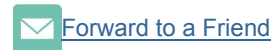


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 SPRING Edition 2016

KYEHA

Kentucky Environmental Health Association

Our water is in the lead...



Dear Fellow KYEHA Members and Friends:

I remember when the term Bio-Terrorism would have been the Word of the Year over 'selfie' or 'emoji' bar none. (If I used emojis or knew where to actually get one I would insert one with a thumbs up and sunglasses right here) It led to other angry and pointed words such as "agri-terrorism" and "food terrorism". Since first joining the bandwagon of using the term that no real terrorist has ever used, one of the biggest concerns that I've always had is an attack on the public water supply. But, of course I am constantly reminded by people much smarter than I that the sheer volume of water would make spreading of disease nearly impossible. Phew. Of course in Flint, Michigan they didn't need a bio-terrorist or even a superbug that could spread in the water supply. No, what they did have though is an age old Environmental Health nemesis and some really bad luck trying to save some money. What they have is LEAD. The entire fiasco began about 2 years ago when the State made the cost saving decision to change the water supply from Lake Huron to the Flint River. That in and of itself wasn't the issue. What they didn't account for as that the river was almost 20 times more corrosive and it would 'clean the pipes' so to speak and break down lead and other metals in the old pipes. A local pediatrician has reported toddler lead levels doubling and tripling since the switch. *OOPS.*

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/01/15/health/flint-michigan-water-crisis/index.html>

Now, as Environmental Health advocates, we know the dangers of lead exposure, particularly in children. From learning difficulties to long term kidney damage among other ailments can be caused by high blood lead levels. And while you might shrug your shoulders and say, 'it was an accident from good intentions, now fix it', the EPA seemed to also have issue that there may have been no anti-corrosive additives used as required. *OOPS.* BUT, following an investigation, it turned out the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, gave the OK for not using the anti-corrosives because they had concerns of bacteria in the water. AND, they "misread the regulation" which is why they said it was ok. *Double OOPS.* <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/flint-water-crisis-email-bacteria-worries-influenced-corrosion-decision/> (So if there is bacteria in the water, that's ok? The lead will get them I guess) This issue has led to class action lawsuits by residents of Flint and it may take years for us to figure that mess out. On top of that, the response took a while to get started and the general public can be a bit critical of emergency response agencies. Some calling this incident the Michigan governor's "Katrina". That is probably an overstatement, but it indicates the critical nature of the situation. I've been involved in water outages and I can tell you without a



Congratulations to our new Board members

Hey, the pay stinks in this gig, but the rewards of working with good people pay it back 10 fold. The most recent outstanding individuals to join the KYEHA Board for 2016:

- **Secretary: (Good luck to Natasha Collins! We will miss you!) - Sue Jewell**
- **Region 6 Director - Brittany Wells**
- **Vice President - Jessica Davenport**
- **Region 7 Director - Cassie Prather**
- **Industry At Large - Carl Rust (Kelloggs)**

Four vacancies still exist:
 Region 2 and 4 Directors and 2

shadow of a doubt that people are calm and mannered until 48 hours have passed. After that, they lose their minds, some more quickly than others. That is just with no water, *not poisonous water*.

While on the surface the entire incident appears to be unintentional, deep down it may be seen as too many "OOPS" on the part of our public utilities and regulatory authorities. Additionally, it may well be one of the most widely publicized examples of on an Environmental Health emergency (outside of the bazillion recalls *and even outbreaks* that we have all grown numb to) we have had in some time. The local officials there were not only dealing with trying to get potable water to 100,000 people, but they will undoubtedly have years of follow up regarding lead levels in the area. The city is now on Detroit water, which I guess is better, but officials are still arguing as to whether the old pipes can ever be used again or not. So, as usual, saddle up Public health, go fix this mess that you have nothing do with, with no expectations of recognition. And while you are at it, give thoughts and well wishes to our Public Health colleagues dealing with the mess on the front line. Good luck Flint.

Thanks for being a member.



How was the Conference?

So help me if you say one bad word about that cheesecake....oh man. Anyway, everything else you can tell us about [here](#). Its quick and we will use your feedback for next year. Thanks!



Board Meeting Dates are Set

Board meetings are open to all membership. Stop in and join us. Heck, bring donuts.

2016 Meeting Dates @ Marriot Griffin Gate, Lexington:

- Thursday, May 12th:
Salon C (1st Floor)
- Tuesday, August 23rd:
Terrace (1st Floor)
- Tuesday, November 1st:
Terrace (1st Floor)

Industry at large. Interested? GREAT, that's a good start.
[Contact us](#)



Outstanding Work recognized...

Congratulations to the 2016 KYEHA Award Winners!

Outstanding Sanitarian

Award: Mr. Chris Dedic

KYEHA Service Award:

Mr. Justin Carey

Steven G. Sandlin Award:

Ms. Brittany Wells

"Billy Bob" Award:

Mr. Randall Carrier

Hey if you are still reading this, then maybe you would like to check out our **new webpage**.
www.kyeha.org if you please.

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