How many of NEHA’s over 5,000 members are Registered Sanitarians (RS) or Registered Environmental Health Specialists (REHS) or both? How many of you know about and are members of the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS)? If you are one of the above with an RS or REHS and not a member of AAS, allow me to tell you about the organization and how you can become an active and sustaining Diplomate.

Like most professionals with letters after their name, environmental health professionals have an organization that recognizes their work, service, lifelong learning, and dedication to being the best environmental health professional in the field. AAS is an organization that elevates the standards, improves the practice, advances the professional proficiency, and promotes the highest levels of ethical conduct among professional sanitarians in every field of environmental health. AAS members exhibit every one of these characteristics on a daily basis. Their jobs may be focused on food protection through employment with a government agency at the federal, state, or local level or through employment in the private sector. If so, their responsibility is to protect the public from foodborne diseases. In order to do this effectively, they perform to every one of the standards: they take courses as the criteria and rules change; they improve the way they inspect; they use new tools and software to insure accurate and timely information; they utilize improved inspection techniques; and most of all, they are ethical people when conducting inspections and performing overall duties. The same standards and criteria cover all of the dozens of different jobs performed every day by environmental health professionals. They are an example of what an AAS membership represents.

AAS wants you as a member as you demonstrate the characteristics and the lifelong commitment to the profession of environmental health. AAS invites and encourages professionally credentialed environmental health practitioners with qualities of outstanding competence and leadership to become certified as Diplomates. The certification process is unique and differentiates a professional sanitarian registered by examination and one who is qualified under demanding standards such as academic achievement, publication, credentialing, and the demonstration of leadership.

The requirements for AAS membership are contained in the Diplomate Criteria. The applicant shall achieve the following:

(a) provide evidence of good moral character and high ethical and professional reputation;
(b) possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and provide transcripts indicating the successful completion of at least 30 semester credit hours in the physical and biological sciences;
(c) possess a master’s or higher degree awarded by an accredited institution in public health, the environmental health sciences, or in an area of scientific or administrative specialization related to environmental health;
(d) be legally registered as a professionally credentialed environmental health practitioner in the state in which he/she is employed, or, if no legal registration is in effect in that state, be registered in good standing as a sanitarian or environmental health specialist by NEHA;
(e) have had at least seven years’ acceptable experience in environmental health including at least two years in charge of work at or above the staff level (time spent in course time in earning degrees below the doctoral level shall not be counted in the experience requirement); and
(f) certify his/her professional dedication to protecting and promoting the health and quality of life of mankind.

The criteria above may look daunting but if you take the time to review your career and document all the things you have accomplished, many of you will qualify. Since the inception of AAS in November 1956, fewer than 600 members have joined. That is 58

Carolyn Hester Harvey, PhD, CIH, RS, DAAS, CHMM

You will experience a new camaraderie and expand your professional network.
years with an average of fewer than 11 members per year.

If accepted, you become a Diplomate member and you are in exalted company. We should all strive for this prestigious recognition and become a strong member and supporter so AAS can persevere with its functions of 1) maintaining the highest level of environmental health standards, 2) granting academic scholarships through NEHA to future sanitarians, 3) awarding the Davis Calvin Wagner Award each year to a very deserving member of the Academy, and 4) funding environmental health students to attend NEHA's Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition mentoring sessions of which many of you support with your time, money, and talents.

My membership status as a Diplomate of AAS is an honor and a privilege that I hold close to my heart. I urge every environmental health professional with the criteria necessary to take the time to apply for membership. You will experience a new camaraderie and expand your professional network with a very interesting and dedicated group of your peers. We can all look forward to hearing from AAS regularly in the Journal of Environmental Health through a tri-annual column beginning in the April 2015 issue. Additionally, I look forward to seeing many of you at the next in-person AAS meeting at the NEHA AEC in Orlando, Florida, the week of July 13–15, 2015.

We will each have more challenges in the coming year but as a group of environmental health professionals who perform best under pressure, we will survive and persevere. I feel fortunate to have a strong support system of friends and colleagues through my memberships with NEHA and AAS. I deeply appreciate your friendship, expert guidance, and support throughout the year and look forward to many positive changes for NEHA in the coming year. I should like to wish everyone a very happy, safe, and prosperous holiday season and new year.

Dr. Carolyn Harvey

new Choices for 2015!

NEHA’s new membership categories gives every professional affordable options to belong and an opportunity to grow. Choose the NEHA membership that is right for you, your career, and your commitment to the environmental health profession.

Waters & Company has been selected to recruit for NEHA’s next executive director. They have more than 30 years of experience helping organizations identify, recruit, and promote key staff for complex organizations. NEHA’s board hopes to announce the new executive director by early winter.

MY NEHA

Waters & Company has been selected to recruit for NEHA's next executive director. They have more than 30 years of experience helping organizations identify, recruit, and promote key staff for complex organizations. NEHA's board hopes to announce the new executive director by early winter.

Did You Know?

neha.org/member/join.html

New Choices for 2015!

NEHA's new membership categories gives every professional affordable options to belong and an opportunity to grow. Choose the NEHA membership that is right for you, your career, and your commitment to the environmental health profession.

Journal of Environmental Health Delivery
Select E-Journal or both
E-Journal and hard copy delivery options.

Multi-Year Memberships
Choose between one, two, and three-year membership options and receive discounts based on your commitment.

Visit neha.org/member/join.html for details on the New Membership Options!