

2023 IEHA Board Election-Candidate Bios

Director at Large 2026

David Banaszynski, Village of Hoffman Estates

David has been the Health Officer for the Village of Hoffman Estates for over 25 years. He is also the immediate past-president of IEHA.

North Chapter Vice President

Alex Brossman, Lake County Health Department

I would like to be considered for the North Chapter President or Vice President positions on the IEHA Board. In the last several years, I have made it a priority to attend our conference held at Starved Rock and in doing so I have learned about the IEHA board and believe that I could make unique and valuable contributions to the organization. While my 12 years of experience in Environmental health is relatively short, it is very eclectic. I began my career working for the American Lung Association in Seattle, WA doing indoor air quality assessments and assisting in landlord/tenant issues related to building and construction issues affecting IAQ. After that, I joined the United States Peace corps where I served in Mali West Africa for 6 months and then Vanuatu in the South Pacific on rain-water collection and safe drinking water projects for 2 years. This unique experience has given me an unconventional approach to solving problems, appreciating other viewpoints, and rapidly and appropriately adjusting to evolving situations. When I returned to the US, I began interning at the Kane County Health Department where I assisted in the West Nile Virus program. In the few years I had worked in EH, I was already sure I was passionate about this field, so I took and passed the national REHS exam after 5 months of interning at Kane County. Soon after that, I worked at the DuPage County Health Department for 3 years and developed the skills in the programs that are more commonly found in Illinois in our field such as Retail Food, Pools, Tanning, Body Art, Well, and Septic. I then made the move to Lake County Health Department where I began to learn some of the more technical aspects of Food Safety like understanding Special Processing requirements and HACCP plan review. I have also become I licensed Lead Risk Assessor and have assisted our Solid Waste Program in groundwater monitoring and landfill inspections. My current goals are to develop my knowledge of wells and groundwater protection. While I have learned about many of the sectors of EH I have decided I would like to specialize in water safety since it is such an essential part of a health community whether you are in Vanuatu or the Midwest US. It is what I found so rewarding about working in the third world and it continues to drive me. To realize this goal of mine I have taken on extra projects at LCHD such as GIS mapping of wells that require bi-annual site visits and associating these locations with non-spatial data such as age of the well, owner info, etc. I have also been working on the completion of a graduate degree in Environmental and Occupational Health from University of Alabama at Birmingham that I will be completing at the end of this year! I have particularly enjoyed my classes like Toxicology, Industrial Hygiene, Air and Water Pollution, and Environmental Disasters. I feel that with my background, professional network, and innate passion for EH I would be able to contribute unique assets to the Board to ensure that our conferences stay awesome, interesting, and appeal to our membership body year after year. Thank you for your consideration.

Stanley Cieczak, Whole Foods Market

I would be honored to serve as North Chapter President for the upcoming year. My goal for this position is to continue to promote membership in this organization through delivering best in class educational opportunities and networking for our members. I have previously served the IEHA Board as North Chapter Vice President and North Chapter Director in 2006-2010 and feel that experience is pivotal in taking this current position to a new level. If I were to be elected to this position, I would like to enhance the partnership between industry and

the regulatory community which is vital to protect public health. Here is my Bio: Professional Work Experience Senior Food Safety Analyst Whole Foods Market (May 2015-Present) Food Safety Manager o Jewel-Osco (Nov 2001 - May 2015) Environmental Health Inspector Village of Elk Grove Village (Jun 1999 - Nov 2001) Sanitarian DuPage County Health Department (June 1997 – June 1999) IEHA North Chapter VP and Director (2006-2010) Licenses/Credentials LEHP, REHS/RS, CP-FS, AFDO Seafood HACCP, National Registry Food Safety HACCP Manager, Illinois Certified Structural Pest Control Technician Education Northern Illinois University – BS Community Health, Minor Biology Thank you for your consideration!

North Chapter Director

Ashley Gustafson, Lake County Health Department

Hi there! My name is Ashley Gustafson and I am a licensed environmental health practitioner at the Lake County Health Department. I graduated from the University of Kansas with a bachelor's degree in Applied Behavioral Health, specializing in Community Health & Development, and later received my master's in public health from Elmhurst University. For the past five years, I have been dedicated to improving the health and safety of the community through my work at the DuPage and Lake County Health Departments. I am passionate about environmental health and am always eager to share my knowledge with the public, especially when it comes to food safety. I am a strong believer in the importance of professional development and continuous learning. In my free time, I enjoy walking, playing trivia and bingo, and spending time with my family and friends.

David Pettigrew, Retired/Industry Member

I am running for IEHA North Chapter Director. I joined IEHA in 1977 when I was an Environmental Health major at Illinois State University. I graduated from ISU in 1979 and worked for McHenry County Department of Health for nine years. I worked in private industry for 35 years, primarily in retail food store food safety, workplace safety, general liability and pest management. My main goal is to increase our number of sponsors and secure more professional speakers for our conferences.

Central Chapter Vice President

Dori Bugajski, Illinois Department of Public Health

Hello my name is Dori Bugajski. I am an Illinois State Environmental Health graduate and a Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner. I have worked at the Illinois Department of Public Health since my graduation in 1989. I began as a Sanitarian I and have worked my way up to Public Service Administrator of the General Engineering section. I began my career conducting licensing inspections in the following Environmental Health Division Programs: Manufactured Home Communities, Swimming Facilities, Campgrounds, Youth Camps, Non-Community Water and Migrant Labor Camps. As a Public Service Administrator, I am responsible for supervising inspectors and over-seeing the aforementioned programs along with the Childhood EBL and Lead Contractor Compliance programs. During the pandemic I was called to assist the IDPH Chicago Lab in a capacity that covered the supply and logistics of distribution/pickup of covid tests to all Federal Qualified Health Care facilities and testing sites throughout the Chicagoland area.

I feel I am at a point in my career where I am able to spend time giving back to the field I have found so much satisfaction in serving. I am interested in applying for a position at the Illinois Environmental Health Association. I would look forward to the opportunity to serve as Central Chapter Vice President.

Central Chapter Director

Renee Afdahl, Retired/Peoria City/County Health Department

My name is Renee Afdahl and I am very interested in assisting the IEHA in any way I am qualified. I retired from the Peoria Health Department in June of 2021 after almost 20 years of service. I have kept my membership active and licensure current. I believe this organization is essential in assisting new EH practitioners in a variety of ways too numerous to list! However, I also feel that the IEHA supports and facilitates continued growth in the profession of its long time members as well. This is why I support all that the IEHA entails. I am interested in, and would be honored to be considered for, the position of Central Chapter Director - but am open to other opportunities within the IEHA community. Thank you.

South Chapter Vice President

Molly Peters, Greene County Health Department

In 2008, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. I began my career in Health Education at Madison County Health Department and transitioned to Environmental Health Inspector in 2011. As my passion for environmental health expanded, I became a leader within the organization as a Sanitarian, Licensed Environmental Health Practitioner, and Environmental Health Coordinator. I could not be more proud of the staff's efforts and training opportunities gained throughout those years. In 2019, I became Greene County Health Department Administrator and Director of Environmental Health to move closer to my husband's family farm. I have over 15 years of experience in public health and environmental health. Moving to a more rural community and the COVID-19 pandemic was a significant challenge, but no more of a challenge than we will see in the coming years attempting as we rebuild our community's public health image and environmental health programs. As we move forward with rebuilding organizational infrastructure, it is a time to be creative, rebuild partnerships with state and federal experts, and to advocate for our local health departments, especially in environmental health. With my passion for the southern community's environmental health programs, I hope to earn your vote for Southern Chapter President so I can continue sharing this passion and experience with the Illinois Environmental Health Association Board. I look forward to working with all of you!

South Chapter Director

Doug King, Madison County Health Department

I have worked in the public/environmental health field since 1990. I began working for an environmental testing company in Springfield, Illinois and went on to work as a Sanitarian for the Municipality of Anchorage. I worked for East Side Health District as the Environmental Health Director and as an Assistant Administrator. Jersey County was my next stop serving as their Environmental Health Director and Public Health Administrator. Currently, I am the Public Health Administrator for the Madison County Health Department. I received a B.S. in Biology from Eastern Illinois University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Southern Illinois University.

Secretary

Giordan Kaplan, Elk Grove Village Health Department

Graduated from ISU with a degree in Environmental Health, LEHP since 2009, worked at the DuPage County Health Department for 5 years and at Elk Grove Village for 11. Current membership Committee chair and Secretary.