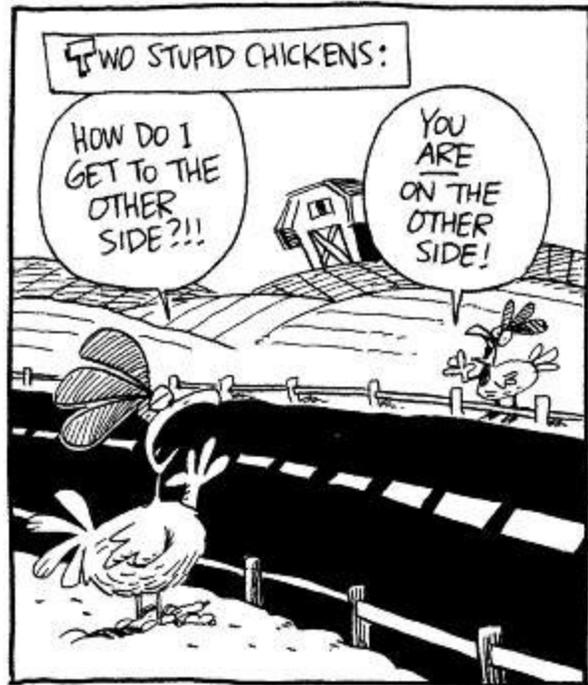
The KEHA Spring Conference has changed locations this year, but the normal conference structure will stay the same. We will be starting with registration from 12 –1 on the 23rd and ending by noon on the 24th.

Agenda will be coming soon so please book rooms at the Bluemont as soon as possible.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in Manhattan.



At the Dung Beetle Bar.



*Kansas Environmental Health Association
PO Box 1969
Lawrence, KS 66044*

Find us at <http://keha.us>

2017 AEC Exhibitor Registration Now Open

[Exhibitor registration](#) is now open for the [2017 AEC](#). By exhibiting at the AEC, you can increase your visibility and interact face-to-face with 1,200 regulators, food safety experts, boots-on-the-ground environmental health specialists, industry leaders, and professionals within public and private sectors. Early pricing ends March 15! [Sponsorship opportunities](#) are also available to those interested in supporting the conference.