

SANITARIANS' NEWS



Message from the President:

As WVAS President, I would like to encourage as many of you to as possible to attend the 2017 Mid-year Meeting to be held at Cedar Lakes on May 9-11, 2017. Not only do we have two exciting concurrent agendas, the networking sessions that occurs during breaks and in the evenings also helps to make us all better sanitarians. Believe it or not, many obstacles that that we all face on a day to day basis are often discussed and possible solutions recommended. Plus , I believe it make our Association and profession stronger.

I would also like to thank Vice President and Planning Chair, David Whittaker for assembling the alternate agenda and to Jessica Douglas and other food program staff for working hard to obtain the FDA approved course on Temporary Foods.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this year's meeting. Thank you for all you do.

Brad Cochran, WVAS President

WVAS MID-YEAR SANITARIANS EDUCATION CONFERENCE MAY 9-11, 2017

WVAS is proud to be sponsoring the Mid-Year Training Conference this year at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center.



The 2017 Mid-Year Training Conference will again kick off with Environmental updates on Tuesday afternoon followed by the WVAS business meeting and annual picnic. In advance we want to thank Kroger Company and Jerry Wharton for sponsoring the picnic.



Wednesday : FDA Temporary Food Course and the alternate session topics which include: Food Manual Out-break Training, Mosquito surveillance/Environmental Assessments, and Choosing the Right Sewage Treatment System

Thursday ; FDA Temporary Food Course and in the alternate session the topics include: Radon Information and Training, Lead Poisoning Program and Floating Pods



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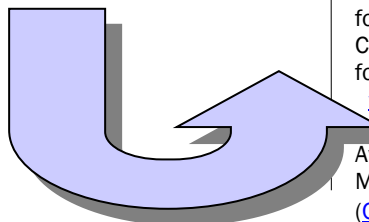
Any photos, stories, or any good news? Share in the August, 2017 issue of the:

Sanitarians' News Letter

Please contact:

Stacy King
(stacy.e.king@wv.gov).

GET INVOLVED WITH WVAS!



Nominate!

Know anyone that deserves recognition for their contributions to environmental health? Nominate them by August 2017 for the Steve Bayer, Recognition, Citizen, or Bubba Award. Info is found at <http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvas/awards.asp> or contact Awards Committee Chair, Chad Meador (Chad.E.Meador@wv.gov),

Run!

If you would like to run for WVAS Vice-President or 2-Year Board Member, please contact Nomination Committee Chair, Bill Nestor (Bill.E.Nestor@wv.gov). Ballots must be mailed to members at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

Election results and awards will be announced at the WVAS business meeting that will be held September 21, 2017, at Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, WV as part of the WVPHA Annual Conference.

News Liaison Committee

Environmental Health Reports – Center for Local Health

New this fiscal year are Environmental Health Quarterly Reports that are required to be submitted on the Center for Local Health's SharePoint site. The first report was due October 15, 2016. All 49 local health departments completed the report. Some issues that have been brought up concerning the report are: opening inspections cannot be counted for reporting purposes, all program areas/activities are not reflected on the report, some of the items on the report *i.e.* complaints and on-site sewage systems may cross reporting periods. Reporting requirements reflected in the Environmental Health Quarterly Report follow the specific rule requirements. This is the initial year for this report to be required, report will be evaluated at the end of the fiscal year.

H-25 Guidelines for Permitting and Inspecting Accommodations Made Through Lodging Reservation Web Sites

Are rentals in private residences covered by the 64CSR18 General Sanitation Rule? A legal opinion has been given and the short answer is "no", unless the rental meets the definition of Bed & Breakfast as defined in the General Sanitation Rule. If a rental advertised on a website meets any of the definitions in the General Sanitation Rule then those rentals would need to obtain an operational permit from the local health department.

Cont. on page 4

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislative session ran from February 8-April 8 2017. Legislatures again faced a budget shortfall for the current year and a projected \$500 million deficit for fiscal year 2018.

Governor Justice has called a special legislative session on the State budget to begin May 4, 2017

Several environmental issues, including SB 27 Home Based Food Micro-Processing and SB 283 Food Production Bill were introduced.

SB 27 expanded the types of products that could be produced in a home based kitchen and sold at farmers markets. Amendments were made and the bill passed the Senate but did not pass the House by the last day of session.

SB 283 Food Production Bill would give the West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA) jurisdiction over all manufactured food in the state, both FDA and USDA regulated products. Presently WVDA has jurisdiction over USDA regulated products and WVBPH Public Health Sanitation Division has jurisdiction over FDA regulated products. This bill was referred to the interim meeting for study.

Texas team develops oral vaccine against Salmonella

By [News Desk](#) | January 4, 2017

Researchers at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston have developed an oral vaccine against the foodborne pathogen responsible for the most hospitalizations and deaths in the United States. It will likely take about five years before the Salmonella vaccine is available to the public, said lead researcher Ashok Chopra, professor of microbiology and immunology at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston.

Salmonella is the second leading cause of foodborne illness in the United States, sickening more than a million people every year, according to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Norovirus is the No. 1 cause of foodborne illness in the U.S., with the CDC estimating annual cases at 4.5 million.

However, Salmonella infection is much more serious than norovirus, causing more hospitalizations and deaths – about 19,300 hospitalizations and almost 400 deaths annually – than any other foodborne pathogen in the U.S.

Despite public health efforts at

the local, state and federal levels, the CDC reports Salmonella infection rates have remained roughly unchanged in the United States since 1996.

The researchers at the University of Texas previously developed a potential injectable Salmonella vaccine, but oral vaccines are much preferred because they are easier to administer and less invasive than injections, Chopra said.

Salmonella infection can be treated with antibiotics, but some strains of the pathogen are developing antibiotic resistance, increasing the need for a vaccine. Also, the pathogen can be used as a bioweapon, as it was in Oregon in 1984 when a religious cult contaminated restaurant salad bars, sickening more than 750 people.

The research at the University of Texas was supported with money from the federal government's National Institutes of Health. In addition to Chopra, others involved in the Salmonella vaccine project are Tatiana



Ashok Chopra

Erova, Michelle Kirtley, Eric Fitts, Duraisamy Ponnusamy, Jourdan Andersson, Yingzi Cong, Bethany Tiner and Jian Sha as well as Wallace Baze from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO ?

St. Albans In-Service Sept 2016



Don't they look like a post-card?

2016 Trainee of the Year

Crystal Lough received her plaque for 2016 trainee of the Year at a recent district in-service.



In-Service at Lewis County



Looking deep in thought

WVAS Scholarships and WVAS Membership to Sanitarian Trainees

WVAS Mid Year Scholarships

WVAS is pleased to announce the opportunity for two (2) members to be awarded scholarships to attend this year's WVAS Mid-Year Training Conference. Each scholarship will cover two (2) nights lodging and the conference registration fee. The two (2) recipients of the scholarships were selected by a random drawing from the applications that are received.

Recipients of the Scholarships for 2017 Mid-Year Conference are:

Jackie Kirby – Monroe County Health Department

&

Boyd VanHorn – Taylor Health Department

NEW ADVENTURES IN RETIREMENT

New Sewing shop offers fabrics, supplies and handmade



Photo by Nikki Dotson Merritt

By NIKKI DOTSON MERRITT Staff Writer Mar 8, 2017

WAYNE – Retired public health worker Linda Whaley has always loved sewing, and hopes to share that love with her community by opening her new shop.

Sisters Fabric and Handmade, located on Hendrick's Street in Wayne, offer a wide

variety of fabrics, sewing essentials and supplies and various handmade gifts.

Whaley said the shop is a two-year prayer process and many family round table discussions that finally became a reality last month.

WVAS IS ON FACEBOOK!

WVAS now has a closed group on Facebook to share news and information with members. Request to join at

www.facebook.com/groups/263384244100903/



WVAS Memberships to Sanitarian Trainees

Again this year, WVAS will be offering a one (1) year paid WVAS membership to all the new sanitarians who completed Training Class in 2017. This membership will be for a full year membership for the next calendar year. WVAS Executive Council hopes that this will encourage newly hired sanitarians to take an active role in WVAS.

News Liaison Committee (continued)

WVU "Adventure WV" Program

WVU is developing a program for the students to offer outdoor activities.

The development of the site for this program is ongoing and has a process that design/construct is a long process, because they design the water system as they go through construction process, instead of having the design completed before construction starts. They will need to completely disinfect the system before put in use. The Coopers Rock sewage system is inspected by Mike Trantham on an ongoing process to make sure the drain field is working properly and calls the inspection process the "scratch and sniff test" to comply with the DEP.

Minutes from the Liaison Meetings can be found at: <http://www.wvdhhr.org/phs/liaison/index.asp>

Federal law gags FDA on recall as vaccination window closes

By Coral Beach | November 9, 2016

County and state health departments continue to dribble out details on restaurants, schools and other foodservice operations that received and served frozen strawberries from Egypt that are under recall for Hepatitis A contamination as time runs out for potential victims to receive post-exposure vaccinations.

The post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) must be administered within two weeks or it is not effective, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. An ongoing outbreak traced to the strawberries has sickened 134 people in nine states.

It has been nearly impossible for potential victims to receive the post-exposure vaccine because a comprehensive list of where the strawberries were served is not available to the public.

Food and Drug Administration officials are gagged when it comes to revealing distribution lists for recalled foods by clauses in federal code designed to protect corporations.

The Egyptian strawberry producer recalled the frozen strawberries between Oct. 25 and Oct. 30, based on varying reports from corporate and government sources. The frozen berries have been served as recently as Nov. 1, according to Wyoming officials, a day after the strawberry recall notice was posted on the FDA's website.

Because federal law protects "confidential corporate information," the FDA could only name the five foodservice distributors that sent the po-

tentially contaminated berries to restaurants, schools, hospitals, hotels and other operations. The distributors have not revealed their customer lists.

Public health officials in some areas have been scrambling to find out where the frozen strawberries went so they can alert the public about the potential danger and how to obtain post-exposure vaccines.

Wyoming and Texas joined their counterparts California, Michigan and Colorado in posting public health alerts about the frozen strawberries from Egypt's International Company for Agricultural Production and Processing (ICAPP).

USDA gag removed years ago

Similar situations with recalls under the jurisdiction of the USDA's Food Service and Inspection Service led to a change almost 10 years ago that removed the distribution list gag from that agency. FSIS now routinely posts lists of retail locations that received meat or poultry products that are recalled.

The change was partly in response to efforts of the Safe Food Coalition. Active since 1993, the coalition includes the Center for Science in the Public Interest, Consumer Federation of America, Consumers Union, Food and Water Watch, National Consumers League, the Center for Foodborne Illness Research and Prevention, STOP Foodborne Illness, and the Government Accountability Project.

Coalition representatives worked through the federal rulemaking process along with USDA staff to effect the

change, which was published in the Federal Register on July 17, 2008, and went into effect on Aug. 8 that year.

"Some industry commenters opposing the proposal stated that retail consignee information is protected from mandatory public disclosure by Exemption 4 of the (Freedom of Information Act) FOIA because it is confidential business or commercial information, and the potential value of this information would not outweigh the competitive harm that would be caused by its release. They pointed out that FSIS has traditionally treated a company's distribution list as confidential business information," according to the Federal Register notice.

"... In considering the application of Exemption 4, (the agency) has determined that the names and locations of retail consignees of recalled meat and poultry products compiled by the agency do not constitute confidential commercial information because the disclosure of this information will not impair the agency's ability to obtain necessary information in the future and will not cause substantial harm to the competitive position of any business."

Even with the new rule in place, the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service does not actually publish a corporation's distribution list. Instead, agency staff must spend time to compile lists for publication.

Sanitarian Training Schedule

Week One 7/31/17- 8/4/17
Public Health 101, Microbiology, Epidemiology, (Charleston)

Interim Week Complete Reading Assignment – Sewage Rules

Week Two 8/14–8/18/17
Sewage Program (Cedar Lakes)

Interim Week Complete Sewage Project, Submit by 8/24/17

Week Three 8/28/17-9/1/17
General Sanitation, Recreational Water Facilities, Infectious Medical Waste (Morgantown)

Interim Week Complete Food Project, Submit by 9/18/17

Week Four 9/25 – 29/17
Food Program (Charleston)

Live Meeting TBS Environmental Health Electronic Reporting Training According to Staff Availability

Week Five 10/16 – 10/20/17
Body Art, Public Water, RTIA, Milk, Bottled Water, Environmental Engineering, Manufactured Housing, Cross Connections, Office of Laboratory Services (Cedar Lakes)

Week Six 10/31/17
Comprehensive Final Exam (Given By District Sanitarians at Locations To Be Determined Prior To the Exam)

SANITARIAN TRAINING

The Sanitarian Training Class is being modified this year.

Classroom time is being reduced from eight weeks to five weeks. The total training time for the modified Sanitarian Training Class for in-class training, out of class assignments and on-the-job training will remain at 300 hours as required by West Virginia Code §30-17-9.

The proposed revision takes steps to present the material in a more efficient and effective manner

Inclusion of assigned projects will require the trainees to apply their knowledge in realistic ways as well as to more actively participate in the training experience.

The new format is as follows:

Five (5) weeks in classroom for a total of 200 hours. Material covered in classroom is all areas covered by the WV Rules sanitarians are required to enforce.

Six (6) assignments/projects given to enhance and reinforce information taught in classroom, for a total of 36 hours. The assignments/projects have completion dates during the interim weeks.

Six (6) additional topics will be covered outside the class through Live Meetings and online coursework. This portion of the training will take 20 hours. They will cover areas that will have an indirect influence on the sanitarian's work (Environmental

Health Electronic Reporting, Vector Control, Solid Waste, and Environmental Health in Disaster, Air Quality, and Occupational Safety & Health).

Comprehensive Final exam will be given by the district sanitarians (4 hours).

Forty hours (40) of on-the-job training by the PHS district sanitarians.

FRESH WATER OR SEWAGE ONLY?

Truck has label on side for fresh water and one on the back that says sewage only. Does the other side say milk?



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

May

May 9-11, 2017
WVAS Mid-Year Conference
Cedar Lakes Conference Center
Ripley, WV
<http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvas/Events/index.asp>

September

September 20-22, 2017
93rd Annual WV Public Health Conference—Canaan Valley, WV
<http://www.wvpublichealthassociation.org/conference.html>





**West Virginia Association
of Sanitarians**

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WVAS Executive Council

Elected Officers

President: Brad Cochran
Vice-President: David Whitaker

Members at Large

2-Year: Judy Ashcraft
1-Year: Mark Hawkins

Appointed Members

Secretary-Treasurer: Linda Whaley **Newsletter:** Stacy King

Ex-Officio Member

Public Health Sanitation Interim Director: Judy Vallandingham

Congratulations **ON YOUR NEW JOB**

Donna Gorbey-Michael

Has moved up to Program
Manager for the Infectious
Medical Waste Program

Welcome Back from Retirement!

Dave Thornton, Brad
Cochran and Clarence
Christian have all come
out of retirement to work
in various positions part
time.

Congratulations to the newest **REGISTERED SANITARIAN(S)**

John Dennis

Katherine Roy

