

SANITARIAN'S NEWSLETTER

February 1995
Volume 95 Number 1

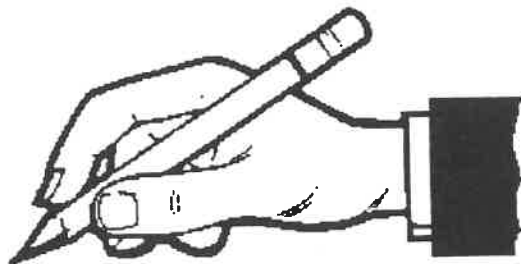
The *Sanitarian's Newsletter* is a publication of the *West Virginia Association of Sanitarians*. Articles printed are not necessarily the views of the *WVAS*. Editorial's are to be submitted to any of the contributing editors, or sent directly to Fred R. Barley, R.S., MOVHD, 211 6th Street, Parkersburg, WV, 26101. No editorial will be printed without the author's name. ✦

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Well, the last newsletter was a fantastic one for me to publish! I had a lot of input from the contributing editors, and it made things so much easier! New Year's Eve was something else for me. My partner in crime, Steve Bayer, decided we would accept an invitation to play for

a dance that night. What a night! It was a private sportsmen club and to say the least, they were primed by the time we took the stage! After three songs, they wanted to hear some Rock and Roll! I told them I had printed on our cards that we played country music, but they wouldn't hear of it..... so.... we did the best we could. I hate repeating songs, but that night we did some songs we never have done before and some of them twice or three times. They didn't care, just wanted to rock in the new year. In retrospect, I should have booked us in a biker nudie bar, it would have been safer! *Fred ✦*

**NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN
PANHANDLE**

After reading the NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN PANHANDLE in the last SANITARIAN'S NEWSLETTER, B.J. Baker, RS, Northern Panhandle Lead Program Coordinator sent me the following information about the lead program..... Jolene Zuros, RS

**NORTHERN PANHANDLE
LEAD PROGRAM**

The Northern Panhandle Lead Program began in 1993 when five (5) county health departments from the northern panhandle (Hancock, Brooke, Wheeling/Ohio, Marshall, and Tyler/Wetzel) formed a consortium. Marshall County became the lead agency and applied for and received a \$34,442.00 grant from the Department of Health and Human Resources Office of Community and Rural Health to implement a lead education and detection program.

TRAINING

In order for the program to be successful, it was necessary for the Sanitarians to be trained in the process of detecting lead in the environment. Ten (10) Sanitarians from the above counties attended the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute (EOHSI) at Rutgers University and became certified to inspect for

Lead Hazards. Thirty-nine (39) Sanitarians from West Virginia and Ohio have been certified in the use of the Scitec XRF MAP Spectrum Analyzer. (This unit will detect the presence of lead in paint and soil.) LEADTRAK water test training was conducted for the eleven (11) Sanitarians who work within the lead program.

EQUIPMENT

Two (2) Scitec XRF MAP Spectrum Analyzers are available for the five (5) county health departments to share and five (5) LEADTRAK water testing kits (one for each county health department) have been purchased for use by the consortium.

In addition, Audio Visual equipment to simplify the job of presenting lead programs to the public; several VCR tapes; and over 10,000 pieces of educational material have been obtained with grant money. Dosimeters for each Sanitarian to wear while using the Scitec are provided through the Northern Panhandle Lead Program.

Radiation exposure levels for each dosimeter are read quarterly so that each Sanitarian will know what his or her quarterly exposure level is. According to OSHA guidelines, a person can absorb up to 1250 mR (milli-Roentgens) of radiation dosage in a three-month period without ill effects. A supply of Lead Check Swabs which are used as presumptive tests are also available.

ASSESSMENTS

As of the beginning of December 1994, approximately 12 - 15 residences with children having evidence of Elevated Blood Lead Levels (EBL) have been assessed for the presence of lead. [An EBL, according to CDC, is defined as a confirmed concentration of lead in whole blood of 10 ug/dL (micrograms per deciliter of whole blood) or greater.]

Currently, West Virginia follows EPSDT Lead Screening Policy dated March 15, 1993. Environmental assessments are generally done at EBLs of 15 or above. It is suggested that blood lead level tests are done on persons aged six (6) months to six (6) years old.

Medicaid eligible households may have lead inspections and drinking water tested as well as the collection of soil, water, and paint chips free of charge. Requests for these services from private homeowners have also been honored and

are also free. To date, only one (1) health department in the consortium has a fee schedule for non-Medicaid requests. However, as the grant money expires, a uniform fee schedule to generate money needed to maintain existing equipment, purchase new equipment, and to continue educating Sanitarians may have to be implemented within the five (5) county consortium.

It is Mr. Baker's understanding that the Federal Government may require a lead assessment on homes they finance or insure soon so that an income potential exists.

REPORTING

Joseph Golebiewski, RS, Marshall County, has the computer capability to download the environmental lead assessments. As a result, environmental assessment results can be printed and given property owners and permanent records are also stored on a disc.

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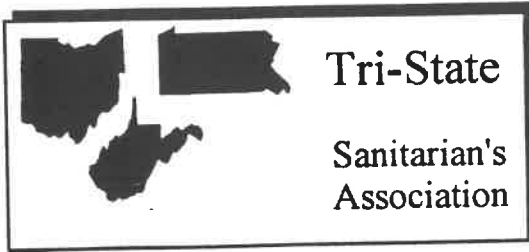
The Northern Panhandle Lead Program is currently in the second year. Emphasis for this year is Public Education. Presentations have already been made to private clubs, WIC participants, and Head Start parents as well as Sanitarians at the 1994 State Health Conference. The consortium has received a \$14,000.00 grant to continue the Lead Program. The grant money will be utilized to replace the Cobalt 57 energy sources for the two (2) Scitecs, replacement of LEADTRAK reagents, and to print additional public information materials.

INFORMATION

Representatives from the Northern Panhandle Lead Program are willing to give presentations to various In-Service training areas. If interested, contact B.J. Baker, RS, Program Coordinator, Northern Panhandle Lead Program, P.O. Box 429, Moundsville, WV 26041 or 845-7840. Additionally, each county within the consortium has a program coordinator.

They are:

Brooke - Larry Main, 737-3665;
Hancock - Anthony LaPosta, RS, 564-3343;
Wheeling/Ohio - Dale R. Mann, RS, 234-3685;
Marshall - Joseph Golebiewski, RS, 845-7840;
Wetzel/Tyler - Pat Murphy, RS, 455-1450. ✦



Howard Bertram, RS hosted the December meeting which included a tour of the Brooke Glass Company located in Wellsburg, WV. The group watched several methods of glass being molded into various objects that were to be hand decorated by the Brooke Glass Company's skilled artisans. The Brooke Glass Company is known for their exceptional decorative glassware.

Hancock County hosted the January meeting on Wednesday, January 18. John Liggett, Assistant Director of the Regulatory Protection Division of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture addressed the group during the morning session. He discussed the Department of Agriculture's role in insuring food protection. We wanted to have Mr. Liggett speak to our group especially since the MOU between DHHR and AG became effective in November. Also in January, Karol Wallingford, RS conducted a class on food and water microbiology. The afternoon session was of interest to our group in light of the recent foodborne diseases caused by Yoder Potato Salad (*Listeria monocytogenes*), and Schwan's Ice Cream (*Salmonella enteritidis*).

The February meeting which will be hosted by Marshall County is still in the planning stages, however, George Sobota, RS has made arrangements for a Marshall County Magistrate to speak to our group about legal issues. The Magistrate will instruct the group on the correct method of writing and filing a Warrant. He will also answer any legal questions that may be posed to him by the group.

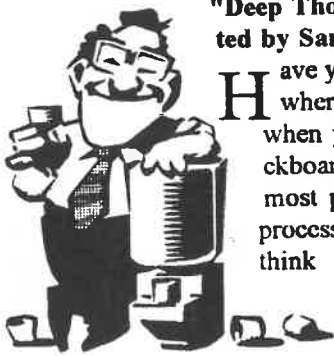
The remainder of the February agenda is only tentative at this time. Wheeling/Ohio County will host the March meeting. If Sanitarians from around the state wish to be added to the mailing list and be notified of future *Tri-State Environmental Health Association* meetings, please call Anthony LaPosta, RS from Hancock County at 564-3343..... Jolene Zuros, RS ✪

WVAS Public Relations/Education Committee Report - submitted by Fred Barley, R.S.

The Public Relations/Education committee was formed through an order from the WVAS Executive Council. Its purpose was to facilitate the publication of the Sanitarian's Newsletter, and to also improve public relations, public education, and sanitarian's education.

The committee met on January 11th, and the following recommendations were presented to the WVAS Executive Council, at their meeting on January 12, 1995:

- ✪ Promote our profession
- ✪ Try to help all sanitarians become R.S.'s
- ✪ Update 800 telephone list
- ✪ Develop free materials list
- ✪ Develop video library
- ✪ Improve communications with state offices, other counties, and other agencies
- ✪ Gather information for sanitarians interested in pursuing a masters degree program
- ✪ Publish the Sanitarian's Newsletter by mid-February ✪



"Deep Thoughts" - submitted by Sam E. Tarian

Have you ever wondered where the words go when you crase the blackboard? I guess since most people use a word processor, they never think about where the missing words go.....

They say our math skills in the U.S.A. are diminishing. I think they are right!

I saw a sign advertising a tanning saloon in Wood County..... Sessions were one dollar apiece, or a special of ten sessions for twenty bucks.

I was camping on the Williams River and stopped at a small store. A sign said, "hot dogs - plain for \$1.00; chili dogs for 75 cents." I asked the woman why the chili dogs were cheaper, and she looked at me and smiled with what teeth she had and said, "That's 'cause the chili dog ain't got no weenie." go figure Another place sells ice cold ice and military supplies....

A friend of mine was visiting and we went out for breakfast. He was especially hungry, so he ordered two breakfasts. The waitress asked him if he wanted toast with both orders. He asked her, "Do they both come with toast?""Yes," she replied.... "Then I want toast with both." Anywho, I guess you had to have been there to appreciate the moment. By the way, not only did he eat both breakfasts, but he also ate a side order of biscuits and gravy. I won't reveal his name, but will state he is from Logan County. I always get a kick when the boys from Logan visit. They think they are gettin' in the woods when they visit me. Geez... I always thought Logan County was kinna country livin' myself. My partner in crime says I live in BoonicVille. Shoot, all this time I thought I was living at home! At least my cat thinks so.....

I was talking to my cat the other day. I do that when I want to express my true feelings, and don't want anyone to hear. A perplexing problem has entered my mind, and I needed someone who could appreciate my turmoil. Think about it..... If cows could fly, would we still call them a

herd, or would we call them a flock? My cat just yawned and jumped up to her window sill for a nap (it's one of those cat thingies they do.) She wasn't much help. I guess we'd still call them a herd, but goats, now then we would have to call them a gaggle of goats. Pigs... well, they would be a swarm of swine.

My cat and I were watching TV on a Sunday evening, and I saw a product called "Miracle Thaw." I thought it was a rerun of a Saturday Night Live show, but nope, it was a real product. Anyone seen it? Looks like a aluminum griddle, but is supposed to melt an ice cube in 20 seconds (with the TV showing a child's hand on the griddle or whatever it is called and not burning it), thaw steaks in 30 minutes, and frozen fish in 10 minutes. Like P.T. Barnum said.....

Have you noticed it doesn't matter what temperature a room is, it's always room temperature? Think about it.....

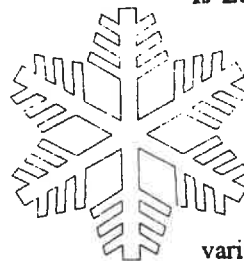
When I was little, my grandpa made me stand in a closet for 5 minutes..... he said it was elevator practice.

A sign at a gas station said "help wanted." There was another sign below it that said "self service." So I hired myself; made myself boss; gave myself a raise; paid myself; then quit. Our math skills might be diminishing, but our logic is as semi-solid as ever! *Sam E. Tarian*

(Editor's note: Sammie told me some of the material was taken from TV and from Steven Wright.... neither he nor his cat could remember what material came from where, but he assures me the chili dog, ice cold ice, breakfast, Miracle Thaw and the tanning sessions are true stories. Although he owns three cats, he only talks to one. Any other material is the deep reflections of Sammie's thoughts) ♣

Is Eating Snow Safe?

submitted by Fred Barley, R.S.



Nowadays, even snow that looks "as pure as the driven snow" may not be.

Snow can accumulate a variety of impurities as it falls (including contaminants from agriculture or manufacturing), and many others

(such as animal waste) while it is on the ground. Although it's unlikely that downing a small amount of snow will make your children sick, it is smart to teach them some restraint. Explain that snow, like most things they find outside, isn't always very clean, and that eating it could give him a tummyache.

Let them know that they can have some "clean snow" when they get home: ice crushed in the blender or food processor approximates the sensation, if not the wonder, of a fresh-from-the-sky snack. Adding a dash of juice concentrate will make it even tastier.

There's no need to panic, however, if you see your child sneaking a taste of real snow now and then; any serious risk from a bite of visibly clean snow is remote. Just remind them that eating snow isn't good for them, and divert their attention with a more wholesome activity - like making snow angels.

PARENTING MAGAZINE, FEB 1995 P 28 ✦

FLESH-EATING BACTERIA KILLS 5 PEOPLE IN SHENANDOAH VALLEY - By LISA DUNN, R.S.

The Virginia Department of Health along with CDC is investigating a contagious bacterial illness in the Shenandoah Valley that has caused a total of 9 people to be hospitalized and five of those have since died.

The illness is caused by *Group A Streptococci (GAS)* bacteria which are normally found in the throat and on the skin. Many people carry the bacteria with no symptoms occurring. The most common disease caused by *GAS* is strep throat.

The victims of this outbreak range in age from 28 to 83 with 8 of them being from Virginia and one from West Virginia. One woman who survived the flesh-eating bacteria was a 47-year-old school teacher. Her infection started as a mild pain in her shoulder and weakness similar to the flu but within 3 days she was hospitalized in intensive care fighting to stay alive against the deadly infection, necrotizing fasciitis.



Treatment for the disease is large amounts of penicillin. Doctors say the illness is treatable if caught early. CDC is involved in the investigation since it has proven to be so deadly; yet no connection has been found at this time between the people affected. The Virginia State Health Department says that *GAS* can cause life-threatening infections that destroy tissue and cause shock. "It is a very serious disease. Death is a good possibility," said Suzanne Jenkins, assistant state epidemiologist.

There is no vaccine for *GAS* which is spread by direct contact with people carrying the germ. People can reduce the spread of these germs by washing their hands frequently, especially after sneezing or coughing and before taking care of people with wounds or sore throats. ✦

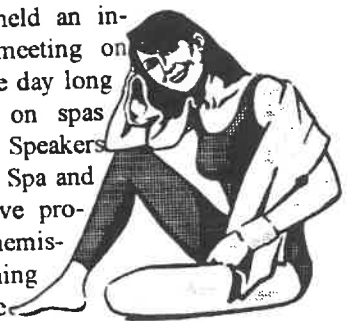
NEWS FROM OHFLAC - submitted by Robin H. Mullins, R.S.

If any sanitarian finds a nonregistered/nonlicensed Residential Board and Care Home (from 1-10 residents) in your county, please call MICHELLE ABBOTT, PROGRAM ASSISTANT, AT 1-800-442-2888 with the information you have on these homes. Any assistance you may be able to give us will be appreciated.

Any information you may have on unlicensed Personal Care Homes (11+ Beds) would be appreciated also. Thank you. Together we CAN make a difference for health care. If you prefer to send the information in writing, the address is: SANDY DAUBMAN, PROGRAM MANAGER, OHFLAC, WV DIVISION OF HEALTH, BUILDING 3, ROOM 550, 1900 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST, CHARLESTON, WV 25305. ✦

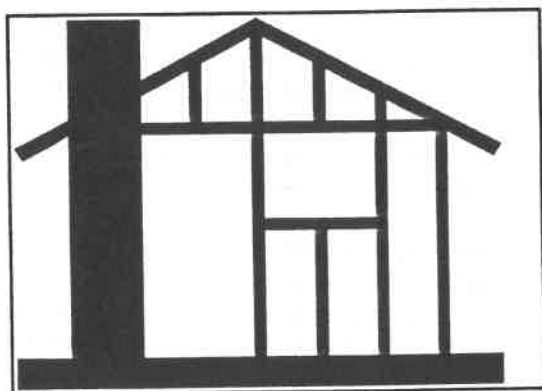
IN-SERVICE ON SPAS & HOT TUBS - Lisa Dunn, R.S.

The Jefferson County Health Department held an in-service training meeting on January 11th. The day long meeting focused on spas and hot tubs. Speakers from the National Spa and Pool Institute gave programs on water chemistry and maintaining spa water in the morning and the afternoon was devoted to legal aspects of operating a spa and developing state regulations.



Nineteen sanitarians from the eastern panhandle, three from the State Health Department, and 13 sanitarians from Maryland attended the meeting. This proved to be a hot topic since neither West Virginia nor Maryland currently have regulations regarding hot tubs and spas.

The National Spa and Pool Institute is a great resource for information and publications. You can tact them at DEPT. 20, 2111 EISENHOWER AVENUE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314. ✪



RADON-RESISTANT BUILDING TECHNIQUES: A GOOD IDEA - submitted by Lisa Dunn, R.S.

Radon is a natural, radioactive gas that seeps into buildings from the surrounding soil. It cannot be detected by sight, smell, or taste and is estimated by the US EPA to cause approximately 14,000 deaths a year from lung cancer.

Radon can be collected in homes and other buildings that do not have radon-resistant construction features. However, building can be constructed with features that ensure lower radon levels and promote a safe and energy-efficient home.

It is more cost-effective to include radon-resistant features while building a home (cost: \$350-\$500), rather than retrofitting an existing home (cost: \$800-\$2500). If high radon levels are found after occupancy, passive systems can be easily activated by installing a fan. The March 1994 Federal Register published a final standard that if fully implemented would affect about 145,000 new homes a year.

By mandate under Section 304 of the 1988 Toxic Substances Control Act, the US EPA has developed *Model Standards and Techniques for Control of Radon in New Residential Buildings* to

promote effective techniques for radon-resistant new construction of homes. A free copy of the *Model Standards*, as well as architectural drawings of radon-resistant construction techniques are available by calling 1-800-55RADON.

Counties, cities, and states have begun to incorporate radon-resistant techniques into their building codes. For more information call Lou Witt (202-942-4261) at the NACo Radon/Indoor Air Project. ARTICLE FROM THE FALL ISSUE OF COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUARTERLY ✪

WVAS Midyear Training Meeting - submitted by Gary Epling, R.S.

The WVAS Midyear Training Meeting will be held this year at Cedar Lakes, Ripley, WV, beginning on Tuesday May 2nd at 1 p.m. and will conclude on Thursday, May 4th at noon. Topics will include:

- ✪ Foodborne disease identification and investigation
- ✪ Food recall procedures
- ✪ Submitting lab samples
- ✪ Seisures and embargo's
- ✪ Presentation of new education material on foodborne disease
- ✪ Proper use of cleansers and sanitizers in food operations
- ✪ Food labeling requirements
- ✪ Cleaning and sanitizing of meat room equipment
- ✪ Microbiology in water and waste water
- ✪ Office of Environmental Services Updates
- ✪ Status of various proposed environmental health rules

The Sanitarian/Clerical cookout may be a little different this year. Wendy Casto, Karol Wallingford, R.S. and I may be calling for some assistance with this event. We have already secured the services of a renowned chef. (*Unfortunately Bubba's cooking isn't what he's known for.*) Hope to see everyone there. ✪

An Editorial - submitted by Gail Harris, R.S.

Maybe I don't want to be part of the "new" Public Health field. What, you might ask, is bothering me these days? Well, it's the move toward changing people's "harmful habits," by passing public health ordinances. I hope I'm not just confused. Can someone tell me, why the sanitarian has to enforce the indoor air rules, and fine people for smoking cigarettes in public places?

What happened to "conducts investigation of residential and public facilities to detect indoor air problems, tests for toxic pollutants, and RECOMMENDS corrective measures?" If I owned a restaurant, and if I wanted my restaurant to be SMOKING ONLY, shouldn't I be able to do that? This is still America, isn't it? The Fed's are going to let menu's be labeled, "this product may be hazardous to your health." Some products are labeled that they contain sulfates and may be hazardous to your health. I don't understand the difference.

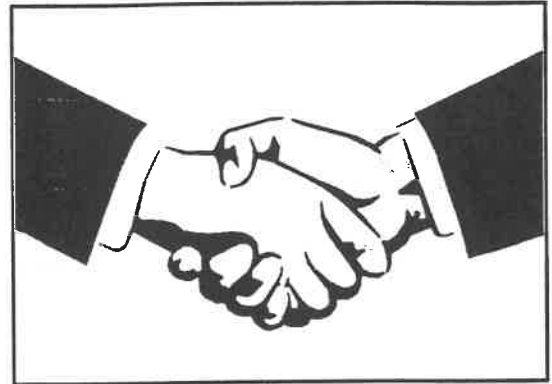
Then, there is the talk about the attitudinal changes needed by public health professionals in the state of WV. Yes, I know that the "no smoking" in public places could be compared to the uproar created when ordinances were passed, telling people they couldn't spit on the street. I wasn't born yet, so I don't know if that law was enforced and the violator actually fined or jailed. I just know that more needs to be done for sewage, food, and water protection than we're doing.

Last year, I heard a lot about the core functions of Public Health. We need to promote programs that protects the environment, workplaces, housing, food and water. For years, sanitarians have known that the above programs need strengthened and better supported. Once again, we hear the lip service, and still see NO additional monies provided for programs. We just keep getting new programs.

I for one do not believe I can make someone quit smoking, eating or drinking something they know is harmful to them. Perhaps that's a job for Health Promotion Specialists. Am I on to something new? How about education of the general population, not fines and incarceration.

There, I've finally said it. I take back everything I said last year about being a sanitarian who

doesn't want to specialize in one program. Maybe, I'll support specialization of Environmental Health Professionals. Then again, I might be confused.



BPH/DOA Meeting - submitted by Gary Epling, R.S.

On January 27, 1995, representatives of the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Public Health met for the first time since the November 14, 1994 signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two agencies. The MOU states that quarterly meetings will be held, "...to facilitate better communications in areas of mutual concern."

A listing of the areas of discussion follows:

- ⌘ DOA passed out a paper describing their counter and freezer cleaning/sanitizing procedures.
- ⌘ DOA enlisted the help of the Office of Laboratory Services (BPH) in certifying their own lab.
- ⌘ Phil Jones (PHS) gave a report on Somatic cell count in milk, Positive drug residues in pasteurized milk - in 1994 15 loads totaling 47, 800 gallons of raw milk were dumped due to positive drug residues, and testing for vitamin levels in milk.
- ⌘ DOA was informed that the Dept. of Labor may have rules on uniform open code dating and that these should be explored for possible conflicts.

- ♣ DOA's proposed Aquaculture regulations - one covers the raising and growing of fish and the second the processing of fish.
- ♣ DOA and BPH agreed to notify each other when taking legal action against a facility that holds a permit from both agencies.
- ♣ Dr. Charminsky (DOA) reported some of his inspectors were finding canned hams marked "keep refrigerated" on grocery store shelves and wanted to know our policy. BPH emphasized that this food product was different than potted meat, Spam, canned tuna, etc. Mr. Forren (PHS) will issue a memorandum to the sanitarians outlining our policy.
- ♣ John Ligget (DOA) requested from PHS notification of sanitarian's inservice and training meetings. There is an open invitation for the personnel of either agencies to attend each other's seminars. Mr. Ligget also agreed to conduct a session at this years Midyear Training at Cedar Lakes.

The next scheduled quarterly meeting is April 13, 1995, 10 a.m., at the Department of Agriculture's Administrative Offices, Guthrie Center. ♣



News From Central WV - submitted by Karol Wallingford, R.S.

PES Exam Info

Anyone that has taken the PES exam knows that it is no piece of cake. The questions range from the routine food and sewage questions to the less common air quality or toxicology questions. Over the years there have been many resources available to help people study for the exam but, there doesn't seem to be any one place to find all of them.

I would like to put together a reference resource to assist those needing to find information to study for the exam. If anyone has any materials such as questions and answers, please send it to me so I can compile this and provide it to those in need. Thanks.. ♣

Dear Fellow Sanitarians:

At the last meeting of the PublicRelations/Education Committee (PREC) the question was raised, "Did anyone know what a sanitarian was before they became one?". The answer, of course, was no. Now let me ask you a question, How many citizens in this state know what a sanitarian is or all that he/she does? One more question, If we don't promote ourselves, who is going to do it?

One of the main objectives of the PREC is to promote the profession. We agreed that we must "blow our own horn" because no one is going to do it for us.

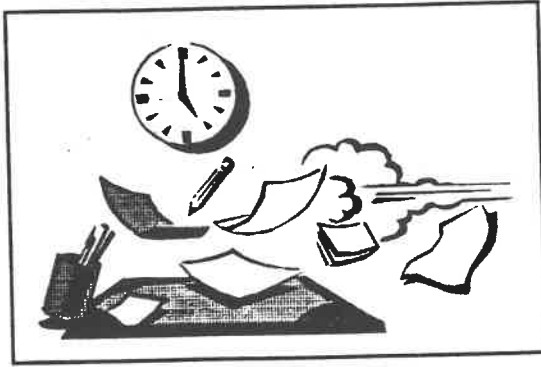


One way to promote ourselves is to provide information to the public. This could be information on food safety, the need to consider how to dispose of sewage when building a new home, or what the pH and chlorine residual should be in a swimming pool. Any information that lets the public know we are out there and we can be helpful not just regulatory. To do this we need your help!

We know that everyone is very busy and no one has time to just sit and write informational pieces about environmental health. I have agreed to coordinate the effort to get information out if people will send it to me. I can forward the information to Cathy Lee in Dr. Wallace's office and she will send it to the local media across the state.

She will also send a copy of the press release to each health department so you will know that something has been released. It might also be helpful for you to call your local media and ask them to run the release or let them know you are available for additional information.

I hope all of you will help us in our effort to promote the profession. If we spread the workload out no one will be overwhelmed. This doesn't mean you should stop providing information of local interest to the local media, it just means your talents can reach a larger audience. If we all try, I know this can work. Thanks. ♣



Nancy Haught Retires

After 15½ years of serving the citizens of Charleston and eastern Kanawha County, Nancy Brady Haught, R.S. has retired. Nancy provided a unique perspective to environmental health and worked well with the residents in her assigned area. Nancy never gave up on anything and used her talent to draw pictures to convey a message when necessary. Nancy always had interesting stories at the end of the day, such as the chicken that wouldn't get out of her car. One of Nancy's more famous quotes "We don't do ugly." was her response to the complaints concerning individuals who didn't keep their property neat enough for their neighbors. Nancy has also been known to slide down hillsides and hitch a ride back to the top in the bucket of a backhoe or front-end loader. Even though Nancy does not head to the office these days, she has not forgotten her time with the health department and is working on a book of her experiences. We look forward to its completion and hope Nancy is enjoying her retirement. By the way, Charlie Saber confirms that Nancy did actually wear a dress to her interview. ✎

Central Office Shuffle

In the past few months several changes have taken place in the offices of 815 Quarrier Street. We have some new faces in the office and some familiar faces in new positions. Carolyn Zirkle has joined the staff as Mr. Shock's secretary; John Dienst has relocated to this office from Fairmont; Tony Turner, formerly of Grant County, has accepted a position with the lead and indoor air programs; Connie Joyce has been hired as full-time clerical support in Environmental Engineering; Bev Shock has moved from receptionist to Asbestos licensing; Danya Canterbury is now handling Asbestos notifications; and

Wendy Casto has moved to Administration to process accounts payable and travel reimbursement. So far things are going pretty well and we are only slightly more confused.

Welcome

Mercer County has hired another new sanitarian, Donald Bloss. Don is filling the position vacated by Susan Kadar, who is now working in the Beckley District Office. Don spent some time in sales and marketing before coming to the health department and although the monetary rewards are not comparable, he says he having a great time and enjoying the work. We're happy to Don on board and are looking forward to seeing him in Charleston for training class which starts March 6, 1995. ✎

News from Southern West Virginia - submitted by Barbara Wolman

Another nature has left her calling card in Southern West Virginia - frigid temperatures and varying amounts of snow. She had been kind until this visit. The sanitarians are all concerned with the proposed Public Health Improvement Plan. A meeting was held in Beckley on January 13th of interested sanitarians and clerical staff. Chris Gordon, Annette Gilbert and Dr. N. Allen Dyer, all members of the Public Health Advisory Committee, were on hand to answer questions about the plan.

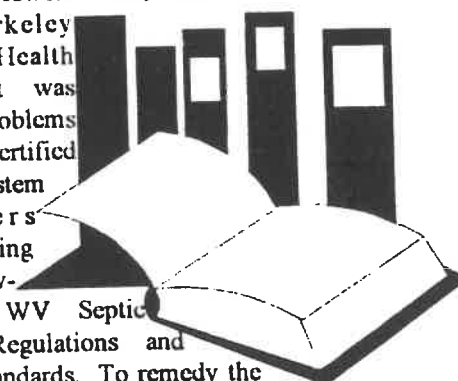
Jim Sheets, R.S., has been off for four weeks following surgery. He is doing well and was expected back in the Logan office on Monday, February 6th. We all welcome him back.

Mercer County has a new sanitarian, Don Bloss, who previously worked in marketing. The Mercer County Board of Health has a Clean Indoor Air Ordinance under consideration.

The Beckley-Raleigh County Board of Health passed the Clean Indoor Air Ordinance on January 24th and it will become effective in sixth days. The Environmental Health staff is gearing up to get it implemented. The Raleigh County Tobacco Control Coalition held its first undercover buying operation in December. The students were successful in purchasing tobacco products in 22 of 72 stores visited in spite of the stores receiving prior notification that the operation would be undertaken. ✎

WV Certified Septic System Installers to be required mandatory yearly education - submitted by Twila Stowers Carr, R.S.

The Berkeley County Health Department was having problems with WV certified septic system installers understanding and following the WV Septic System Regulations and Design Standards. To remedy the situation, Berkeley County Health Department chose to take action against the installer and to require mandatory yearly septic system installer education. The proposed septic installers education class will also be made available to real estate agents, mortgage companies, banks, surveyors, county agencies and to the public. ➔



From the Gavel - submitted by Gary L. Hamilton, R.S.

PHIP? A few months ago, I had heard of the PHAC, but not a PHIP. Not only a PHIP, but a PHIP-P1 with PHIP-P2 already being talked about! Isn't it amazing how quickly the challenge of change becomes apparent. I have always heard that everything is continually changing, and that to try to maintain the status quo is like burying your head in sand and believing that you are secure. It is so easy to adjust to the status quo and resist the uncertainty of change.

Now we are hearing the trumpets announcing a change in the entire health care industry, public health included. Managed care, HMO's and privatization of services that were once believed to belong to governmental agencies has made its increasing presence known. Efficiencies and economic considerations have leveled the playing field, and

governmental organizations must learn to compete in the marketplace. State and local funding represents as little as ten to twenty percent of the annual budget of some local health departments. Gone is the time when local health departments could rely upon the munificence of the commissioners, the mayors, and the Legislature. We need to compete in a business climate.

In January, the *final-final* Public Health Improvement Plan - Phase I and a proposed legislative bill were released. The Executive Council of the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians did not feel comfortable with the sudden speed and intensity of efforts by a few individuals to ram the proposal through, nor were we comfortable with the concept of non-profit local public health cooperatives. Much has happened in a short time. Explanations and the rationale of the Plan are resulting in a Plan that is continuing to evolve.

In the January 16, 1995 survey of sanitarians, approximately 25% of the returns were marked as opposing the Plan. Nearly 38% were undecided, while approximately 37% favored or felt the Plan offered promise. Approximately 80% of the respondents supported the Executive Council's decision to oppose the private non-profit local public health cooperatives as it was understood. Comments received from the survey have been made available to the principals involved in the revision of the proposed legislation.

Those concerns are being addressed, and it is my understanding that the revised legislative proposal may be submitted during the last days of this Legislative session. The proposal will need to be considered carefully. Please take an active part in reading, discussing and considering the Plan, as revised. Change is inevitable; we need to join the process and shape our future. ➔

JOIN THE WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SANITARIANS !!!

Dues are fifteen (\$15.00) dollars per year, and can be paid to: Lee Thompson, R.S., Courthouse, Moorefield, WV 26836. This is your professional organization, and is affiliated with the West Virginia Public Health Association and the National Environmental Health Association. Your dues go for worthwhile projects such as in-service training, publishing the Sanitarian's Newsletter, Legislative support, public educational projects and the improvement of our profession.

Here's an updated and expanded 800 list for those who are interested.
 Most of the numbers have been confirmed to be operating as of January, 1995.
 I hope this list may be of help.

Submitted by Gary L. Hamilton, R.S.

West	1-800-642-8244	AIDS / STD Program
Virginia	1-800-642-8208	Alcoholic Beverage Commission
Calls	1-800-368-8808	Attorney General - Consumer Hotline
only:	1-800-423-1271	Bureau of Public Health - Epidemiology
	1-800-922-1255	Bureau of Public Health - Office of Environmental Health
	1-800-352-6513	Child and Adult Abuse Hotline
	1-800-CALLWVA	Commerce Department
	1-800-352-2501	Drug Information Center
	1-800-368-4358	Environmental Health Hotline
	1-800-642-9012	Fuel and Energy Office
	1-800-642-8279	Legal Services Plan
	1-800-642-8650	Legislative Information
	1-800-642-3625	Poison Control Center
	1-800-642-8544	Public Service Commission - Utility Complaints
National	1-800-342-2437	AIDS Hotline
Sources:	1-800-458-5231	AIDS Clearinghouse / CDC
	1-800-320-APIE	American Public Information on the Environment (Private)
	1-800-334-8571	Asbestos Hotline / EPA
	1-800-362-0494	Better Business Bureau
	1-800-535-0202	Chemical Emergency Preparedness Program Hotline
	1-800-262-8200	CHEMTREC Center - Non-Emergency Services (Private)
	1-800-638-2772	Consumer Products Safety Commission
	1-800-638-2045	Drug Information Clearinghouse
	1-800-638-1821	Emergency Training Center Library
	1-800-363-3732	Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Clearinghouse
	1-800-643-4794	Environmental Health Effects
	1-800-344-3555	Fire Protection Association
	1-800-251-3663	Food Protection Certification Program
	1-800-368-5779	Health and Human Resources Department - Inspector General
	1-800-336-4797	Health Information Center
	1-800-424-9393	Highway Traffic Safety Administration
	1-800-438-4318	Indoor Air Quality Clearinghouse / EPA
	1-800-424-4000	Inspector General's Whistle Blower Hotline
	1-800-922-9234	Information System for Health Related Services
	1-800-532-3394	Lead Information Center
	1-800-535-4555	Meat & Poultry Hotline / USDA
	1-800-752-6367	National Hazardous Materials Information Exchange
	1-800-356-4674	National Institute Occupational Safety and Health
	1-800-638-8480	National Library of Medicine
	1-800-999-NORD	National Organization for Rare Disorders
	1-800-424-8802	National Response Center (Oil & Chemical Spills)
	1-800-621-7619	National Safety Council
	1-800-255-6725	Occupational Safety & Health Administration
	1-800-962-6215	Office of Environmental Justice
	1-800-CDC-1311	Office on Smoking & Health / CDC
	1-800-858-7378	Pesticides Telecommunications Network
	1-800-767-7236	Radon Hotline
	1-800-947-3873	Recycling Hotline
	1-800-424-9346	Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (Superfund)
	1-800-426-4791	Safe Drinking Water Hotline / EPA
	1-800-332-4010	Seafood Safety / FDA
	1-800-624-8301	Small Flows Clearinghouse / EPA
	1-800-677-9424	Solid Waste Information Clearinghouse
	1-800-832-7828	Wetlands Information

