

Sanitarian Newsletter

Volume 93 - number 1

January 15, 1992

West Virginia Sanitarians Association

President - Clarence Christian
Pres elect - Stan Walls
Vice Pres - Gary Hamilton
Sec/Treas - Lee Thompson

EDITOR'S NOTES

Well, the Sanitarian's Newsletter has finally been printed. This edition is limited in content, but I wanted to at least get something out to everyone. I have not established people to contact for information, but everyone is invited to submit material for future editions. Plans are for this publication to come out quarterly (Jan, April, July, Oct), so please mail your information to me by the previous month (Dec, March, June, Sept). It is my intention not to write this newsletter, but rather organize your material into this letter. Without your contributions, this newsletter will not succeed. Please forward contributions to: Fred Barley, M.O.V.H.D., 211 Sixth St., Parkersburg, WV 26101.

AN EDITORIAL - by Gary Hamilton

On December 8, 1992, I had the pleasure of attending the in-service training meeting held at the Monongalia County Health Department. The diversity and positive nature of the program left me re-charged with the feeling that we sanitarians fulfill a vital need in our communities and that we must continue the lead role

in determining the future of environmental health in this State. Over the last few years, I have had the impression that many sanitarians have lost the spirit and the pride of their earlier accomplishments in public health. I have heard a variety of reasons for this self-deprecation. Much of the despair has been attributed to the political climate, the economic conditions, and the lack of pro-active leadership. While these claims may hold some truth, pride in what you do relies on an internal belief that you are important and are making progress toward a desirable goal. In Morgantown, I perceived a vitality of spirit that was directed toward the shaping of the health of the community; evidenced by the initiation of new programs and the exploration of new resources. To be successful, a sanitarian must be willing to evolve with the changes that are taking place beyond his or her full control. Living in the past roots a person in the garden of apathy, discontent and unhappiness. Growth requires an acceptance of new ideas and a willingness to adapt to the environment. The year, 1993, will offer challenges to the status quo. The challenge of change can be viewed positively or negatively, the choice is yours. I hope that the New Year is filled with spirit and pride of being a sanitarian, a person who can make a difference in the quality of life of our citizens.

WV STATE FAIR A SUCCESS

The WV State Fair was held August 14-22, 1992. Eighty-nine food service concessions were in operation. A total of 387 inspections were made for an average of 4.6 inspections apiece. Most common violations marked were: #10 Dispensing Utensil Stored; #21 Wiping cloths storage; #35 Insect control; #05 Food thermometers; #08 Food protection; #38 Lighting shielding. A recycling project, and a fingerprinting project were instituted this year. Pepsi Cola and the state fair joined forces to introduce a recyclable plastic cup for use by fairgoers. 1,025 pounds of plastic cups and 3,050 pounds of cardboard were processed at the nearby Greenbrier Recycling Center. The children's fingerprinting co-sponsored by M&M Mars and the Greenbrier County Deputy Sheriff's Association, was a huge success with 1,500 young people fingerprinted. It is estimated that \$9.8 million dollars were pumped into the State's economy. Those participating in this year's fair were: Forrest Adkins, Wendy Casto, Clarence Christian, Brad Cochran, Mike Eltzroth, Tom Felton, Roger Hanna, Linda Jones, Bonnie Morgan, Ray Oxier, Michelle Richards, David Thornton, Richard Wheeler, and Mark Whittaker.

WVPHA NEWS

The annual West Virginia Public Health Association

conference was held September 15-18, 1992 at Barboursville. Because of the new C.E.H. requirement for sanitarians, and the availability of rooms, over 400 people were in attendance. A lively discussion was held during the sanitarian's meetings concerning the implementation of the septic tank tagging and locating procedure. The Executive Council met on Oct. 8, 1992. They voted to hold two WVPHA Regional Meetings, one at Wheeling on March 4, 1993, and the second one in Parkersburg on May 20th. The Annual Conference will be held at Canaan Valley on September 21-24, 1993.

MEANDERINGS & MUSINGS

If toast always lands butter side down, and a cat always lands on its feet, what would happen if you strapped a piece of toast to the back of cat, and dropped it? ***** I used to live beside a pizza place that sold pizza by the slice. Out back there was a guy always tossing little triangular pieces of dough in the air. ***** Earl Burgess was driving to Charleston to a meeting and was caught speeding by a State trooper.

When asked why he was going so fast, Earl explained, "See this thing down here? It's called an accelerator. When you push on it with your foot, gas goes to the engine. Now, I can stop this thing by pushing on the pedal beside it. It's called a brake."

***** You know how you feel when you lean back in a chair and you're almost ready to fall but you haven't yet. Being a sanitarian makes me feel that way all the time. *****

I went to the grocery store the other day and I saw a sign at the checkout line that said, "Eight items or less." So I changed my name to Les.

***** Why is the word "abbreviation" sooooo long?

***** What would a chair look like, if your knees bent the other direction?

SANITARIAN AWARDS - Gary Hamilton

As the Vice-President of the Sanitarian's Association, I have been assigned the task of reviewing the current policy on the awards presentations that are given at the State Health Conference in September. Concerns have been voiced that the criteria for earning an award are not well defined and

that the mechanism of soliciting and reviewing nominations is inadequately developed to assure recognition of our outstanding sanitarians. I have discussed the awards process with some of our fellow sanitarians and feel that we may need to develop a new nominations form and to aggressively seek greater numbers of applications that may allow an opportunity to be more selective in awarding those who have excelled. I would appreciate any thoughts or concerns on the subject to be submitted to me, by phone, 485-1416; or by mail, MOVHD, 211 6th Street, Parkersburg, WV 26101
Attn: Gary Hamilton

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARD

The Association is still pursuing the possibility of establishing an EBBS which would allow state and county sanitarians to communicate via an 800 number on current issues, files, databases, and message exchange. Anyone with ideas or comments should contact: Francis Holton, Lincoln County Health Department.

WV Sanitarian's Newsletter
c/o Fred R. Barley, R.S.
Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department
211 Sixth Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101

W.V.P.H.A. -

REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

On March 4, 1993, a Regional Public Health Conference will be held at Oglebay Park In Wheeling, WV. CEH's will be offered at this conference.

Registration starts at 8am, and the conference starts at 9am.

For WVPHA members the cost is \$15.00 and for non-members the cost is \$30.00 (a luncheon buffet is included in the price).

The agenda includes: U.S. FOOD SUPPLIES - ARE THEY SAFE?, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE, TUBERCULOSIS - IT'S RECENT RESURGENCE INTO OUR SOCIETY, PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE HEALTH CARE PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT, LEGISLATIVE REPORT, COMMITTEE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES REPORT, and TOBACCO CONTROL COALITION REPORT.

W.V.S.A. MEETING

The West Virginia Sanitarians Association held an executive council meeting at Bridgeport, January 15, 1993. A report was given regarding the status of the proposed Electronic Bulletin Board System (EBBS). A survey is to be conducted with results presented at the Mid-year meeting at Cedar Lakes. The newsletter is under way. It was decided to postpone mailing of it, until additional information could be gathered. The awards committee recommended that they be given full responsibility for developing the format for the awards and that the Awards Committee make the final decisions on award recipients. The motion carried. A

proposal was made to present our most prestigious awards at the WVPHA banquet. No decision was made. Earl Burgess is to check into modifying the Constitution and the By-Laws so that the Awards Committee is a Standing Committee. At present, there is no appeal process for CEH's to the Board of Registration, but the BOR will work with each sanitarian to assure that appropriate CEH's are recognized. The BOR is working on ways to make approval of CEH's easier. The WVSA carried a motion recommending Mike Eltzroth to the Governor as an appointee to the BOR. An FDA course is scheduled for the Mid-year conference. It will start on Tuesday afternoon after the business meeting, and will run through Thursday. The business meeting will be at 1pm, Tuesday. A motion was carried to charge \$20.00 for the registration fee at the Mid-Year Conference. The Clerical Section of the WVPHA asked the WVSA to provide beverages for the dance at the Mid-Year Conference. A motion carried to spend up to \$200.00 for said dance. WVSA carried a motion to contribute \$1000.00 towards lobbying efforts in the upcoming Legislative session, and hold \$1000.00 in reserve. The PES exam study material was discussed, and it was revealed that over-all, West Virginia Sanitarians fare better than average on the PES!!!! Clarence Christian is to contact NEHA regarding NEHA modules for study.

PROPOSED SEPTIC TANK FEES

The office of Water Resources (OWR) will develop an informational brochure/seal application form to be provided

to potential tank owners by the Sanitarians when the Health Department Installation Permit is sought. It will provide information detailing reasons for the fee/seal, instructions and a time frame. The owner will be given thirty (30) days to affix the seal, regardless of whether or not the tank has been installed. After a sufficient number of tanks have been installed in an area, OWR will contract with an outside source to visit each tank installation to secure coordinates and verify seals. It will be necessary for OWR's contractor to have access to county health department's files for the purpose of cross checking the number of permits issued versus the number of seals purchased. OWR feels, that since no workable solution involving the Sanitarians or the Tank Manufacturers to collect the fees has been found, this proposal is a feasible alternative procedure.

EPIDEMIOLOGY BEAMING DOWN TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Distance Learning Program and its partners (including FDA) will soon be bringing top quality learning to your neighborhood. CDC will be offering satellite broadcasts to a public access downlink facility near you beginning in March, 1993. This concept of distance learning using new technology will be bringing closer together the need for continuing professional development and new skills acquisition opportunities while overcoming the several barriers to traditional learning methods. CDC's name for this venture is the Public Health Training

Network (PHTN). CDC has identified thousands of facilities in communities across the U.S.A. equipped with satellite broadcast reception capabilities that are willing to open them up to public health personnel to attend high-tech telecourses and seminars originated or coordinated through CDC. These facilities should put these programs within 30 minutes for over 90% of those working in these agencies. Included in this list of public access facilities are those located at colleges, high schools, hospitals, Red Cross offices, businesses and others who have agreed to this use when it does not conflict with their own utilization. Many communities have several listed, so alternate sites are usually available. The Principles of Epidemiology course, which is the first of several planned for 1993, is an introductory course in Applied Epidemiology with the emphasis on -applied-. Telephone lines will be available to allow two-way communication between the students and the course instructors to allow for questions and comments. The course is designed to empower

public health workers to assume a more active role in identifying, prioritizing, and addressing health risks in their communities. A 550 page course workbook is organized into lessons, each which includes numerous illustrations, examples and exercises that illustrate contemporary uses of epidemiology. Pre-registration is required for this course. The workbook and other reference materials will be sent to registered students in time for review before the first tele-lesson in March, so early registration is recommended. Students who successfully complete it will be given a CDC certificate of completion and awarded 5.6 Continuing Education Units or 56 Continuing Medical Education credits.

(NOTE THIS HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY THE WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF REGISTRATION AS OF THE PRINTING OF THIS NEWSLETTER!!!!!!)

For registration information on

telecourse or homestudy course, contact:
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
Distance Learning Program MSF02
1600 Clifton Road, N.E.
Atlanta, GA 30333
Telephone: (404) 639-2142

THE MUSICAL SOUND OF SALMONELLA

Los Alamos scientists say sound can identify chicken eggs infected with Salmonella. The researchers report that normal eggs exhibit a single resonance at around 830 hertz (a high G-sharp note); eggs infected with the bacteria have a resonance at even higher frequency. So far, detection accuracy is only 25 percent; but the scientists expect to fine-tune the system to 100 percent. The acoustic resonance technology grew out of arms control treaty verification techniques for detecting chemical or biological agents in munitions. The system, which consists of mounting an egg between two transducers, each about the size of a quarter, is compact and portable, requires little electrical power and gives immediate results.

Join the West Virginia Sanitarian's Association!!!! Help yourself stay informed of current events in the state, as well as the nation. Know of upcoming in-service training so you can not only stay registered as a Sanitarian in West Virginia, but also, expand your knowledge to help those in your county. Obtain discounts on WVSA training sessions!!! Join, and become active in the only professional organization in West Virginia that will benefit not only you, your department, but also your community!!!

Dues are fifteen (\$15.00) dollars per year, and are due January 1st of each year.

Mail check or money order to:

West Virginia Sanitarians Association
c/o Lemione Thompson, R.S.
Hardy County Health Department
Court House
Moorefield, WV 26836

Brad Cochran