

SANITARIANS' NEWS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Bylaw Change</i>	1
<i>Meth Labs</i>	2
<i>Salmonella Saint Paul</i>	2
<i>Training Agenda</i>	3
<i>Sanitarian Quiz</i>	3
<i>Answers to last Quiz</i>	3
<i>Onsite Sewage News</i>	4

WVPHA ANNUAL MEETING

SNOWSHOE, WV
SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2008

The 84th West Virginia Public Health Association Annual Conference will be held September 17-19, 2008, at the Snowshoe Mountain Resort in Snowshoe, WV. This year's theme is "Public Health Victories through Teamwork." The agenda is complete with noted speakers, including Linda Degutis, President of the American Public Health Association. Each section is busy preparing for a wonderful conference. The WVPHA Annual Conference provides an excellent opportunity for learning and networking. The all attendee theme dinner will be held on Wednesday night, with the more formal Presidents' Banquet on Thursday night. Additional information about the agenda, registration, and lodging can be found at <http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvpha/Conference/index.htm> We hope to see you there!



Revision: Bylaw Amendment

Vote to Amend Article VI
Section I Executive Council

Section 1 of the above mentioned article would state: The executive council shall consist of the elected officers, appointed officers, committee chairmen, director of public health sanitation, and immediate past president.

The current bylaw section does not give the Director of Public Health a vote on the committee. The vote will be called at the Business meeting of the WVAS on Sept. 18.

Scenes from 2007 Conference in Morgantown, WV—Waterfront Place



It has been a pleasure serving as your WVAS president this past year. As my term is drawing to a close, I am reminded of the things that happened this year. Some good some sad. I felt as a group meaning the executive committee, that we did what we could training wise for the organization. I feel that many sanitarians including myself benefited from the training at Ripley and will benefit from the training this September. But I also have to remember the one person that we lost, Steve Bayer. He was a great mentor and always put my mind at ease whenever I called him for advice on a situation. Even though I only got to know him the last few years, I considered him a friend. I hope everyone continues to keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. I am sure it will be greatly appreciated by them! Last but not least, I remember the executive committee. They have been a great bunch to work with and I appreciate everyone of them and the work that they do. As I draw this to a close, I like to also thank all the sanitarians statewide for their support. It has been a great experience! Also, don't forget, run for office! Candidates are needed!

Warren Elmer, WVAS President



From the
President:

CLANDESTINE DRUG LABORATORY REMEDIATION PROGRAM
 BY: BRANDON LEWIS

To All Sanitarians-in-
 Training

There is a PES Exam scheduled for September 25, 2008, 9:00 AM at the Office of Environmental Health Services, One Davis Square, Suite 200, Charleston for any SIT's interested in taking it. You must notify me by September 9, 2008 to sign up to take it so a test can be ordered for you.

David P. Thornton

The Office of Environmental Health Services, Radiation, Toxics, and Indoor Air Division has hired a former West Virginia State Police Chemist with experience in Methamphetamine Laboratory Investigations and Analysis. Brandon Lewis spent the first four years of his employment with the State of West Virginia as a Forensic Chemist assigned to the West Virginia State Police Crime Lab. While at the crime lab, Brandon analyzed evidence from many drug cases, and obtained specialized training in the field of Methamphetamine Laboratory (Clandestine Drug Labs) Investigation and Analysis. After the State Police, Brandon went to work for the

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner where he worked in two capacities, Forensic Toxicologist and Forensic Investigator. Brandon feels it is an honor to be a part of a great organization like OEHS.

The Clandestine Drug Laboratory Remediation Program's (CDLR) first item was to inform all law enforcement agencies the regulation was signed into law and what role those agencies play. Forms were designed to assist the agencies in the notification process.

Licensing contractors and technicians was the next task. Forms were designed to be used in the application process. Contractors were informed of the new rule and

what role they would play. Contractors now have to employ individuals properly trained by a West Virginia accredited training provider in Clandestine Drug Laboratory Remediation. The technicians must also complete a 40 hour Hazardous Material Operator Course.

To date, the Clandestine Drug Laboratory Program has received thirty (30) notifications from law enforcement and county commission planning offices, and three (3) complaints to investigate.

For more information on the Clandestine Drug Laboratory Remediation Program please contact Brandon Lewis at 304-558-6782 or brandonlewis@wdhhr.org.



SALMONELLA SAINT PAUL
 BY SUZANNE WILSON, IDEP

CDC is collaborating with public health officials in many states, the Indian Health Service, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to investigate an ongoing multi-state outbreak of human *Salmonella* serotype Saintpaul infections. Several epidemiologic investigations involving individual cases and clusters of cases associated to restaurants, at both the local and national level, have been carried out to determine the source of this outbreak. These epidemiological studies indicate that more than one food vehicle is involved. No one food item can explain the entire outbreak. By themselves, tomatoes, cannot explain the entire outbreak, nor do jalapeño peppers ex-

plain all the clusters. Although rare, there have been outbreaks in the past in which more than one food source has been implicated. At present, information indicates that jalapeño peppers and serrano peppers grown, harvested, or packed in Mexico are the cause of some clusters and are major food vehicles for the outbreak. Although tomatoes currently on the market are safe, raw tomatoes consumed early in the outbreak are still under investigation. The outbreak strain *Salmonella* Saintpaul has been isolated from jalapeño, and serrano peppers. These foods were sampled as the result of traceback investigations based on

the epidemiologic investigations of clusters. The outbreak strain has also been isolated from an agricultural water sample collected on a farm in Mexico that supplied peppers to the Texas distribution center where one of the positive jalapeño pepper samples was taken. Since April, 1330 persons infected with *Salmonella* Saintpaul with the same genetic fingerprint have been identified in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. Currently there has been one case in West Virginia confirmed to be associated to this outbreak. The outbreak appears to be ongoing, but with fewer new illnesses reported each day.



OTHER UPCOMING TRAINING

IDEP foodborne illness investigation –Canaan Valley–Aug. 21, 2008

Beckley District In-service meeting–Beckley, WV–Aug. 29, 2008

Fairmont District In-Service meeting–Marion Co. Either Oct. 3 or 10

Official In-Service agenda coming soon

Sanitarian Training Class—

Week 1-Aug. 11-15—Charleston, WV—PH 101

Week 2-Aug. 25-29—Morgantown, WV—Sewage

Week 3-Sept. 8-12—Morgantown, WV-Sewage

Week 4-Sept. 22-26—Charleston, WV-Variou programs

Week 5-Oct. 6-10-Charleston, WV-Variou programs

Week 6-Oct. 21-24-Charleston, WV-Water, Insects, Food

Week 7-Nov. 17-21-Morgantown, WV-Food

Week 8-Dec. 8-12-Morgantown, WV-Pools



QuizTime

The 2005 Food Code Version

1. Hot foods must be held at _____ °F or above.
2. What are the eight major food allergens?
3. Name the "Big Five" reportable diseases.

4. Handwashing sinks must provide water at a temperature of at least _____ °F through a mixing valve or combination faucet.

5. If proper procedures are in place, and a food is taken out of a 41 °F temperature then monitored to ensure that it remains below 70 °F, time

may be used as a public health control for up to _____ hours.

6. If consumers are offered the choice of ordering a raw or undercooked animal food, they must be informed of the increased risk of consuming that food by _____ and _____.

Crisis Leadership by Glenn Klann

"in the final analysis it is all about people"

ANSWERS TO LAST QUIZ:

1. Risk Control Factors: Improper holding temps, inadequate cooking temps, contaminated equipment, food from unsafe sources, and poor personal hygiene.
2. Psittacosis: disease caused by Pigeon droppings.
3. Chlorine residual for public water—.25
4. Zoonosis is the disease of animals communicable to man.—True
5. Max. length of 100 feet for a standard soil absorption trench.
6. Turnover rate in a pool—8 hours
7. Food prep area lighting requirement—50 footcandles
8. Disease flare ups at irregular intervals—Sporadic
9. Body Piercing records must be kept for 3 years.



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ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

President: Warren Elmer
Vice-President: Jessica Lucas
Secretary-Treasurer: Linda Whaley
Members at Large:
3 year: Todd Powroznik
2 year: Jon Welch
1 year: Keith Lyons

President Elect: David Thornton
Ex. Officio: PHS Director, Brad Cochran
Awards Chair: Bill Nestor
Legislative Chair: Christina Mickey
By Laws Chair: Gail Harris

Objects of WVAS

5. Stimulate members to develop leadership, initiative and technical competence and encourage continuance of education.
6. Sustain endeavors to recruit professionally trained person to new positions and vacancies in environmental health programs.
7. Promote and encourage effective local associations of Sanitarians.
8. To recognize and regard outstanding contributions and achievements by members of this Association.
9. Promote and encourage all members to become members of the National Env. Health Association.

Onsite Sewage Program Guidance

By Rick Hertges

Hello All. I hope everyone is enjoying the nice, wet, summer. While it may be a pain to keep the lawn mowed, for those performing site evaluations for onsite systems the extra rain is beneficial. It is common for property owners and developers to propose wet sites for evaluation during the driest months. Paragraphs 6.2.i., 6.8.a., and 6.8.b. of WV64CSR47 refer to minimum separation distances from soil absorption systems to a "seasonal high water table". As was emphasized in the handout given during the statewide refresher training earlier this year, since these water tables are admittedly "seasonal", we must use alternative methods to identify them during dry seasons. Existence of a "seasonal" water table will not be obvious except during the wet season, and then, only in "average, or, wetter than average" years. The soil color patterns ("redoximorphic features", or "redox" (formerly "mottling"))

that we rely on to identify wet soils during dry periods are much harder to distinguish when the soil is extra dry. Wetting the soil with water from a spray bottle, while helpful, is not as effective as the more uniform saturation from rainfall which we are enjoying this summer. Do not expect heavy summer rains to fill holes to the height of the seasonal water table, however. Also, remember the actual water table elevation will almost always be above the height of the standing water, during any season. You must look for the redox features! (Or call them mottles, if you insist.) Examination of the sidewall of the 6' excavation is necessary in order to make a determination of the existence of a seasonal water table, and its precise elevation. For this reason we must insist on a backhoe pit (rather than an auger hole) in order to properly evaluate a site. Remember to encourage citizens to take advantage of the

WVDEP's low interest loan program for failing septic systems, administered by West Virginia Housing through various non-profit loan originators across the state. Proposed system modifications should be the same as would be permitted normally (not gold-plated due to the loan amount ceiling); except that, surface discharging systems can not be considered under the DEP's program. In no case should a modification be considered under this program which does not have a reasonable chance of functioning long-term. The next round of statewide refresher training will be this fall, with dates for each district being released soon. This training will concentrate on alternative systems, and site evaluations for these systems. I look forward to seeing you then, if we miss you at Snowshoe!

