

# SANITARIANS' NEWS

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**Special points of interest:**

- Mid-Year
- Bd. Of Registration
- Ron Retires
- New Training class dates
- Bubba Award

## MID-YEAR MEETING

BY LINDA WHALEY

The annual Mid-Year Meeting for Sanitarians will be held at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, WV, May 6-8, 2008. The complete agenda, registration form, and hotel reservation forms may be found on our website: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvas/>.

Tuesday afternoon will begin with Ron Forren presenting on Ethics and Professionalism. The Association business meeting follows and at 5:00 pm the annual picnic will take place.

Wednesday holds a choice of Onsite Sewage Training (make up day for those missing the District training days) or a course in Cross Connections. The Cross Connections course will benefit every Sanitarian who does field inspections. The knowledge from this training will be of benefit in the food program, recreational water, fairs and festival inspections, mobile home parks, etc. There will be a panel discussion on Thursday for Emergency Preparedness in Retail Food and updates from the OEHS Directors. We hope that everyone will come out for the training and enjoy the networking that happens at this annual event. The answer on how to handle different situations at work is often picked up from casual conversation after hours at the Mid-Year Meeting. Many of us old timers consider Cedar Lakes to be our Spring home.



## OTHER UPCOMING TRAINING

Onsite Sewage Training: Mineral County Health Dept. April 11, 2008  
Tucker Country Inn, Parson, WV April 25, 2008

2005 Food Code Training: Boone County Health Dept., May 23, 2008  
St. Marys Library, St. Marys, WV May 30, 2008  
Hampshire County Health Dept., June 6, 2008  
Mon General Hospital, Morgantown, June 13, 2008  
Raleigh County Health Dept., June 27, 2008

FDA "Managing Retail Food Safety Course" July 8-10, 2008 Holiday Inn, Fairmont, WV  
registration required—more information to follow

# WVBORS

BY DAVID THORNTON

It's getting near that time again that all Sanitarians renew their registration with the West Virginia Board of Sanitarians (WVBORS). Current registrations expire June 30, 2008. You should receive a renewal application in the mail or you can find it on the Board website at [www.wvdhhr.org/phs/bors](http://www.wvdhhr.org/phs/bors). The paperwork is easy and the fee is only \$20.00 but the real hang-up every year is to get everyone to obtain and **submit their required 15 hours of Continuing Education Hours.** Everyone by now should have received a report from the Board on how many hours have been submitted

and approved for them. If it did not show 15 or more hours you need to be attending and submitting more hours. **Do NOT be caught short.** The educational hours MUST BE BETWEEN July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. By law the Board cannot renew your registration without the 15 hours. You could face a 1 year suspension from your job if enough CEH's are not submitted. You must be registered with the WVBORS (or be in Pre-Sanitarian training class completion status) to work as a Sanitarian in West Virginia. If you have

a question on your reported hours or recent submittals contact Sandy Dearien or Anita Ray at 304-358-8050.



## CLANDESTINE DRUG LAB. REMEDIATION RULE

BY: LINDA WHALEY

Governor Manchin signed into law on March 27, 2008 the Clandestine Drug Lab Remediation Rule. This rule establishes decontamination standards for the remediation of clandestine drug laboratories, primarily meth labs. The rules detail the process by which remediation is to occur. Currently there are no Federal Standards so many states have established their own rules.

The act establishes certification requirements for remediation contractors similar in structure to those already in place for other environmental professionals such as asbestos contractors. This Rule was recommended by the Statewide Clandestine Drug Lab Task Force which was created following a meth summit sponsored by the

Governor and the United States Attorney.

More information may be obtained by contacting Randy Curtis or Tony Turner with the RTIA program at 558-2981.

## RON FORREN RETIRES

BY: LINDA WHALEY

After 41 years of dedicated service to Public Health, Ron Forren, Deputy Commissioner of Public Health retired effective March 31, 2008. Mr. Forren began his service to the people of West Virginia in Randolph County (1967) as a local Sanitarian. Not long after his employment he was sent to Mingo County to work flood duty where he spent several weeks. In 1968 he began working as a Roving

Regional Sanitarian (now known as a District Sanitarian). In 1973 Ron began working in Charleston with the State Health Dept. where he started with the FDA and the Food Program. Ron became Director of PHS in 1986. Ron was instrumental in continuing the professionalization of the title "Sanitarian". He became Deputy Comm. of the Bureau for Public Health. (2003). Ron, we applaud you

and admire the legacy of good works that you leave behind!



## 2007-2008 TRAINING COURSE

BY JESSICA LUCAS

January 18, 2008 marked the end of the 2007-2008 session of the Sanitarian Training Class. Eighteen trainees attended all or a portion of the training class with 13 of those completing the course. Congratulations to our new Sanitarians: Richard McCord and Chris Nestor—Mon. Co., Amy Edwards, Keith Allison, and Jennifer Beamer—Berkeley Co., Wayne Powell—Kanawha, Lee Fowler—Morgan Co., Cindy Cross—Randolph Co., Cindy Wilfong—Pocahontas Co., Randy Lowe—Roane Co., Jaclyn Boylan—PHS (Infectious Medical Waste), Shannon Savage—Putnam Co., and Kacie Noonan—Jefferson Co.

The Fall 2008 Course will begin Monday, August 11, 2008 with Public Health 101. We are looking forward to meeting the new trainees and welcoming back some familiar faces. Charles Pethel—Gilmer Co., Bob Stumpff and Bruce Ullom—Morgan Co., Carolyne Baker—Hancock Co., and Michelle Trickett—Raleigh Co.

The schedule is as follows:

Aug. 11-15  
Aug. 25-29  
Sept. 8-12  
Sept. 22-25  
Oct. 6-10

Oct. 20-24

Nov. 17-21

Dec. 8-12

We are currently updating materials that were affected by the 2008 Legislative session.



2007-2008 Sanitarian Training Class

## QuizTime

1. What are the 5 key risk control factors listed in the Food Code?
2. What is Psittacosis?
3. Public Water must have a chlorine residual of \_\_\_\_\_ at the furthest point in the distribution line.
4. Zoonosis is the disease of animals communicable to man. True or False
5. The max. length of a standard soil absorption trench is \_\_\_\_\_ feet.
6. The water in a swimming pool must be turned over at least \_\_\_\_\_ times/day.
7. What is the min. level of light in a food prep area where knives are used?
8. A disease that may flare up at irregular intervals is described as \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Body piercing studios must keep records for \_\_\_\_\_ years.

## LOOKING FOR BUBBA AWARD WINNERS

BY: LINDA WHALEY

We are currently working on a history of the "Bubba" Award. We would like to have the complete record of who won, what year, and also the complete story. So, if you are a winner, or know a winner and are willing to share the information, please contact Jessica Lucas, co-editor at 304-558-6999.

For all of you new to the Sanitarian field, beware. The Bubba Award is presented each year to the Sanitarian who usually has

the oddest thing happen to them, or whoever screws up the most.

The award began with Ron Forren in 1989 and a winner has been selected every year since.

Awards have been presented to Sanitarians who have fallen into swimming pools, found dead bodies of humans on complaint investigations, ran over dead birds, burnt frying

pans, had food service operators throw away food (unnecessarily), swabbed exotic bird behinds, and various other indiscretions.

The award is presented in great fun because we all do something that is out of the norm from time to time.

*Phil Jones, Bubba Award Winner from 1996.*



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of Sanitarians**

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## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS:

President: Warren Elmer

President Elect: David Thornton

Vice-President: Jessica Lucas

Immediate Past President: Steve Bayer

Secretary-Treasurer: Linda Whaley

Ex. Officio: PHS Director, Brad Cochran

Members at Large:

3 year: Todd Powroznik

2 year: Jon Welch

1 year: Keith Lyons

News Editors: Linda Whaley and Jessica Lucas

### Objects of WVAS

1. Stimulate and foster uniform and effective environmental health programs
2. Develop a better understanding and coordination of environmental health efforts.
3. Work on behalf of its membership assuring professional status comparable to that of other professions having equal responsibility.
4. Encourage the membership to constantly maintain the high standards of professional performance and personal conduct necessary to serve the best interests of the profession.

5-9 in next edition.

### Climate Change and Public Health by Jessica Lucas

The first full week of April of each year is recognized as National Public Health Week. This year's theme, "Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance" raises some interesting questions. For several years, the theory formerly known as global warming has been a hot topic (no pun intended). Numerous scientists, politicians, and environmentalists have all conveyed messages about how so many of our actions are detrimental to the environment. It is not until recently that a connection has been made between climate change and public health. If that correlation does exist, doesn't climate change become our business?

Climate change may cause extreme weather events and changes in rainfall that increase the risk of death and disease. Extreme temperatures could result in more

heat stress and heatstroke. Rising temperatures could result in a harder time for people with allergies, as well as an increase in diseases carried by insects or animals. Contamination of food and water could result from the occurrence of more intense weather events like hurricanes.

Is there something that we can do to prevent this from happening? The easiest way to answer that question is to find ways to make our own environmental footprint smaller and teach others to do the same. Walking, carpooling, using public transportation, buying food from local producers, cutting out eating meat once a week, using reusable grocery bags, making sure homes are well insulated, using recycled paper, and practicing the reduce, reuse, recycle philosophy are several examples of simple

ways to decrease personal environmental impact. Leading by example is also an excellent teaching tool. And if someone notices that you have made a change in your routine, taking the time to explain why you made those changes may even make them consider taking some type of environmentally friendly action.

Although saving the environment may not be a top priority for everyone, I think that protecting the health of the public is. For you naysayers, I'm not even trying to convince you that climate change is real. My point is that there is a prospective situation with the potential to negatively affect public health. If just making a few simple changes in our own lives could possibly prevent that from happening, why not give it a try?