

July 1, 2017



*National Capital Area  
Environmental Health  
Association*

# Annual Report 2016-2017

## NCAEHA Objectives

- ★ To promote an association of Environmental Health Specialists and other Environmental Health practitioners
- ★ To provide an opportunity and stimulus for professional growth through educational programs
- ★ To promote high standards of qualifications and professional ethics for Environmental Health practitioners
- ★ To strive for increased recognition of Environmental Health practitioners as a professional group rendering services vital to the health and well-being of the public
- ★ To encourage cooperation between the private and public sectors in activities directed toward the improvement of public health and the environment
- ★ To promote, through educational means, public awareness of environmental factors which affect the general well-being of the populace; and to otherwise promote the objectives of the National Environmental Health Association (hereinafter known as NEHA)

# President

## *Kristen Pybus*



*Welcome to the 2016-2017 Annual Report!* The goal of this report is to provide members with an insider view of the activities of Board members, a summary of the accomplishments for the year and a list of goals for the upcoming year. If you have any feedback regarding this report, how we may better serve you, or specific ideas on how we may accomplish our 2017-2018 goals, please email me. We'd love to hear from you, as some of our greatest ideas come straight from the membership!

This year, with many new Board members and changing roles, we started the year off learning the expectations of our positions. We met in-person in March to discuss our roles, upcoming conferences, by-law revision schedule and to create a strategic plan. We also discussed future possibilities and changes for the NCAEHA including ways to increase our media presence and offer the members more for their membership, such as the Brewery Tour. We are working towards solidifying conference agendas as well as plan other educational and networking opportunities months in advance in hopes to increase awareness and attendance. So please keep your eyes out for the Fall and Winter conference agendas and other fun, informative, and exciting opportunities. Lastly, we discussed ways to increase funds while minimizing the burden on our membership.

In the last year, we focused on providing professional advancement and continuing educational opportunities to our members. So far this year, NCAEHA has successfully hosted two educational conferences, in Virginia in January and in DC in April. The conferences offered a diverse range of presentation topics to cover different aspects of environmental health. We hope to continue to offer presentations that are interesting and relevant to membership. If you have suggestions for presentation topics, speakers, or conference locations, please let me know and I will ensure that your suggestions are passed onto the Regional Representatives.

NCAEHA also hosted the CPO course and exam in May which allowed members to obtain their CPO certification. Next year, we plan to offer the REHS and CP-FS exams. Let us know if you are interested in obtaining one or both of those credentials, or have another credential in mind that we should offer. We hope to provide you with what you both want and need.

As a non-profit organization, we work hard to be fiscally responsible and I am happy to say that the fiscal health of the organization is well. We hope you see the new and exciting benefits of being a NCAEHA member in months to come. We also hope you have noticed that the face of the NCAEHA has changed. In hopes to improve our presence, our website, newsletter, and annual report have all been re-designed and we can be found on social media. Check us out on our new webpage, Facebook, and Twitter.

Finally included in this Annual Report are introductions to our scholarship and award recipients for 2017. This year was highly competitive and we're honored to recognize our awardees and congratulate them on their many achievements!

It is an exciting time to be on the Board. We have renewed energy and motivation and as well as a new generational perspective. This has been a busy and productive seven months in this new role and a truly enlightening and positive experience. I am thrilled to be a part of this organization and thankful for the opportunity. If you are interested in assisting the Board in any capacity, please let me know. As always, we thank you for choosing to be a member of NCAEHA and for all of the valuable input and feedback. We look forward to another great year in 2018!

✉ [NCAEHA.President@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.President@gmail.com)





# Vice President of Programs & Professional Development

*Christy Kunes*

During the last year, NCAEHA offered a Certified Pool Operator training course on May 8th and 9th, for which I served as the event coordinator. There were several NCAEHA member attendees at this training. We were grateful to have Michelle Howard travel here from North Carolina to teach the class.

NCAEHA also plans to offer the *Certified Professional - Food Safety (CP-FS)* exam and the *Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS)* exam in March 2018 in Fairfax, VA. Several members have already expressed interest in taking either of these exams.

We are happy to be able to provide training opportunities for our members so they can expand their knowledge and credentials!

Please contact Christy Kunes at 571-438- 4467 or by email if you have any questions, comments, suggestions, or if you are interested in sitting in on these exams.

✉ [NCAEHA.VP.Programs@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.VP.Programs@gmail.com)

*The NCAEHA Board wants to wish Christy Kunes a farewell!*

*She has kindly served her time as the 2017 Vice President of Programs and Professional Development.*

*Christy has been a valuable team member ensuring that our members were provided with opportunities to enhance their professional credentials in the field of Environmental Health.*

*We will miss you, Christy!*

*Best of wishes on your new move and new employment opportunity!*

*Wishing Christy Kunes a farewell!*

It was a pleasure having you as our 2017 NCAEHA Vice President of Programs and Professional Development. You will be missed!



# Vice President of Membership

*Laura Wildey*



Hello NCAEHA Members! Yet another year has gone by and it's been a great one! An association is only as good as its members, and we've got some pretty fantastic members - 79 fantastic members, to be exact. We are made up of regulators, industry partners, and individuals from academia. We've seen a 21.5% increase in membership this year and are working hard to boost that number even higher!

The Social Committee is working to incorporate more social events and networking activities into our yearly schedule. I hope those of you that joined us for the Brewery Tour at the end of June enjoyed the opportunity to learn about brewing beer and had a chance to network with some of your colleagues in a relaxed setting! A big thank you goes to the members of the Committee: Chuti Nakronsri, Kendra Washington, and Shannon McKeon. It is my goal to get into some manufacturing facilities in the next year so we can see what it takes to make the foods found on shelves in establishments all over America. We've also heard your comments about special processes. It looks like our members want to see more information on specialized food products out there. We hear you and are working towards satisfying your wants and needs!

I also want to thank Jordonna Hailey, Julia Balsley, and Bryant Wooden for their participation on the Awards Committee. We had several great nomination letters to choose from while voting for the winners. It's amazing to see all the work our members are doing. Great job to all of the nominees!

**Right:**  
Past  
social  
media  
for the  
Brewery  
Tour at  
Beltway  
Brewing  
in June  
2018

**SAVE THE DATE!**

JOIN US FOR A FREE  
LAB TOUR + BREWERY  
TOUR, NETWORKING,  
AND BREWS AFTER!

**NCAEHA  
BREWERY  
TOUR WITH  
BELTWAY  
BREWING**

**JUNE 28, 6:30PM**

RSVP BY 6/21 TO  
LWILDEY@NCAEHA.COM

22620 DAVIS DR #110  
STERLING, VA 20164

BEERS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE FOLLOWING TOURS

We want you to get the most out of your membership, so please don't hesitate to reach out with your ideas! Want to be on a committee? Our committees are open to all members! Email me anytime with comments, suggestions, dreams, and aspirations. I'm looking forward to another successful year with NCAEHA!

✉ [NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.VP.Membership@gmail.com)



# Secretary *Julia Balsley*



As Secretary in 2017, I was in charge of sending out group emails announcing our educational conferences, professional training opportunities, surveys, and job announcements.

For our educational conferences, I gathered RSVPs and created sign-in lists where I greeted attendees and assisted in registration. Copies of our membership and award applications were also made available. Following each educational conference held, I produced and emailed certificates for members that attended the conferences.

At our other events such as the Annual Awards Dinner, I was able to prepare and distribute Evite invitations out to our members and guests.

I sent out monthly Board meeting Outlook calendar requests to my fellow Board members. As I attended each of the monthly Board meetings, I was able to record meeting minutes and later disseminate them to the Board for approval. Meeting minutes are updated every month and can be viewed on our website at NCAEHA.com.

As needed, I continue to update the membership Excel spreadsheet, board member list, and email listserve for our organization.

I look forward to seeing you all soon at our next NCAEHA event!

✉ [NCAEHA.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.Secretary@gmail.com)



*Thank you for attending the*  
**SPRING 2017 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

*Right: Past social media for the Spring Educational Conference in January 2017*

**Pictured:** Julia Balsley, LCDR James Speckhart (NEHA Region 8 VP), Dawn Adams, Christy Kunes, Erin Miller, Kristen Pybus, Laura Wildey, & Chuti Nakronsri



# Treasurer

## Victoria Griffith

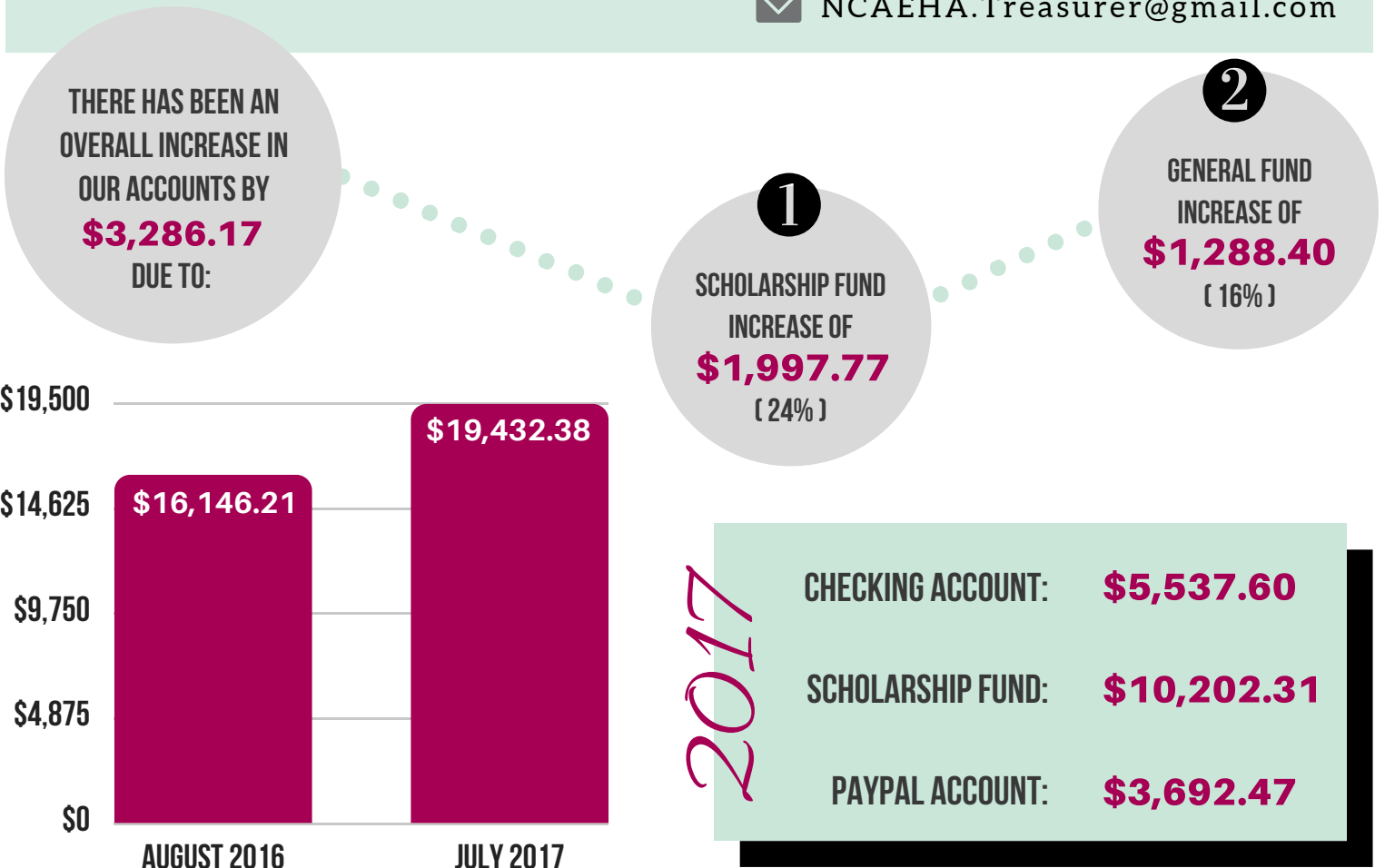


Hello all! The current 2017 Treasurer's Annual Report is as follows:

Positive growth in the association accounts are attributed to a productive review of post-conference expenses and reacting to mismatched spending. We also set a per person budget for each conference based on the fees collected.

- Attendance at conferences is averaging up to **35** paid participants with a **40%** profit ratio per conference.
- Membership dues remain constant at approximately **70** paid members a year.
- We will work to secure more sponsors for conferences and other fundraising to support the scholarship initiatives as well as bolster the general fund for security.
- We seek to add in as many details to the NCAEHA By-Laws that will create a better layer of security as well as continuity of operation.

✉ [NCAEHA.Treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.Treasurer@gmail.com)





# VA Representative

*Erin Miller*



I am now in my second year representing Virginia on the NCAEHA Board, and am actively engaged with the Board trying to make our association the best that it can be!

The Virginia Representative is responsible for hosting the Winter Educational Conference. The last Virginia conference was organized with lots of help from my fellow Board members while I was on maternity leave. We had a nice turnout at the January 2017 conference located in Alexandria, which had a variety of speakers and topics that were covered. Also, let's not forget that our newest Board Members were sworn in!

*Winter 2017*

**Identification and Investigation of Illegal Gartines**  
By Andrea Buchanan & Russell Fair, Alexandria Fire Dept.

**Fairfax County's Policy, Assessment and Assurance Efforts to Address the Environmental and Public Health Implications of Improper FOG Management**  
By Juan Reyes, Fairfax County Dept. of Public Works & Environmental Services

**Shalom Farms: Growing Food, Growing Community**  
By Sara Clark, Shalom Farms

**Milk Safety: The Protection of Virginia's Official State Beverage**  
By Fred Nates, VDH Office of Environmental Health Services

**Tick-borne Disease Prevention**  
By Dr. John Orr, Fairfax County Health Dept.

**Developing the Environmental Health Leader Within You**  
By Bob Custard, NEHA

My primary goals this year are to continue to work with Virginia members addressing items and topics that they are interested in and to continue to engage our membership.

If you haven't been to a conference lately, I encourage you to come out to one soon. If you ever have any questions, concerns, comments or just want to chat, please don't hesitate to reach out!

✉ [NCAEHA.VA.Rep@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.VA.Rep@gmail.com)



# DC Representative

*Dawn Adams*

As the DC Representative, I had the honor along with the NCAEHA Board members this year to coordinate and host the 2017 NCAEHA Spring Educational Conference held in the beautiful city of Washington DC at the *Judiciary Square District Building*. The presenters, were outstanding delivering a wealth of information on topics relevant to the field of environmental health.

Opening remarks were delivered by the NCAEHA President, Kristen Pybus, followed by updates from the NEHA Region 8 Vice President, LCDR James Speckhart, MS, USPHS, and a preview of upcoming social events by NCAEHA Vice President of Membership, Laura Wildey, and interesting and educational topics such as:

*Spring 2017*

**The Truth About Mobile Food Vendors During Special Events**  
By Lisa Davis, DC Dept. of Health

**West African Kenkey Production in a Home-Based Operation**  
By Lana Buckles, VA Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services

**Bottling Magic**  
By Meagan Donica, MTO Kombucha

**Onsite Sewage Systems and Well Water Supplies**  
By Nick Gorshenin, Fairfax County Health Dept.

**Modern Day Food Preservation Techniques**  
By Kenya Moon, FDA Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition

**Improving Compliance Through Collaboration**  
By Carlton Brown, Safeway

Lastly, special announcements and closing remarks were delivered by myself and our NCAEHA President.

I would like to take the time to thank all of the members for attending and for the positive feedback that the Board members received!

✉ [NCAEHA.DC.Rep@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.DC.Rep@gmail.com)





# MD Representative *Kendra Washington*

As a new board member I am excited to learn about my new role, and do my part to work with everyone to improve our association. As the Maryland representative, my goal is to increase involvement with our local Maryland districts.

I am hoping to reach out to increase participation of our Maryland environmental health professionals, and ensure that we provide various speaker topics that are relevant to all members of the DC, MD, VA community.

Currently, I am working on organizing the 2017 Fall Educational conference, and I am looking forward to providing an informative event with a variety of speakers in the environmental health profession. The Board is working together to incorporate speakers that cover specific topics our members have requested. As always, please let us know if you have any ideas and topics you may be interested in!

The upcoming Fall Educational Conference will be held on:

We look forward to seeing you there!

October 19th, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Building  
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)  
5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20740

✉ [NCAEHA.MD.Rep@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.MD.Rep@gmail.com)



Left: NCAEHA's new social media presence on Facebook. Follow us at: [www.facebook.com/ncaeha](http://www.facebook.com/ncaeha)

Right: NCAEHA's newly redesigned website. Bookmark us at: [www.ncaeha.com](http://www.ncaeha.com)



# Director of Communications

*Chuti Nakronsri*



As Director of Communications, my first goal in 2017 was to expand our social media presence and increase communications to our NCAEHA members. One of the first tasks to take on was to re-design the NCAEHA website. New colors, media content, and a brand new banner with our own photography of Washington DC have brightened up our website with new energy, and we hope that it continues to draw in new visitors! Our social media presence has climbed up in the 2017 year with first reviving our Twitter (@NCAEHA). We have been successful in getting more tweets out regularly to the public as well as receiving additional retweets, followers, and mentions in return. To add onto Twitter, our Facebook page was launched (@National Capital Area Environmental Health Association). The ultimate challenge has been increasing views and followers for our new social media page. We hope that our new graphic design tools and social media management tools will continue to attract our existing NCAEHA members on the web as well as attract new members.

## *2017 Activities:*

- Design of an Annual Announcement to introduce the new year, newly serving board members, and goals
- Re-design of the NCAEHA website
- Re-design of the NCAEHA newsletter, *The Preventive Measure*
- Re-design of the NCAEHA Annual Report
- Revival of the Twitter page
- Design of the Facebook page
- Design of NCAEHA Informational Flyers/Cards for general distribution
- Design of email templates for improved email communications
- Incorporation of environmental health employment opportunities via email, website, and social media pages
- Enhanced design tools for flyers/content for Twitter, Facebook, and the NCAEHA website
- Update on *In the Spotlight* - If you know an individual who goes above and beyond to contribute to the field of environmental health, please email me your nomination and a brief biography.

My first year as Director of Communications has been warm and welcoming. It has been an exciting experience as we transition into the summer season. There is much more work to be done in terms of improving NCAEHA communications, but I will continue to incorporate new ideas to spread the word about the NCAEHA in the DC-MD-VA area. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas you would like to share, please contact me via email!

Don't forget to please follow us and bookmark the following:

 [www.ncaeha.com](http://www.ncaeha.com)

 [www.facebook.com/ncaeha](https://www.facebook.com/ncaeha) - @National Capital Area Environmental Health Association

 [www.twitter.com/ncaeha](https://www.twitter.com/ncaeha) - @NCAEHA

 [NCAEHA.DOC@gmail.com](mailto:NCAEHA.DOC@gmail.com)



# 2017 Award Recipients

## *NEHA Certificate of Merit*

Paul Bilowus



Paul Bilowus has served as an employee of the Fairfax County Health Department since 1979, as a Health Sanitarian / Environmental Health Specialist with the Community Health and Safety Division, later merged as the Consumer Protection Program. Starting off his career in environmental health (EH) in 1978, he began his journey as a Health Sanitarian for Erie County, NY before moving down to Fairfax County, VA in 1979. Retiring in July 2017 with 39.5 years, he has gained a vast amount of skills, knowledge, and passion for the field which is clearly reflected through his work and endeavors. Mr. Bilowus is an extraordinary example of a leader in EH as he strives to provide an abundance of guidance and support to operators during health inspections, the general public, and fellow colleagues in order to successfully “protect, promote and improve health and quality of life”. As a valiant researcher, he never fails to share new information and outreach material with his fellow teammates and superiors. Mr. Bilowus regularly updates his peers with county/state information that may affect them, while initiating communication with County Board members serving as a voice and defender of the Health Department. His optimistic drive towards a greater understanding of EH expands as he voluntarily attends training conferences with FEMA and CDC including NCAEHA, using his time to continue growth and to learn as a professional even through his last years in the field. Mr. Bilowus is a known reliable source among his peers as he is always quick to respond to complaints and emergencies as an active volunteer for after-hours emergency response. Mr. Bilowus performs and exercises each of the core values within EH daily by making a difference, continued excellence, respect, customer service, and integrity.

## *Jerrold M. Michael Award*

Denise Lucas



Currently with the District of Columbia Department of Health as a Sanitarian, Denise Lucas’ roots in food safety and environmental health (EH) run deep. She studied Culinary Arts at the Culinary Institute of America and Art Institute of Philadelphia where she earned her Associate’s Degree. After working for several years as a catering chef, Mrs. Lucas became increasingly interested in food safety. She studied Food Science & Nutrition at the University of the District of Columbia earning a Bachelor’s degree. While studying, Mrs. Lucas served as a member of Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources and Related Sciences and Institute of Food Technologists. She earned a Master’s Degree in the area of Public & Community Health from Trinity Washington University. As a member of NEHA, Mrs. Lucas obtained her CP-FS (Certified Professional - Food Safety) Credential. She has previously served on the NCAEHA Board as DC Representative and Vice President of Membership. In these positions, Mrs. Lucas has facilitated and planned multiple Annual Education Conferences (AEC) and two Annual Awards Dinners. NCAEHA’s membership grew by 6% exceeding the set goal of 5%. She worked diligently to provide members with trending and cutting edge EH educational opportunities that helped them to become more knowledgeable and competitive in the vast industry of EH. Regardless of your EH area of expertise, she consistently worked to exceed the member’s professional and educational developmental goals. In her commitment to education, she regularly attends local and national conferences/meetings including the NEHA AEC, where she has twice received a scholarship from the Decade Software Company for full registration. Denise loves working with people and looks forward to learning more about EH, food safety,

## *James M. Wordsworth Scholarship*

Lana Buckles



and helping to keep her community safe. Lana Buckles is a student at Michigan State University in the Online Master of Science in Food Safety degree program. In addition to her degree, she is pursuing a Certificate in International Food Laws and Regulations. While studying, Ms. Buckles balances a career in environmental health as a Food Safety Specialist Supervisor at the Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (VDACS). She has had extensive professional experience with the LaPorte County Health Department in Indiana where she co-wrote the local Retail Food Safety Ordinance and contributed to the writing of the Indiana Retail Model Food Ordinance. During her time in Indiana, she was honored with the Food Protection Excellence Award from the Indiana State Department of Health. Ms. Buckles holds a CP-FS (Certified Professional - Food Safety) Credential, and also serves as a certified ServSafe® Instructor/Proctor and FDA Retail Food Standardization Officer. To stay involved with the community, Ms. Buckles serves as a current member of VEHA and the Central Atlantic States Association of Food and Drug Officials in addition to the NCAEHA. Previously, she served on the Board of the Indiana Environmental Health Association for 8 years as the