

Sanitarian's Newsletter

Volume 98, Issue 2

April 1998

Cabell-Huntington Health Department, 1336 Hal Greer Boulevard, Huntington, WV 25701



From Your President

I hope you enjoy this issue of the Sanitarian's Newsletter. It seems like it was just a few weeks ago the last issue was arriving on my desk. Time passes so fast when you're having fun.

One newsworthy item that I want to inform you about is a one day training opportunity in the Charleston area. The National Environmental Health Association with the support of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will be conducting a course in Charleston on Risk Communication for Environmental Health Professionals. This course will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 1998, at the Robert C. Byrd Health Services Center at 3110 MacCorkle Avenue in the West Virginia University building. The class will start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude around 4:00 p.m.

The course is designed to provide participants with tools for effective risk communications and community involvement. The course includes a case study where you can apply all your newly acquired skills. If you are interested in this one day course please contact me at 558-2981 no later than Monday the 11th of May. You may also contact Cindy Persley at 304-347-1253 to sign up for the course directly.

Submitted by Joe Wyatt, R.S.



Now, the End is Near

The Sanitarian training course is about to finish. There may be a few that have to make up a week or two but most are moving ahead to OJT. Congratulations and good luck!

A Funny Thing Happened When..

Tom Felton is asking a favor: he is writing a book about true and amusing stories he wishes to publish in about a year. If you (Sanitarians, nurses, clerks, etc.) have any stories you would like him to consider please call Tucker County Health Department at 304-478-3572. I'm sure Tom won't betray you and present you with an award at any meetings accompanied with one of his amusing poems.

News Flash!

Change in scheduling at the Mid-Year! Because of the questions received about the Scott Stevenson STAT 2000 Software for the monthly report, a demonstration will take place Tuesday evening from 7-8 pm. Location to be announced. Those interested see Joe Wyatt.

Proud Parent Corner

Proud New Grandad!



We have a new grandad among us! Ron Forren's daughter delivered a 6 lb, 7 oz beautiful baby boy on April 6, 1998. His name is Trenton Miles and if you're curious about what he looks like, I'm sure Ron will oblige you with a picture.

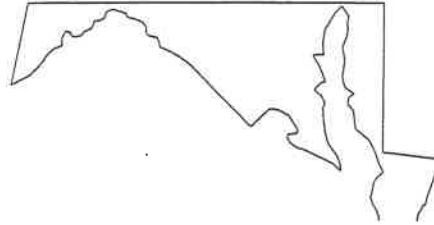
Congratulations Graduate!

Lloyd White has a lot to cheer about. His son Patrick White will be graduating on August 14th from the University of Virginia Medical School. He has a specialty degree in Interventional Radiology and Angiography. He has a great job waiting for him at Wake Forest University Hospital. Lloyd's younger son Phillip will be a freshman at Fairmont State and is also a very talented young man. His interests lie in music.

52nd Annual Interstate Environmental Health Seminar

Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort

July 22 - 24, 1998



The Maryland Association of Sanitarians, Inc.
and the
Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors

Invite you to attend

The 52nd Annual
Interstate Environmental Health Seminar

at

Rocky Gap Lodge and Golf Resort
Cumberland, Maryland
July 22 - 24, 1998

A variety of speakers will be presenting topics in environmental health. The Honorable Albert Gore has been invited as a keynote speaker. Confirmed speakers include; The Honorable Casper Taylor, Dr. Jo Ann Burkholder, Dr. Martin Wasserman to name but a few. In addition, a number of local attractions will be available for participants and their families.

Lodging rates are \$97.60 per single/double. This rate is guaranteed 2 days prior to and after the conference for those who wish to visit longer. Registration materials available in early May, 1998. Contact Frank Skinner at 410-313-2645 for further information.

Georgia North Carolina Tennessee South Carolina West Virginia Alabama Maryland

News From the Northern Panhandle

The January Tri State Environmental Health Association meeting hosted by Dale Mann, RS from the Wheeling/Ohio County Health Department included a tour of Liquid Assets Disposal, Inc. Liquid Assets is a facility that treats home septage and sewage from holding tanks. After treatment at the facility, the liquids are taken to the Wheeling Sewage Treatment Plant and the solids are taken to a landfill.

The afternoon session was conducted by Ed Burkle from custom Water Systems. He demonstrated a variety of products for home and community water treatment such as sanitizers utilizing chlorine and sanitizers utilizing ultra violet light.

On March 18, Tony Pasquarella, RS from the Steubenville, Ohio Health Department arranged for Walter Bonn, President and CEO of Pasta Matic to explain and describe the vending machines that enable customers to have freshly prepared pasta in minutes, 24 hours per day in a self-service setting. The vending machine is appropriately named Cucina (kitchen in Italian). There are currently Cucinas in the northern panhandle - one in Hancock County and one in Brooke County and Howard Bertram, RS says, "The pasta is great!"

The afternoon session was conducted by Rick Everly from Everly Enterprises from Amsterdam, Ohio. Rick and his father, Dick Everly, have been long-time sewage tank distributors. Rick made the group aware of the new Home Aeration Unit that Everly Enterprises is distributing. It is the Clearstream Wastewater system. Mr. Everly explained to those attending that the system is widely used throughout the United States.

USDA Teleconference

On Thursday, March 19, 1998, Larry Lewis, RS from the Wheeling/Ohio County Health Department facilitated the USDA's nationwide teleconference titled "Meat and Poultry Processing." Those attending found the program to be very beneficial and had many questions answered by panel members.

Rabies - Hancock

On Wednesday, April 1, 1998, at 3:50 pm just when I thought that I had escaped the day without anyone catching me in an April Fools Day prank, the call came. It was Denver. It wasn't an April Fools Day prank. He told me to sit down and grab a pen. He told me that one of the coon heads that I had sent to him on Monday, March 30 had tested positive for Rabies. The coon had been wandering through someone's yard in the day, acting strangely, and a family pet had attacked and killed it. The incident occurred about 3 miles from the (Beaver County) Pennsylvania state line on the eastern side of Hancock County. The coon was the first positive specimen that Hancock County has had since a dog and coon tested positive for the disease in 1993.

Submitted by Jolene Zuros, RS,
MS

News From Jefferson County

With the extremely warm weather this winter, Jefferson County Sanitarians have been kept busy. The buzz word has been RABIES! Since January 1st, we have had 7 positive cases of rabies. We only had 5 positive cases for all of last year. The last two required people to get shots. So far we have had positive results on 5 raccoons, 1 fox, and 1 stray cat. The interesting part is that except for two cases, they have been spread throughout the county. When we call Denver at the lab he just sighs and says, "How many do you have this time?"

Public Health Week has been a success once again. This year the Jefferson County Health Department tried a different approach to getting out the word to its citizens. We held a Health Fair at the Walmart on Saturday, April 4th. The nurses gave free blood pressure and hemoglobin screenings and saw over 150 patients. The clinical section, environmental section, and the local chapter of the American Red Cross all had informational displays with handouts for people to learn about the services provided. The environmental section also had a separate radon display where people could not only get information but could sign up for free radon tests. Another part of the environmental sections display included a TV continuously playing different tapes on topics such as pool care, food service sanitation, lyme disease, and E. coli.

We also held an Open House at the Health Department on Wednesday, April 8th. Once again the Red Cross joined in on the festivities along with representatives from the local WIC program. Numerous articles and radio interviews promoted the events which helped make this our best year ever.

Work continues on the radon program. Since Jim Kinder joined our department, we have had more time to spend on this program. Testing throughout the county continues to show elevated levels. We are working with those people to resolve the problem and then will go back and retest those homes. We had several people sign up for radon tests at the health fair. One such person was a lady whose husband had died of lung cancer and they found elevated levels of radon in their home. She now has a mitigation system in place and wanted to make sure it is working.

Submitted by Lisa Dunn, R.S.

News from Monongalia County

Dewey Conrad recently placed his resignation notice with the Preston County Health Department after serving as a Sanitarian for 12 years. Dewey also served as an environmental health specialist with the Army National Guard for six years. He has accepted employment with Ashco-A-Corporation working with on-site wastewater. Hopefully he can use the regulatory skills learned as a Sanitarian in his new position to help make all of our work easier and more productive. Good Luck Dewey!

The Monongalia County Board of Health implemented and later rescinded a stringent clean indoor air regulation that restricted smoking in bars as well as other public places. Although the regulation was in place for only a short time, the awareness level of the health effects of smoking and smoker's rights issues were widely debated in newspaper articles, on the news, and on the radio talk shows. The process provided an excellent opportunity to share factual information about health and smoking with the public.

Submitted by Art Adams



News from the Southern Part of the State

Spring is here and Sanitarians report that they are once again becoming some of the most popular people in their counties, everyone needs their service "yesterday." It's nice to shed the heavy winter clothing and watch the miracle of Spring unfold.

Several Sanitarians indicated they had no news to share at this time.

Mike Sale reports that Fayette County may become the site for Jim Fowlers 10,000 acre Wild Animal Theme Park, which would showcase animals native to this are. Tourism is really expanding in Fayette County.

Steve Trail has had two (2) cases of rabies in Monroe County this year, both in raccoons. Steve is also working with Summers County and Raleigh county in a shared sewage problem affecting The New River, an area visited by thousands of tourists each year. Hopefully, efforts by the two (2) counties can get this problem corrected.

Stan Walls has two (2) Sanitarians from Mercer County attending training school, Amanda Grimm and Jared Beard. Tobacco Coalitions in Mercer and Raleigh Counties have just held poster contests for elementary students with the winners art work to be in calendars with anti-tobacco messages. The youth group has been reactivated in Mercer County and Raleigh County is hoping to have an active group soon.

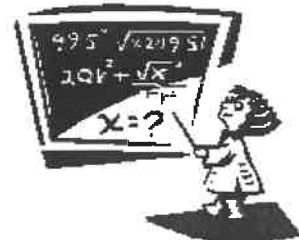
Raleigh County Sanitarians have had a long winter. Our area was hit by a major snowstorm that left some residents and businesses without power for up to two weeks. Additional snow fell within days resulting in collapsing of buildings and homes throughout the county. Fortunately there were no fatalities in those incidents, but some injuries did occur. Several residents died after shoveling snow.

On a happier note the Raleigh County Sanitarians have been participating in Public Health Week. Two (2) classes were held for Food Service Managers emphasizing prevention of food-borne illness and identifying emerging pathogens. A second day was spent conducting surveys regarding tobacco use and educating about the dangers of tobacco use. On the third day, April 8, 1998, we participated in Community Awareness Day at the Raleigh County Armory. We staged a "Mock Outbreak of Campylobacter" for invited guests. Robert S. Kiss, Speaker, West Virginia House of Delegates, served as moderator for the dramatization that included participants from Beckley-Raleigh, McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Summers and Wyoming County Boards of Health, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources/Division of Surveillance and Disease Control, Raleigh General Hospital and the Drama Department of Woodrow Wilson High School.

This joint effort, sponsored by the Beckley-Raleigh County Board of Health, was an opportunity to make the public aware of a function of the local Health Departments that they may know little about.

Sam Argento, after twenty-eight years as Sanitarian in Nicholas County, will be retiring at the end of April. He has promised to keep his ties with the Sanitarians and has plans to work with the Eljen Corporation. We wish him all the very best.

Submitted by Barbara Wolman



Update on Sanitarian Reclass/Payscale

As you read in our last newsletter, the reclassification / pay scale team was trying to create a classification for registered specialists and for district Sanitarians. We thought that it would create a couple of extra rungs on the professional ladder for Sanitarians to climb, and at the same time, enable Sanitarians to obtain a higher salary by changing classifications. However, after meeting with representatives of the State Division of Personnel and DHHR Division of Personnel, we have changed our strategy.

We learned that the state will allow us to change the name away from Sanitarians, rewrite our job descriptions to reflect the technical level associated with performing the job, and request a salary adjustment associated with each job description without actually going through a reclassification. I know it sounds confusing, we make all these changes and it still is NOT A RECLASSIFICATION. According to Ginny Fitzwater, as long as everyone stays at his/her current level, it is not considered as reclass. Additionally, she indicated that it may be easier to get such changes made, if the Division of Personnel does not have to spend a lot of time looking at job descriptions and individuals' job functions to determine at what level each should be placed.

Therefore, we have chosen the path of least resistance and are currently working on rewriting the job descriptions. For the most part, we have them completed, but we are "word smithing" the documents. We have sent each description to folks who hold the position currently, to see if we missed anything.

Additionally, we are required to have a package of justifications and an implementation plan to submit. This will include a list of equipment Sanitarians are required to operate in

the functions of our jobs, salary comparisons with surrounding states, comparisons with industry and comparisons with similar jobs within our state government.

We have chosen a break away from the title of Sanitarian due to the negative connotation it carries. Most everyone we've talked to has said, "I don't care what you call me, just PAY ME what I'm worth!" We conducted research in comparison with other states and the U.S. Public Health Service and found that most worked under some title pertaining to environmental health. Therefore, we have chosen to change the titles as listed below:

Sanitarian I:

Environmental
Health Trainee

Sanitarian II:

Environmental
Health Inspector

Sanitarian, Registered:

Registered

Environmental Health
Sanitarian

Sanitarian Supervisor:

Environmental
Health Manager

Sanitarian Chief:

Environmental
Health
Administrator

The committee will meet on April 9th and will assign what we believe to be fair salaries to each level at that time.

We plan to send the package we create to each Sanitarian for review and comment prior to submitting it to the DHHR and the Division of Personnel. We are aware that we probably won't be able to make everyone happy - but we're gonna try!

Submitted by Michelle Cochran



Notes from the Executive Council Meeting, March 27, 1998

As an affiliate member of NEHA, the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians is expected to send a representative to the Annual Conference. Our president, Joe Wyatt, is not available to attend. After discussing what the WVAS has done in the past it was decided to try to find someone to go, and to pay the registration fee. The members also agreed to approve \$50 for the silent auction which Michelle Cochran will use to prepare a basket of West Virginia wares.

The past legislative session was a lack-luster session for environmental health except for the \$4.3 million transition project and the passage of the sewage rule. Our lobbyist, Barbara Smith did an outstanding job and the \$1000.00 previously approved for her services will be sent. There has been some concern among attendees that we need to improve feed back to the local health departments during the legislative session. Most local offices were in the dark as to what was happening. Those concerned were reassured that if an emergency arises there are measures available to contact local offices quickly.

Twila Carr distributed the program plan for the Environmental Health Section at the Annual Conference to be held at Morgantown in September. Vice President Al Gore has been invited and at this time is still pending.

The WVAS is considering a Web Page. The feasibility of this project will be discussed with Francis Holton of the Technology Committee. Remember: Arrangements have been made for standardizing thermometers at the Mid-Year Conference.

Next council meeting will be at the Mid-Year Conference

Edited from notes submitted by
Lee Thompson

For Your Files

Allen McCroskey continues to keep a library of articles that can be submitted to local newspapers. Included with these is a list of amendments to the new sewage rule. He also found an educational film on Rabies that can be made available to you if you provide him with a blank VHS tape. You can contact Allen at 304-847-5483 or FAX 304-847-2362.

Social Security Numbers and Licenses

There seems to be some confusion about obtaining Social Security Numbers for licenses, etc. An application from a corporation requires no social security numbers. A partnership, however, is not a legal entity from its partners and requires social security numbers. Single ownership will require social security numbers. It also includes social security numbers for registration that applies to courses, public hearings, or training that upon satisfactory completion entitles a person, without further approval, to do something that he or she was not entitled to do before completing the course, public hearing or training. These social security numbers are not for public record and should be filed in locked cabinets in areas not open to the public.

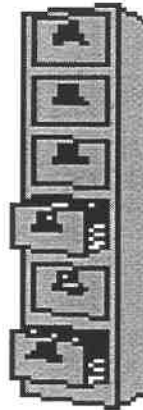
Information obtained from a letter submitted to C. Russel Rader from Larry Arnold, Attorney, Office of General Council

1997 FDA Model Food Code

Kanawha-Charleston Health Department is doing a pilot program with the new HACCP food code. They have 45 restaurants that have volunteered for these monthly inspections. Four Sanitarians are involved with the project and will have

to become familiar with the EIS computer program they will be using. All of these inspections remain unscored. This is a very important project and the results will greatly influence our future food program.

Information submitted by Charles Saber, via telephone conversation



LaPosta, Hall Capture Standardization

Anthony LaPosta, R.S., of Hancock County and Albert Hall, R.S. of the Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department both were recently successful in becoming FDA Standardized on food service inspections. These Sanitarians are the most recent in a long list of candidates to successfully master this project.

A short synopsis of how the program works:

- 1) The Sanitarian expresses an interest to be standardized by the FDA certified food evaluation officer.
- 2) A total of 23 to 25 food inspections take place in the candidates home county with the evaluation officer.
- 3) The candidates, to be successfully awarded the certificate of standardization, must score within 90% to 110% by the evaluation officer.

4) Once the process is complete, a certificate of standardization is issued by the Public Health Sanitation Division in Charleston.

5) A renewal update occurs each five year period with the evaluation officer. (Only eight inspections are done this time.)

Almost all Sanitarians that have completed standardization feel that it is educational, gives a great sense of self accomplishment, and it looks good on a resume.

Should you be interested in completing a standardization, please submit your request to Ron Forren, R.S.

Due to my own neglect, other candidates that successfully completed the program have never been publicly recognized until now. Those candidates are:

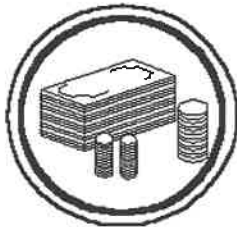
- Art Adams, Monongalia
- Steve Bayer, Mid-Ohio Valley
- Nada Beneke, Monongalia/Ohio
- Terri Berton, Monongalia
- Verl J. Davis, Taylor
- James Elmer, Harrison
- Warren, Elmer - Randolph
- Bonna Goodnight, Mid-Ohio Valley
- Gary Hamilton, Mid-Ohio Valley
- Gail Harris, Mid-Ohio Valley
- Jonathan Hathaway, Monongalia
- Randy Hawkins, Lewis
- Tate Hayman, Mid-Ohio Valley
- Calvin Knott, Mid-Ohio Valley
- Robert Lemley, WVU
- Cliff Livengood, Monongalia/
Fairmont District
- Penny Mangold, Upshur
- Michael Nestor, Taylor
- Douglas Powers, Mid-Ohio Valley
- Robert Thomas, Harrison
- Michael Trantham, Monongalia/
WVU
- Robert White, Monongalia
- Joe Wyatt, Webster/ Central Office

Edited from information submitted by Mark Whittaker

Transitions Update

Several committees composed of both State and Local Health Department employees are actively working to develop performance standards for Local Health Departments. The Legislature provided an extra 4.3 million dollars for local health departments, most of which will be distributed on a modified per capita basis. This money is only to be spent for those programs which are being identified as mandated. This has been a truly cooperative effort. Look for some draft articles for comment in the next month. Check out the transitions web site at www.wvdhr.org/orchs/pht.htm.

Submitted by Stan Mills



Home Aeration Unit Update

During the emergency filing of the sewage legislative rule, language was inserted which stated "Provided, that the director shall issue a permit for installation of a NSF Class I home aeration unit to be installed on a single family dwelling unit where no other approved system can be installed." A meeting of Sanitarians and representatives from DEP was held. The preliminary discussion would allow home aeration units on new construction on lots of less than 2 acres — with a discharge permit for DEP. Sorry - no roadside ditches. Procedures for existing failing systems would not change. Some sort of agreement, in writing, is expected from DEP.

Submitted by Stan Mills

Update on Building Codes

The new building codes made it through the legislative process with exceptions and became effective May 1. The amendment date of the copy adopted was January 20, 1998. To obtain this copy contact the Secretary of State or Legislative Services.

(See January Newsletter)



Cryptosporidium

Hundreds of children who played in a sprinkler fountain at a Twin Cities zoo last summer developed diarrhea and other signs of intestinal distress. A presentation by Minnesota Department of Health's "Team Diarrhea" delivered at the March 8-11 Emerging Infectious Disease Conference noted the cause of the illness was *Cryptosporidium*, and 349 individuals (primarily children) were associated with the outbreak. The fountain, which has since been declared off-limits to people, sprayed jets of recirculated water three feet into the air. "The occurrence of an outbreak of cryptosporidiosis in a sprinkler fountain in which children were not immersed in water raises concerns about the appropriate design and use of similar facilities," the researchers concluded.

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Cyclospora

Despite intense efforts to understand and control *Cyclospora*, the parasite continues its reign as an elusive and persistent foe. Even Disney World, known for its attention to quality, had a recent brush with the organism. Four clusters of people, from New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts, were diagnosed with cyclosporiasis after returning from Orlando vacations. All had attended the same dinner show on Dec. 3 at a Disney convention center, and a cohort study found a strong association between consumption of spring mix salad and illness. An extensive national surveillance effort was conducted, but officials believe the outbreak was largely limited to the four groups. A traceback effort is underway involving three distributors of both domestic and imported salad mixings.

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Information for the newsletter can be submitted to the editor at 1336 Hal Greer Boulevard, Huntington, WV 25701 or FAX 304-523-6482. It can be handwritten, typed or on a computer disk. Information can also be sent to other members on the newsletter committee. We will try to print everything received! Information deadline for July Newsletter is July 10th.

Again, a big thanks goes to Connie Hightower for typing our Newsletter.