



WEST VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF SANITARIANS OFFICERS

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2-Year	Norman Moore
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We hope to see everyone at this year's Public Health Association annual conference. It will be held in Huntington, at the Radisson Hotel. For more information visit the Public Health Association's website at:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvpha/>

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

By: V.J. Davis, R.S. &
Nathan Douglas, R.S.



Here we go again. We managed to round up enough material to put together another edition. Many of you did not receive a printed copy of the newsletter this time. As you know it is available on the Association's website:

www.wvdhhr.org/wvas

Hopefully we will be able to add editions of past newsletters to the site in the future. Please let us know how getting your copy of the *sanitarians' News* online went. If you had any problems, we can still send a hard copy, but it will be in black and white.

As you know, the newsletter is only as good as the articles in it. We would like to take this opportunity to thank

everyone who gave us articles to post in this edition, and we look forward to your feedback.

Although we will be running the recurring columns, we do not want the newsletter to consist entirely of them. Therefore, we need your help. We would love to have articles from the district offices as well as from the local health departments. If you have any issues that are newsworthy or just plain interesting, please send them in. We would like to see each district in the state represented in the newsletter.

Editorials and Articles may be submitted to VJ Davis or Nathan Douglas, preferably by email.

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nathandouglas@wvdhhr.org

Snail Mail: VJ Davis, R.S.
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TRAINING CLASS OF THE PAST

We will be including a picture of one training class from the past over the next few issues. We want to see who can identify the most sanitarians, either still working or retired. Naturally, members of the training class cannot be the winner!

Send in your guess and see if you can name the whole class!

The Training Class of 1975-1976



CONGRATULATIONS to

GAIL HARRIS from Roane County!!!

Gail sent in the winning entry naming the most members of the 1971 training class.

The Class of 1971 members are, from left to right:



Seated

- Lewis Taylor - Mercer Co.
- Douglas Schmidt - Kanawha Co.
- George Hanna - Kanawha Co.
- Clarence Christian - Raleigh Co.
- James Sutherland - Wyoming Co.

Second row

- Edwin DeBarr - Training Officer
- Stanley Walls - SWRCH
- James Elmer - Harrison Co.
- John Cali - Raleigh Co.
- Joseph Ferrell - Gilmer Co.
- Gary Hamilton - Wood Co.
- Bernard Clemmer - Monongalia Co.

Back row

- Larry Lewis - Brooke Co.
- Max Fisher - Lewis Co.
- John Brown - Doddridge - Ritchie and Pleasants Cos.
- James Cooper - Randolph Co.
- Robert Barrows - Kanawha Co.

THAT DARN HEALTH INSPECTOR

By: Tom Felton, R.S.



TOP TEN REASONS YOU SHOULD JOIN THE WVAS:

10. Ensures adequate supply of food for Mark Whittaker, Mike Nestor, and Bill Nestor at picnic at mid-year meeting at Cedar Lakes.

9. Provides funding for plaque for Bubba Award in order to humiliate some poor soul at sanitarian's luncheon at WVPHA Annual Conference.

8. Alleviates any guilt you might feel when receiving Christmas card from WVAS.

7. Gives Secretary-Treasurer Lee Thompson something to do on rainy days by filling out your membership card and mailing it to you.

6. Prevents disdainful looks from paid members when you sneak into WVAS members-only functions.

5. WVAS membership card bears uncanny resemblance to Blockbuster Video frequent user card, allowing you significant discounts.

4. V.J. Davis will be able to receive a plaque for his tenure as Pres. Elect, V.P., Pres., and Immediate Past President. This plaque can be displayed on his office wall along with his sixth-grade spelling bee participation certificate, Acme Correspondence School of Lock Smithing diploma, and autographed picture of Billy Gilman.

3. 30 years of paid membership provides you lifetime paid membership allowing you to attend meetings after you retire so that young sanitarians can point at you and say, Who's the old fart?

2. Your dues help sustain this newsletter containing my photograph which people look at and wonder if it's really me or Walter Matthau (refer to my book "Parsons Ain't All That Big" for details), the Cowardly Lion, or Fred Barley.

And the #1 reason you should join the West Virginia Association of Sanitarians: The WVAS works for you! Regardless of whether you are a trainee or a 35 year veteran, the WVAS is striving to promote our profession and improve our working conditions. Monies are spent to keep the legislature apprized of our activities and concerns, print informational pamphlets for the public (i.e., rabies, food borne diseases, etc.), and many other worthwhile endeavors. Believe me, the mere \$15.00 dues is money well spent. JOIN TODAY ! Send your dues to Lee Thompson, R.S. c/o Hardy County Health Department.

It's An Election Year!

The candidates for this year's election are as follows:

WVAS Candidates for Election

Vice President

Nathan Douglas, R.S. (OEHS)
Cristina Mickey, R.S. (Monongalia County)

3 Year Board Member

William Ours, SIT (Hardy/ Pendleton County)
Jolene Zuros, R.S. (Hancock County)
Forrest Adkins, R.S. (Retired)

Don't forget to send in your votes, or drop them off when you come to the WVPHA Annual Conference in Huntington this September. Hope to see you all there!



TRAINING AND EDUCATION

By: Michelle Cochran, R.S.

The Interstate Environmental Health Conference is quickly approaching. It is being hosted this year by South Carolina and will be held in the beautiful and historic city of Charleston, SC from July 17th to the 19th. You can find the full conference agenda and reservation info on the web at www.wvdhhr.org/wvas under the training tab. Some of the training highlights include: bioterrorism, information from small flows, the Rainbow gathering in North Carolina, and how to create/use power point presentations. Next year, it will be West Virginia's turn to host the Interstate Conference. Dave Thornton already has the planning well underway.

Information about the District In-service meetings can also now be found on the web. As agendas are finalized and distributed, the information is being placed on the web for folks from all areas of the state to access. The information for the Fairmont District In-service meeting scheduled for September is already posted there. This meeting will be hosted by the Barbour Co. Health Dept. at Alderson Broaddus College. The meeting is open, not only to sanitarians, but also to local fire, police and EMS folks as the topic for the day is bioterrorism. Seating is limited, so if you or someone you know is interested in attending, please visit the website for additional information immediately.

Preparations are underway for the annual Public Health conference, which will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Huntington from September 18th to the 20th. An agenda for the conference can be found on the web at www.wvdhhr.org/wvpha. As usual, the Environmental Health Section will have training all day on Thursday, September 19th.

Since the meeting is being held in the "front yard" of the Cabell-Huntington Health Department, Stan Mills volunteered to work with Marshall University in creating an agenda. He has created a schedule that will be of interest, not only to sanitarians, but also to some of the other disciplines in public health.

Some of the topics to be covered include: The Flu, mosquito survey of WV, Marshall University's Integrated Science and Technology Program, GIS applications for Environmental Health, Bioterrorism planning and the sanitarian.

ON-SITE SEWAGE UPDATE

By: Mark Whittaker, R.S.



The on-site wastewater program is again having a busy summer with respect to sewage issues. Of course, I don't need to tell you folks about that. You're living it everyday.

The DEP has made a small revision in how it looks at the possible permitting of Class V injection wells with respect to RV dump stations and beauty shop waste etc. They are now saying that they will entertain permitting of these subsurface disposal systems if they are sized two times as large as the design currently covered with our design standards. It is important to remember that this requirement of DEP and NOT a requirement of ours.

With respect to the design standards, they have been officially filed to be considered in the 2003 legislative session. The public comment period is now in place until July 15. Any comments that you have about them should be referred to me at the Fairmont Office. Please do so in writing so I can catalogue them and respond back to you in writing the final decision as to whether your suggestion is implemented.

If you have any issues regarding the on-site sewage program, please contact me at (304) 367-2752 or e-mail me at mwhittaker@wvdhhr.org. So, till next time, keep your boots on tight and your feet dry.....Mark

BECKLEY DISTRICT OFFICE UPDATE

By: Suzette Valach

Since the May 2, 2002, flood in McDowell County and parts of surrounding counties, the Beckley District office staff and other state employees have been involved along with Eddie Stress, McDowell County sanitarian, in the recovery effort for the area. The flood had a devastating effect on McDowell County which just recovered from the July 8, 2001, flood.

Brad Cochran has been hired to replace Todd Powroznik as the new District sanitarian. Brad will be starting effective July 1, 2002, and his main responsibility will be working with the county health departments in the Beckley District. We look forward to working with Brad, and we know he brings valuable experience and expertise to the position.

Chad Medor has been hired as the new sanitarian in Summers County. Chad replaces Steve Trail who was the county sanitarian for over 25 years. Scott Bartram has been hired in Mingo County as an additional sanitarian to assist Sam Harmon. Scott replaces Kendra Salmons who worked for the county health department for approximately two years.

SANITARIANS' SALARY COMMITTEE UPDATE

By: Michelle Cochran, R.S.

The committee working on the issue of sanitarians' salary has met several times. We've whined and complained and brain stormed. We had some guests come to our meetings to guide us with their input. Ron Forren, Barb Taylor and Mike Nestor were all in attendance and provided us with their views and thoughts. We continued to seek the input and guidance of still others. A small group of us (Ron Forren, Nathan Douglas, Gary Epling, Maryanne Kranynanski and myself) met with Chris Curtis, acting Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health, who was encouraging in her support of our efforts.

While we worked on our proposal, we learned that the Nursing Section was also tackling salary and retirement issues. At the July Association of Local Health Departments meeting I attended, our sanitarian salary proposal was addressed. The Local Health Association expressed interest in going before the Legislature this fall on behalf of all employees of Public Health seeking ear-marked funding for recruitment and retention of qualified public health staff.

It's my opinion that we must work hand-in-hand with Nursing and Clerical sections to obtain this ear-marked funding for salary increases for all. At the same time, we need to pursue a classification shift for our sanitarian rankings. In the coming

weeks, the committee will be working on how best to adjust our classifications. All bets are off, the game is still wide open, and we're playing it as hard as we can. Stay tuned for future updates!

FLOOD OF MAY 2002

By: Fred Barley, R.S.

The Spring flooding this year was less than ten months after the flooding of southern WV in 2001. The first week, it was estimated that \$12 million dollars in damages were done, \$11 million of that in McDowell County. The second week, McDowell's estimates went up to \$15 million. By the fourth week, the damage estimates were up to \$64 million dollars.

I worked both floods, and they were two different beasts to operate. The July 2001 flood covered more counties and had higher water. This flood in McDowell was a fast moving water type of flood. In fact, one State Fire Marshall stated one stream was gorged with so much water, it was flowing backwards!

I saw house lots where there was nothing left. No house, no foundation, not even a lawn. It looked liked the Williams River when dry as there was nothing but rocks left. Obviously, the soil went somewhere, and the roads were atrocious; one lane open as the DOH could only plow open a small portion of the road for travel. Other roads where it was dangerous to travel as the sides were washed away, sometimes 20-30 deep.

From a sanitarian's standpoint, it was much more difficult to work. Roads washed out, resulted in long delays in traveling. Instead of cities flooded out, you had to drive up into hollers, not knowing if anyone would be home. Despite this, OEHS collected over 300 water samples and gave countless information about flood sanitation to many McDowell residents. As of July 1, 2002, OEHS-PHS spent 78 man-days in McDowell. OEHS-EDD spent well over 100 days helping to restore public water systems.

Over 2000 homes were affected; \$1.9 million dollars in food stamps were given out to over 6000 families; 1,400 tetanus shots were given; 209,000 meals were served by the Red Cross and Salvation Army as well as the unknown number of meals served by church groups and volunteer fire departments.

The support staff at the Health Department were great. We were de-briefed each morning from the emergency operations meetings from the night before, and were even given our own keys so we could come and go as we pleased. Whatever made our job easier, the McDowell LHD made it so. The first day Mark Whittaker and Nathan Douglas were on the job, they didn't check into their motel until 10:45 p.m. Many hours were spent by many people helping the people of Southern West Virginia attempt to start living somewhat normal lives again. This flood, as the previous one, was well documented so in the undesirable event another disaster would happen, we will be better prepared.

If you are interested in some pictures from the flood go to
www.wvdhhr.org/phs/flood/index.asp

FLASHBACK

By: V.J. Davis, R.S.

Linda Whaley recently sent me a copy of an article from a Kentucky newspaper dated June 27, 1933. The title of the article was "Doctors Campaign To Kill Mosquitoes" (by the Associated Press). The article read as follows:

" A campaign to rid Carlisle of mosquitos has been started by Dr. Terry Bird, county health officer. He has asked citizens to combat the pests by cleaning up their premises and alleys, cutting weeds, cleaning gutters, using kerosene on open water barrels and stagnant pools and applying other sanitary methods."

Seems we are still fighting some of the same battles in public health that we were almost 70 years ago. Although I do not believe that pouring kerosene onto stagnant water pools would be a recommendation of today's health department.

BET'YA DIDN'T KNOW

By: Fred Barley, R.S.

- OEHS central office has people working with three different country citizenships
- OEHS central office has people commuting from three different states (WV, OH, KY)
- OEHS central office has people driving to work from Kanawha, Putnam, Cabell, Lincoln, Boone, Summers, Raleigh, Webster, Nicholas, Roane, Washington (OH), Pike (KY)
- Berkeley Springs has more massage therapists than lawyers
- The federal government owns 7.8% of WV (1,211,400 acres)
- The first public school system in the South operated in Wheeling in 1849
- In 1862 the first free school for African-Americans in the South opened in Parkersburg
- Welch had the first municipally owned and operated parking building
- The youngest American soldier to enlist for World War I was Chester Merriman, 14, of Romney
- The first concrete street in the world was laid in the town of Webster Springs in 1903

- The town of Bramwell boasted more millionaires per square mile than any other city in the country in the late 1890's
- While 'West' is part of the state's name, the state of Virginia actually extends 95 miles farther west than West Virginia
- West Virginia's longest rivers are the Ohio at 277 miles; the Elk at 172 miles; the Greenbrier at 167 miles; the Little Kanawha at 167 miles; the Guyandotte at 166 miles; and the Cheat at 169 miles
- The Golden Delicious apple originated in Clay County

SMOKE FREE INITIATIVE OF WEST VIRGINIA UPDATE

By: Christina Mickey, R.S.

May 31 was the deadline for completely the final reports for the incentive grants that were provided by the West Virginia Tobacco Prevention to assist local health departments with Clean Indoor Air (CIA) regulations. 35 of the 55 counties participated in the program and initial reports show that most HD's made good use of their funds. A number of counties reported using the funds to pay sanitarians' overtime to ensure regulated facilities were in compliance. Some counties were able to utilize their funds to provide education on second hand smoke to their communities by newspaper, radio, billboards and even TV ads. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we will be financially able to offer the grants next year. Thanks to everyone that participated in the process.

July 1, 2002 brought in two amended county CIA regulations. Lincoln County is preparing for the WV's most comprehensive regulation that provides for smoke free workplaces in all venues with no exceptions. Marshall county citizens and workers will also breathe better after its board of health (BOH) voted to expand coverage to include smoke free restaurants and remove private office exemptions. We have a number of counties that are on the move to increase the protection levels of their counties CIA regulation. We still have some legal battles that are smoldering and may flame back up in Preston.

Cabell County BOH has filed for an appeal to the state supreme court. Legal partners are anticipating the court will hear the case. On February 19, Circuit Judge Cummings issued a permanent injunction against the most protective CIA to date in WV. BOH in other states have seen success at the State supreme court rulings.

Please keep me informed of any CIA events or movement in your county. It's important for us to communicate any situations that may require may legal assistance. If your county need inspections forms or signage, please send your request to me via email at: cmickey@monchd.org