



# NEHA's

## Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition Atlantic City, New Jersey

**Y**our eyes will be opened. Your brain will be stimulated. Your soul will be recharged.

Those were our promises to attendees of NEHA's 71st AEC & Exhibition in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Were we true to our word? Yes. Just listen to these comments from our attendees:

- *If you have never had the opportunity to attend an AEC, make the effort to do so...it provides attendees with the fuel to approach their job with renewed energy, new ideas, and the network to make it through their careers.*
- *Overall, the conference exceeded my expectations. Meeting people from different parts of the country and world broadened my horizons.*

NEHA's AEC was held June 18–21, 2007, and featured 179 educational sessions and six pre-conference workshops, on topics ranging from terrorism and all-hazards preparedness to onsite wastewater to food safety and protection. A summary of the conference highlights is included in the special report below. We hope this report will encourage you to attend next year's conference in Tucson!

### Keynote Presentation

Imagine yourself in the position of representing a nation, much as an ambassador would, as a delegate to the World Health Organization's (WHO's) World Assembly. The World Assembly is WHO's 193-member decision-making body, and as a member, you are listening to a major policy presentation on global warming and public health that will serve in part as the basis for WHO policy making.

NEHA's 2007 AEC attendees did just that. They heard the very presentation that the assembly's delegates heard last May, before the delegates began their policy discussions on the role of WHO in what many consider to be the environmental health issue of the day. Dr. Wilfried Kreisel, former WHO executive director, was the official behind this presentation.

Dr. Kreisel has been a leader in environmental health at WHO for more than 25 years, ultimately serving as WHO's director for environmental health. In this position, he formulated an entirely different way of looking at environmental health, taking into account such considerations as sustainable

development. This approach led to the formulation of a completely new Health and Environment Strategy for WHO. The strategy set the scene for the development of National Environmental Health Action Plans, which continue to serve as the basis for renewed environmental health policies and programs in many WHO member states.

Kreisel was also instrumental in the organization of the 1992 Rio Conference on the environment and what followed. With the declarations that came out of this landmark event, environmental health has become an anchoring issue in national and international discussions on sustainable development.

Kreisel began his presentation by stating that there is a general consensus that the climate is changing and that there is new and stronger evidence that most of the observed warming over the past 50 years is attributable to human activities. Furthermore, he said, we have always known that climate affects health. What are the effects? Temperature-related illness and death, extreme weather-related health effects, air pollution-related effects, waterborne and foodborne diseases,



Immediate Past President Rick Collins presented presidential citations during the Opening Ceremony.



Sharunda Buchanan, director of CDC's Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services, accepted the Harry Bliss Editor's Award on behalf of CDC's Environmental Health Services Branch.

vectorborne and rodentborne diseases, food and water shortages, and population displacement are all climate change effects. Incidence of diarrhea, for example—a disease that causes about 1.8 million deaths a year worldwide, mainly in children in developing countries—is related to variations in temperature and precipitation, over both space and time. Daily measurements taken at a hospital in Lima, Peru, from 1993 to 1998 indicated an 8 percent increase in diarrhea for every 1°C temperature increase.

Can we estimate health effects of climate change in the future? The *Third Assessment Report* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, adopted in 2001, consisted mainly of a qualitative assessment, but was also able to quantify deaths from thermal extremes, for areas climatically suitable for malaria transmission, from food deficits, and from exposure to coastal flooding. Kreisel added that we want to know not only the burden of disease from climate change but also how significant the effects of disease are, which diseases could have the biggest impact, and which populations are most at risk.

Many of the major killers are climate sensitive, he stated. Each year undernutrition kills 3.7 million people, diarrhea kills 1.8 million, and malaria kills 1.1 million. Each of these diseases is highly sensitive to temperature and precipitation. Climate-disease relationships known from laboratory and local studies can be linked to global climate change projections to forecast changes in disease distribution and incidence. According to a 2002 study published in the *Lancet*, climate

change is expected to increase the proportion of the global population exposed to dengue, from about 35 percent to 50–60 percent, by 2085 (S. Hale, “Potential Effect of Population and Climate Changes on Global Distribution of Dengue Fever,” pp. 830-834).

Current models do not fully describe health threats from climate change, Kreisel noted. Failure to stabilize climate may already cause the loss of 5.5 million years of healthy life (or 150,000 lives) per year. The number is expected to double by 2020. These estimates are incomplete, however, and likely to be conservative. In addition, they are dependent on socioeconomic influences (especially in the short term) and can vary with alternative climate futures (in the long term). Furthermore, Kreisel said, many important climate-health relationships are not represented at all, including dengue, leishmaniasis, cholera, sleeping sickness, and filariasis; flooding impacts on diarrhea and mental health; increased frequency of severe tropical storms; floods from melting glaciers and water shortages from melting glaciers; salination of water sources from sea-level rise; aeroallergens; forest fires; dust storms; effects on crop pests; effects via species extinction and biodiversity loss; and social effects of population displacements.

What can we do to adapt? Kreisel emphasized the importance of tackling basic health problems in developing countries and the need for a climate-based early-warning system, and he said that global, diverse, and long-term health risks argue in favor of a precautionary approach to greenhouse gas stabilization. He noted that actions by the health sector—such

as infectious-disease surveillance, integrated vector management, and environmental health capacity building—are the first defense against climate change impacts.

Kreisel also emphasized the significance of transport-related diseases, noting that each year, urban air pollution kills 800,000, road traffic accidents kill 1.2 million and injure over 50 million, and physical inactivity causes 1.9 million deaths. (Compare these numbers with the 1.1 million killed by malaria, 2.9 million killed by HIV/AIDS, and 4.9 million killed by tobacco-related causes, he said.) We know that policies concerning energy sources and use—transport, for instance—have strong direct links to globally important health impacts and that energy policy decisions are becoming more important, especially in rapidly developing economies. Kreisel added, however, that he would like a comprehensive review of best practice to improve health while limiting greenhouse gas emissions, as well as quantification of how much certain burdens (especially physical inactivity) could be reduced by specific policies.

Kreisel concluded by stressing that climate change poses threats that are more uncertain, diffuse, and slow acting than other health issues—but that these threats are also real, irreversible, and potentially very large and that they come on top of many other strains on health services. There are multiple opportunities for improving health, Kreisel said, as we meet the challenges of adaptation and mitigation.

*continued on page 76*

# 2007 Awards and Honors

## Walter S. Mangold Award

*Dr. Chris Wiant*

NEHA's highest honor, the Walter S. Mangold Award—given for outstanding contributions to the advancement of the environmental health profession—was bestowed this year upon the very deserving Dr. Chris Wiant. Please see the accompanying story on page 74, which details Dr. Wiant's contributions to the profession.

## Certificates of Merit

Certificates of Merit are awarded to affiliate members who make exemplary contributions to the profession of environmental health. Each affiliate sets its own criteria for recognition, so recipients do not need to be NEHA members. For 2007, the following winners were announced:

- Alabama—*Lem Burell*,
- Alaska—*Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation—Drinking Water Program*,
- Colorado—*Therese Pilonetti*,
- Connecticut—*Cameron Walden*,
- Florida—*Melissa Brock*,
- Illinois—*Walter Ward*,
- Iowa—*Brian Hanft*,
- Kentucky—*Barry Turner*,
- Maryland—*Pete Sansone*,
- Massachusetts—*Alan D. Perry*,
- Michigan—*John N. Gohlke*,
- Minnesota—*Jeff Luedeman*,
- National Capital Area—*Victoria Decker Griffith*,
- Nebraska—*George Hanssen*,
- Nevada—*Glenn D. Savage*,
- New Jersey—*Aimee DeLotto*,
- North Carolina—*Patricia G. Hawkins*,
- North Dakota—*Allen McKay*,
- Northern New England—*Michael Moore*,
- Ohio—*Duane Stansbury*,
- Oklahoma—*Linda Jones*,
- Texas—*Brenda J. Elrod*,

- Utah—*Terry Beebe*,
- Virginia—*Catherine Cummins*, and
- Wisconsin—*Wayne Kopp*.

Affiliates may submit their nominees at any time for Certificate of Merit awards to be announced next June in Tucson, Arizona.

## A. Harry Bliss Editor's Award

*Environmental Health Services Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Accepted by Sharunda Buchanan*

Dr. A. Harry Bliss was the *Journal* editor in 1969, the year this award was first presented. When he retired, the award was named after him to honor his 40 years of involvement in *Journal* production. NEHA often gives the annual Harry Bliss Editor's Award to outstanding writers and columnists, but the award may also go to individuals who, through the *Journal of Environmental Health*, advance the cause and interests of the association.

This year, we are proud to announce that the 2007 recipient of the Harry Bliss Award is the Environmental Health Services Branch (EHSB) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). As NEHA members have seen over the past year, EHSB's special column gives the environmental health professional the opportunity to learn what is happening within CDC that affects our profession and its work. Similarly, CDC is now able to get feedback on the work that it is doing directly from environmental health practitioners. Given CDC's prominent role in environmental health, we view this column as an indispensable bridge between the environmental health practitioner and the nation's lead public environmental health agency—and we deeply thank EHSB for its willingness to prepare this column for the benefit of all who practice environmental health.

## NEHA/AAS Scholarship Awards

NEHA supports students in many ways. One way involves financial tuition support through a special scholarship program that is co-sponsored by NEHA and the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS). This year, NEHA Past President and Scholarship Committee Chair James Balsamo presented a \$1,000 undergraduate scholarship on behalf of the scholarship committee to *Kimberley M. Johnson* from Boise State University.

## Walter F. Snyder Award

*Dr. Wilfried Kreisel*

NSF International and NEHA honored Dr. Wilfried Kreisel with the 2007 Walter F. Snyder Award. The award is given in honor of NSF's cofounder and first executive director, and it recognizes outstanding contributions to public health and the environment. Please see the accompanying story on page 75, which details Dr. Kreisel's contributions to the profession.

## Sabbatical Exchange Award

*Dixie Fullerton*

NEHA offers a wide-ranging opportunity for professional growth and the exchange of valuable information on the international level through its longtime Sabbatical Exchange Program. The recipient of this award may go either to England, in cooperation with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, or to Canada, in cooperation with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) currently sponsors the sabbatical.

The award jury this year decided that the sabbatical award should be given to Dixie Fullerton, environmental health specialist in the Cerro Gordo County Department of Public Health in Iowa. Fullerton will be traveling to England in October 2007 for her sabbatical exchange experience. Anyone interested in applying for the award should contact Kim Clapper at (303) 756-9090, extension 302, or [kclapper@neha.org](mailto:kclapper@neha.org).



## Student Research Presentations

Every year, the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP) and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) sponsor and financially support undergraduate and graduate student research presentations. Thanks to a generous donation from NCEH, six students and their faculty mentors had the opportunity to present their research at the AEC & Exhibition. Each student participant received a \$500 award, a plaque, and a stipend of up to \$1,000 to cover travel and research expenses. Presenting the student research awards were Captain Michael Herring of the U.S. Public Health Service/CDC/NCEH and Dr. Dale Stephenson of Boise State University.

The following undergraduates were honored for their research presentations: *Valerie Scola* and *Lucy Loftus* from Illinois State University, *Kimberly Johnson* from Boise State University, and *Lauren Lawrence* from North Carolina Central University. The following graduate students were honored for their research presentations: *Amanda Grantham* from East Carolina University and *Clarita Lefthand* from the University of Washington.

Plaques were also awarded to the students who were selected to present their research at the student research poster session: *Alexandra Hawley* from Colorado State University, *Melissa Stoudt* from Old Dominion University, and *Reagan Weaver* from Eastern Kentucky University.

## Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award

The Samuel J. Crumbine Award is a prestigious national award given annually to a local food protection agency that demonstrates excellence and continual improvement in a food protection program. The award is named in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Crumbine, a sanitarian-physician and public health pioneer who was renowned for his innovative methods of improving public health protection, and it is supported by the Conference for Food Protection in cooperation with American Academy of Sanitarians; the American Public Health Association; the Association of Food & Drug Officials; the Foodservice & Packaging Institute, Inc.; the International Association for Food Protection; the International Food Safety Council; the National Association of County and City Health Officials; NEHA; NSF; and UL.

This year the award was not presented.

## Past Presidents Award

*Bob Harrington*

Each year, the Past Presidents group, comprising former NEHA presidents, recognizes a NEHA member for outstanding achievement. Past President Jim Balsamo presented this year's award to Bob Harrington, director of Casper/Natrona County Health Department in Wyoming.

## Presidential Citations

A Presidential Citation is a special award given to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to NEHA during the president's term of office. President Rick Collins presented presidential citations to *Rob Blake*; *Michèle Samarya-Timm*; *Jason Bashura*; *Tom Gonzales*; *the NEHA staff*; *Nelson Fabian*; *Office of Terrorism Preparedness and Emergency Response—NCEH/ATSDR*, *Office of the Director*; *UL*; and *NSF*.



*Davis Calvin Wagner Award recipient Harry Grenawitzke with his wife, Mary Grenawitzke.*

## Davis Calvin Wagner Award

*Harry Grenawitzke*

AAS presented its highest award, the 2007 Davis Calvin Wagner Award, to Harry Grenawitzke, environmental health consultant from Monroe, Michigan. The Wagner Award and honorarium are given each year in recognition of outstanding professional work, accomplishments, and contributions to environmental and public health. The award is particularly meaningful since recipients are nominated and selected on the basis of recommendations from their peers in the profession.

# 2007 Awards and Honors

## 2007 Mangold Award Recipient



**Chris J. Wiant,  
M.P.H., Ph.D., R.E.H.S.**

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is proud to present the 2007 Walter S. Mangold Award, its highest honor, to Chris J. Wiant, M.P.H., Ph.D., R.E.H.S., president and CEO of Caring for Colorado Foundation.

The hallmark of Wiant's 30-plus-year career has been his sustained commitment to protecting and improving the public's health through the environmental health sciences. Known for his creative thinking, political skills, neutral demeanor, and credible voice, he has been called an opinion leader, an innovator, and an ambassador. In his September/October 1992 President's Message in the *Journal of Environmental Health*, Wiant wrote, "It seems that to be an effective leader you must have good ideas, but also inspire thought and action in others. It is the ability to inspire innovativeness that distinguishes leadership from the possession of power."

Wiant began his career as a program administrator and assistant chief at the Division of Environmental Health and Sanitation in the Illinois Department of Public Health. He managed a wide range of traditional environmental health programs and three years later was promoted to chief of the Environmental Chemistry Section.

It was during this time that Wiant was beginning to be recognized nationally as an innovative thinker. In 1984, he was recruited to move to Denver and serve as environmental health director at Tri-County Health Department (TCHD). Because of Wiant's broad experience in Illinois, and because of his unique ability to assess needs and develop relevant community programs, he was able to add environmental health positions and programs in public health engineering, land use, occupational safety, and pollution prevention while at TCHD. He also successfully developed a disease control program that integrated environmental health, epidemiology, and nursing into a cohesive disease control team. Wiant was promoted to deputy director in 1989 and, in 1997, to executive director. As executive director, he was responsible for the management of a \$14 million budget and over 260 employees.

Within TCHD's jurisdiction was the Rocky Mountain Arsenal, an old U.S. Army nerve agent factory that had contaminated the groundwater of the neighboring city, Commerce City. It is also the site of the Army's largest environmental cleanup program in the nation. Serving as negotiator and facilitator—and bringing the perspective of the local community to the table—Wiant helped the state of Colorado, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Shell Oil Company, and the Army reach a conceptual agreement on a cleanup plan for the arsenal. His political capital resulted in a

unique arrangement in which TCHD was awarded a key role in the oversight of the cleanup. As part of the cleanup process, Commerce City received a new water supply.

In 2000, Wiant was recruited to develop, from its infancy, a new health foundation in Colorado with an initial endowment of \$155 million. He had to hire staff, develop a grant-making program, develop a well-functioning board of directors, develop an investment strategy, and award the foundation's first grants within the first year of operation. Today, Caring for Colorado Foundation has a statewide presence and distributes between \$6 and \$7 million annually to nonprofit organizations and governmental agencies to increase access to care for the underserved.

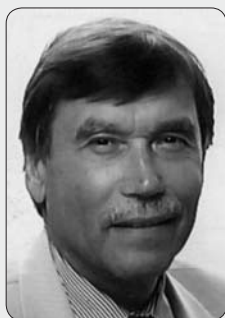
Throughout his career, Wiant has been an active member and leader in many local, state, and national organizations. From 1989 to 1994, he served on the NEHA Board of Directors, and he was president of NEHA from 1992 to 1993, a period in which NEHA underwent many of the structural changes that enabled the association to become a more modern organization. Wiant promoted a change in the way the board and the membership worked together, giving the individual member a greater voice within the association. In addition, he and other NEHA presidents developed a new credential (the Registered Hazardous Substances Professional, or R.H.S.P., credential) and began what ultimately resulted in a significant restructuring of the NEHA credentialing system.

Wiant is currently serving on the state of Colorado's Water Quality Control Commission, in an unprecedented fourth term (a 12-year commitment). In the words of the administrator of the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, "Chris has played a key role in many decisions over the last several years that have increased protection of water quality in Colorado. On a very diverse commission, Chris brings a quiet, thoughtful energy to the process that results in truly effective leadership. He consistently listens to all perspectives before formulating his own conclusions on the many challenging water quality issues that come before the commission."

Hugh Rohrer, M.D., M.P.H., wrote of Wiant: "Some of the words and phrases I would use to characterize Chris are honesty, intelligence, unquestioned integrity, sound judgment, an innate sense of fairness, an uncommonly high level of common sense, ... calmness under fire, and the ability to interact appropriately and effectively with people at all levels, from high government officials to participants in sometimes unruly public meetings."

Wiant is respected and admired by many in the profession and is known for his ability to help disparate groups find common ground, his desire that public health decisions be based on the latest scientific evidence, and his ability to move the environmental health profession forward through innovative new programs that respond directly to community needs. Thus, it is a privilege and an honor for NEHA to present this award to Chris J. Wiant, a man who exemplifies both the spirit and the ideals of the late Walter S. Mangold.

## 2007 Walter F. Snyder Award Recipient



### Dr. Wilfried Kreisel

Dr. Wilfried Kreisel is being honored for an exemplary 25-year career of achievement with the World Health Organization (WHO). His devotion, passion, and wisdom have been a driving force that has left an indelible mark on the advancement of environmental health issues at the national, regional, and international levels.

After receiving a doctorate degree in natural sciences from the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and researching effects of social and environmental determinants of health as a research fellow at the University of Dortmund, Germany, Dr. Kreisel embarked in 1977 on a path of achievement at WHO. He served as adviser for environmental health in the Republic of Korea, which was coping with the deterioration of environmental quality in the wake of industrialization. The six years he dedicated to the Republic of Korea were spent improving environmental health by way of legislative, regulatory, institutional, and scientific programs. With respect to international work, these were formative years that established the trajectory of the rest of his career. Reflecting on years past, Kreisel now formulates the essence of the enriching environmental health experience in Korea as “the apprenticeship and the consecration for higher duties.”

Continuing abroad, he led critical advisory functions in Malaysia at the WHO Western Pacific Regional Centre for the Promotion of Environmental Planning and Applied Studies (PEPAS) and subsequently in the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific in Manila, the Philippines. After spending nearly a decade in the Western Pacific region, he was assigned to WHO headquarters in Geneva, where he became the successor to the then director of the Division of Environment Health, Bernd Dieterich. In this capacity, Kreisel was responsible for planning, developing, and implementing global policies and programs in environmental health, including water supply and sanitation, air quality management, chemical safety, and radiation protection.

The times were challenging and full of new opportunities. The *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development* had been published in 1987, and presented at the World Health Assembly in 1988. It stated that ultimately, the entire report was about health. This concern evolved to include preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

It was in this context that Kreisel made one of the most outstanding contributions of his long and distinguished environmental health career with WHO: the formulation of a completely new Health and Environment Strategy for WHO that incorporated the revolutionary thinking on sustainable development that emerged from UNCED. His full commitment to the preparation of that conference ensured that human health was addressed in a special chapter of Agenda 21 and in the preamble of the Rio Declaration. This acknowledgement anchored the key environmental health issues in ensuing actions for sustainable development, both nationally and internationally.

The WHO Strategy on Health and Environment set the scene for National Environmental Health Action Plans, which are still a major spearhead for renewed environmental health policies and programs in many of the WHO member states. By creating the health and environment framework, Kreisel effectively orchestrated a paradigm shift away from traditional, operations-oriented thinking in environmental health towards a stronger regulatory emphasis on environmental health programs that cut across all public sectors. Thus, environmental health became a strategic issue on the international development agenda, laying the foundation for such innovative developments as health impact assessments of development projects and the application of the healthy-settings approach that seeks local solutions to local problems. To this day, the Health and Environment Strategy continues to stand as one of the main pillars of WHO's global program.

“For me,” Kreisel says now, “the follow-up to UNCED was the apotheosis of the renewed interest in environmental health, in a modern framework, that started to be constructed following the appearance of the WCED report.”

Kreisel has a clear understanding of the limitations of environmental health programs within the confines of the health sector, which in most developing countries in particular is dominated by medical doctors. His vigilance opened up the concept of partnerships long before it became more widely popular. He strengthened ties with other U.N. agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He presented these collaborations at the U.N. level as an example that member states could follow within their national government structures to establish a framework for the support of environmental health. These same principles strengthened key linkages within WHO as well—particularly with the health promotion community.

Kreisel considers environmental health and health promotion as two sides of the same coin and wants to develop the synergies between them. Finally, he also managed to give environmental health a higher profile with the bilateral donor agencies and the multilateral development banks. In 1998, he took the position of director-general's representative with the European Union as an active promoter of environmental health issues in the context of international development.

Now formally retired from WHO, Kreisel maintains a strong bond with the organization and with the Department of Public Health and Environment under its current director, Dr. Maria Neira. He is regularly consulted on environmental health issues, because of his insights, his long experience, and the institutional memory he has on the evolution of the “new environmental health” and its origins at WHO.

“Dr. Kreisel will remain a key figure in the history of WHO's work in the area of health and the environment,” said Dr. Neira.

“Dr. Kreisel's pioneering principles of partnership are consistent with the model for NSF's development and ultimately our organization's work as a WHO Collaborating Centre,” said NSF International president and CEO Kevan P. Lawlor. “For his vision and achievements in public health, he is a most deserving selection as the 2007 recipient of the Snyder Award.”





Keynote speaker Dr. Wilfried Kreisel, former WHO executive director.

continued from page 71

## Association Business

At the AEC & Exhibition, important business meetings of all kinds take place. Two of the most important are the business meetings of the NEHA Board of Directors and the NEHA Council of Delegates. Just as important is the General Assembly, which gives members an opportunity to provide suggestions and ask questions of the board of directors, as well as to hear firsthand what is occurring within the association. The summaries below present highlights from each of these meetings.

### Board of Directors Meeting

- Ron Grimes, president for 2005–2006, rotated off the board in his role as immediate past president at the end of the 2007 AEC. Rob Blake assumed the role of president.
- Discussions started with the California affiliate about holding an AEC in California.
- Yolanda Sinde, the new executive director of the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP), Randy Bentley, National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council member, and Gary Brown, president of AEHAP, attended the meeting briefly to meet the NEHA Board of Directors. It is a tradition

for these groups to touch base during the conference in order to provide updates on their activities, especially with respect to the support of students in the environmental health profession.

- With respect to marketing activities, over 10,000 people will be reached multiple times with a promotion for the National Swimming Pool Foundation's Certified Pool-Spa Inspector Training Program. NEHA is also marketing Center for Education and Training (CERT) products ([www.nehacert.org](http://www.nehacert.org)), which can be taken for CE credits. (CERT is involved in taping the AEC educational sessions.) These products will also be included in the TRAIN program, which is an Internet-based source of education for professionals involved in public health. In addition, NEHA is marketing the new Healthy Homes and Certified Installer of Onsite Wastewater Systems credentials.
- Executive Director Fabian reported that NEHA is continuing to engage in dialogue with students to determine what the issues most important to them are.
- The position of regional vice president for Region 9 (New England states) is vacant. NEHA invites anyone who has an interest in running for this position to submit a nomination form.

- NEHA and the American Public Health Association (APHA) are discussing ways in which the two organizations can get involved in some cooperative ventures, particularly in areas of policy.
- Changes in the format of NEHA's mail ballots were approved to ensure one vote per member.
- NEHA Training's partnership with the Chadwick House is in the process of dissolution. The plan after the dissolution of the company is to bring NEHA Training into NEHA as a program. NEHA is looking for volunteers for a food safety training materials committee. This committee will help to develop new materials for the program.
- The exhibit event increased in size this year largely because of efforts by the New Jersey affiliate.
- Thirty-three scholarships for full conference registration were provided through an FDA grant.
- The New Jersey affiliate leadership and the New Jersey chapter of the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) were recognized with deep appreciation for all they did to make the conference a success.
- With respect to positions and resolutions, the board



Immediate Past President Rick Collins, Dr. Wilfried Kreisel, and NEHA Executive Director Nelson Fabian at the Opening Ceremony.



President Rob Blake and Ron Grimes, a past president, at the Exhibit Hall.



Denise Brown of NEHA-CERT listens to an attendee at the Exhibit Hall. NEHA-CERT ([nehacert.org](http://nehacert.org)) offers online environmental health education.

1. approved a position in support of the Cloned Food Labeling Act;
  2. approved a position in support of the U.S. Conference of Mayors stance on global warming, except for their stance on trading credits;
  3. discussed taking a position in support of a new federal food agency with some caveats to ensure that the public health and environmental health foundation and orientation of food safety programs are maintained—NEHA was concerned about the impact on local agencies;
  4. approved a position in support of the current FDA regional office arrangement;
  5. approved taking a position on raw milk and drafting a letter in support of efforts to keep legislation from passing in North Carolina that would permit the sale of raw milk; and
  6. approved a general resolution on food safety credentialing.
- The C.F.S.P. credential will be renamed, and the process has begun of letting current C.F.S.P. credential holders know that the certification designation is changing names.
  - The board approved a new committee structure for the NEHA credentialing program.
  - The board approved a new date for nominations for second vice president—30 days before the board meeting at the AEC.
  - Staff will develop an approval process to certify courses from online universities for credentialing exams. The board did not approve acceptance of work experience for the science hour requirement.
  - The board discussed responsibilities of the Council of Delegates, including the number of business meetings. It recognized the efforts of the section chairs.

### Council of Delegates Meeting

The NEHA Council of Delegates meets once a year at the AEC. It consists of all members of the NEHA Board of Directors and the presidents of all of NEHA's affiliates. One of the primary purposes of this meeting is to inform affiliate presidents about the many important activities being undertaken by the national association, particularly the ways in which they relate to NEHA's affiliate organizations. Presentations and meeting packet information are provided to affiliate presidents so that they can more easily convey to their members what NEHA is doing and why.

- President Rob Blake reiterated the importance of marketing the profession so that it is known better by the general public, by policy makers, and by students who are deciding on a profession. Michèle Samarya-Timm and Charles Otto led a new committee to coordinate a Web-based clearinghouse of environmental health products and activities.
- If any affiliate wishes to have a NEHA presence at its conference, it should contact the NEHA office to discuss what can be arranged.
- Keith Krinn assumed the office of second vice president.
- Mel Knight from California was presented as the sole candidate for second vice president for the 2007–2008 election period. Because no additional nominations were taken from the floor at the General Assembly, Knight will begin a five-year commitment to serve the association when he takes office in June 2008.
- Mr. Knight addressed the council and explained his vision for NEHA; he will be advo-

cating for two areas of primary focus: workforce development and professional advocacy.

- With respect to site selection for the AEC, NEHA works to make an AEC economically accessible to all members of the association on a periodic basis. The conference follows an east-west rotation. In 2008, the AEC will be in Tucson, Arizona; in 2009, it will be in Atlanta, Georgia; and for 2010, the board is looking at three contenders: Honolulu, Albuquerque, and Salt Lake City.
- NEHA Government Affairs Manager Larry Marcum urged the delegates to read and pass along to colleagues the managing editor's article "Straight Talk About NEHA and Policy." This article notes some 75 substantial accomplishments dealing with legislative initiatives and policy inputs that the NEHA Governmental Affairs program has been able to document in the past few years. The following is a sampling of initiatives and accomplishments:
  - endorsement of environmental health tracking legislation,
  - creation of the Health Tracking Bio-Monitoring Technical Section,
  - a position taken on sustainability and climate control,
  - support for use of food labeling as it relates to cloned animals,
  - circulation of an initiative at the 2006 AEC to get attendees to express opposition to the proposed budget cuts (\$4 million) to CDC's NCEH budget (the funding was restored to NCEH),
  - endorsement of the Healthy Places 2007 legislation,
  - endorsement of passage of the All-Hazards and Bio-Terrorism Preparedness Act, and

*continued on page 84*



# 2007 Educational Activities



One hundred and seventy-nine sessions in 20 environmental health technical sections; expert speakers from local, state, and federal agencies, from academia, and from private industry; six pre-conference workshops; credential review courses and exams; a poster session; student research presentations; an onsite wastewater systems field trip; and a wind farm tour—all this made up the educational content of the AEC & Exhibition. “The variety is outstanding, and the speakers seem truly committed to environmental public health. This has been the best NEHA [conference] I’ve been to,” wrote one attendee in an attendee survey submitted to NEHA.

A tremendous amount of effort goes into ensuring that educational sessions are current, relevant, and thought provoking. Before the conference, countless hours are spent talking to numerous NEHA members about their particular careers and educational needs. The educational sessions are then designed to meet and address the needs and issues that have been identified through this process.

One highlight of this year’s educational program was the unique session titled “Handwashing on Trial”—a mock trial based on a fictitious foodborne-disease outbreak. Lawyers from Marler Clark presented their case to a judge and a special jury of experts, and gave attendees a peek into what goes on behind courtroom doors. Attendees also flocked to sessions

on topics such as raw or undercooked ethnic foods, dealing with difficult people, identifying why septic systems fail, disaster response stories from the field, cold-blooded animals, pandemic planning, *Salmonella* and norovirus outbreaks, swimming pool water chemistry, rabies, bedbugs, mold and IAQ investigations, workforce development, and meth lab health consequences. With all this variety, one attendee commented, “You know it is well worth it when you can’t decide which session to attend.” Another attendee had this advice: “Bring a colleague—one person cannot cover it all.”

Several other organizations provided further educational sessions at the conference—the National Environmental, Safety & Health Training Association (NESHTA); the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP); the Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association (USEHA); and the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS). NEHA thanks these organizations for their contributions.

In addition to the educational sessions offered during the conference, a vast array of pre-conference workshops and courses were held at the AEC & Exhibition. These workshops provided attendees with in-depth and focused education in areas such as healthy homes, plan review, and food safety field instrumentation. In addition, the Environmental Health Services Branch of CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health sponsored three workshops—Biol-

ogy and Control of Insects and Rodents, Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response, and National Environmental Public Health Performance Standards.

As always, review courses and exams were held for the Certified Food Safety Professional (C.F.S.P.) and Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (R.E.H.S./R.S.) credentials. This year, NEHA was pleased to also offer exams for its newest credentials, the Healthy Homes Specialist (H.H.S.) and Certified Installer of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (C.I.O.W.T.S.) credentials.

A special thank-you goes to the over 300 speakers, trainers, and instructors, who inspired, shared, taught, and motivated.

## Educational Topics

- ambient air quality,
- children’s environmental health,
- drinking-water quality,
- emerging pathogens,
- environmental health leadership development,
- environmental health research,
- environmental health tracking and informatics,
- food safety and protection,
- general environmental health,
- geographic information systems (GIS),
- hazardous materials and toxic substances,
- indoor air quality,
- injury prevention/occupational health,
- institutions and schools environmental health,



- onsite wastewater systems,
- solid waste,
- swimming pools/recreational waters,
- terrorism and all-hazards preparedness,
- vector control and zoonotic diseases, and
- water pollution.

### NEHA's Technical Section Chairs

NEHA extends a special thank-you to the 2006–2007 technical section chairs, who were instrumental in the development of the educational sessions at the AEC & Exhibition:

- Air/Land—Terry Beebe, E.H.S., and Ron Tobler;
- Children's Environmental Health—Don Herrington, R.S.;
- Drinking Water Quality/Water Pollution—Robert Vincent, R.S., M.P.A.;
- Emerging Pathogens/Vector Control and Zoonotic Diseases—Robert Galvan, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., M.S., D.A.A.S., and Mike Lester, R.S.;
- Environmental Health Leadership Development—Mel Knight, R.E.H.S.;
- Environmental Health Research—R. Steven Konkol, Ph.D., A.I.C.P., F.R.I.P.H.;
- Environmental Health Tracking and Informatics—Gregory Kearney, R.S., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.;
- Food Safety and Protection—George Nakamura, R.E.H.S., M.P.A., D.A.A.S., and Michéle Samarya-Timm, M.A., R.E.H.S., C.H.E.S., D.A.A.S., H.O.;

- General Environmental Health—David W. Pluymers, M.S.T.H.A., R.S.;
- Hazardous Materials and Toxic Substances—Priscilla Oliver, Ph.D., and Sheila D. Pressley, M.S., R.E.H.S.;
- Injury Prevention/Occupational Health—Daniel L. Holcomb;
- Institutions and Schools Environmental Health—Terrance B. Gratton, Dr.P.H., D.A.A.S., R.S.;
- Onsite Wastewater Systems—Craig Gilbertson, R.S.; and
- Terrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness—Mike Allred, Ph.D., and Jason P. Bashura, M.P.H., R.S.



### Not Able to Attend the 2007 AEC & Exhibition?

If you could not attend the conference and need continuing education, you have a couple of options. You can purchase the conference CD online at [www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org). The CD contains more than 115 presentations from the conference, plus session abstracts and attendee, speaker, and exhibitor lists. Also, over 20 sessions presented at the conference were taped and are now for sale at [www.nehacert.org](http://www.nehacert.org). This educational offering puts you right in the presentation room—you can watch the speaker and the PowerPoint slides as you listen to the presentation. Continuing-education credit can be earned for viewing of either product.







Where can you learn about the environmental health field, view applicable products and services, get a chance to see the newest products and latest technologies, interact with vendors who supply the field with products and services, and network with colleagues from around the country? Attendees were able to do all that (and more) at this year's exhibition! With almost 100 different exhibitors, the Grand Exhibition Center at the Tropicana Atlantic City Casino and Resort was the place to be. The exhibition featured the latest environmental health and protection products and services being offered by companies, governmental agencies, and nonprofit organizations. As one attendee commented, "The exhibition, for me, was very exciting!"

The exhibition opened to anxious attendees on Monday night with the Exhibition Grand Opening & Party. Attendees were able to peruse all the booths to gather information, literature, business cards, and free product giveaways. Souvenir photos against an Atlantic City backdrop were available on Monday night thanks to Decade Software Company, LLC. The Digital Health Department drew attendees

to its booth with free drink tickets and its popular Inspector Challenge, which pitted environmental health professionals against each other in a competition to be the first to buzz in and have the correct answer. Back again this year (to the relief of sore feet and backs everywhere) was a relaxation station sponsored by PHFE that offered foot and shoulder massages to exhibition attendees.

Handwashing for Life held its popular Handwashing Olympics, but the competition was a bit different this year, testing attendees to see who could effectively clean their hands without the use of water. This method, called SaniTwice™, combines the chemically aided friction of a handwash and the absorbency of a paper towel with the germ-killing power of alcohol. The gold-medal winner was Jackie Schramm, director of environmental quality for the Village of Wauconda. The silver-medal winner was Albert Espinoza, a retail sanitarian for Quality Assurance. And, rounding out the top three was bronze-medal winner Sue Beck, spouse of Eastern Kentucky University professor Joe Beck.

Visitors to the exhibition not only learned about and met with vendors, but also, by

dropping their entry tickets into the door prize drawing, had the chance to win one of four prizes. From the many hundreds who entered the drawing, four lucky people were selected as winners. Bob Zamzow of the Village of Tinley Park won the first prize, a Garmin Nuvi 350 Vehicle GPS Navigator. Ron Owcarz of the Alameda County Health Department won an Apple 30 GB iPod MP3 Player for second place. Andrea Stiller of Fraser Health won the third-place prize, a \$75 Target gift certificate. The final prize went to Allison Avrich of St. Lawrence and Tufts, who won \$50 in Tropicana Casino chips. The prizes were provided through the generosity of several exhibitors.

## Silent Auction

One of the most popular events at the exhibition is the silent auction. This year was no different. In fact, it was the best auction in recent memory. A truly diverse collection of over 100 donations came in this year from very generous NEHA members, NEHA affiliates, exhibitors, sponsors, and even convention bureaus of cities that are currently bidding for future AECs.

A sampling of the items that loaded the tables included regional gift baskets,





kona coffee from Hawaii; wine baskets; sports and university memorabilia; jewelry; commemorative coins; T-shirts and sweatshirts with unique sayings; the flag that flew over the Capitol building on Armed Forces Day; gift certificates for restaurants, spas, and hotels; CD sets by musicians of New Jersey; an iPod; a PDA; art sculptures; NEHA logo items; art prints; and glass paperweights. This year there were also lots of autographed items: a Barry Switzer Hat, a Toby Keith Hat, a Jimmy Houston Hat, and books written by NEHA members. A special item was an autographed edition of the January/February issue of the *Journal of Environ-*

*mental Health*, which featured an article about 15 environmental health leaders.

Bidding was particularly strong, as usual, for the flag donated by the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association. Other popular items were Santa Clara Pueblo black pottery, a conference registration and four-night stay for the 2008 AEC, and a Kim Taylor Reece bronze sculptured Hoe Va's Canoe Paddler from the Hawaiian Convention Bureau (a possible site of the 2010 AEC).

Thanks to our generous attendees and generous donors, the auction raised over \$5,000, almost double amounts raised in previous years.



# Exhibitors

**ADAPCO**

[www.myadapco.com](http://www.myadapco.com)

**Advanced Drainage Systems**

[www.ads-pipe.com](http://www.ads-pipe.com)

**Aerobiology Laboratory Associates Inc**

[www.aerobiology.net](http://www.aerobiology.net)

**Alexeter Technologies LLC**

[www.alexeter.com](http://www.alexeter.com)

**American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS)**

[www.sanitarrians.org](http://www.sanitarrians.org)

**American Food Safety Institute**

[www.americanfoodsafety.com](http://www.americanfoodsafety.com)

**American Manufacturing Company Inc**

[www.americanonsite.com](http://www.americanonsite.com)

**Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP)**

[www.aehap.org](http://www.aehap.org)

**Ayres Associates**

[www.AyresAssociates.com](http://www.AyresAssociates.com)

**Bio-Microbics Inc**

[www.biomicrobics.com](http://www.biomicrobics.com)

**Bord Na Mona**

[www.bnm-us.com](http://www.bnm-us.com)

**Chicopee Inc**

[www.chicopeeproducts.com](http://www.chicopeeproducts.com)

**Clearstream Wastewater Systems**

[www.clearstreamsystems.com](http://www.clearstreamsystems.com)

**COOLTUBE**

[www.cooltube.com](http://www.cooltube.com)

**Cooper Atkins Corporation**

[www.cooper-atkins.com](http://www.cooper-atkins.com)

**CSA International**

[www.csa-international.org](http://www.csa-international.org)

**Custom Data Processing Inc (CDP Inc)**

[www.customdatainc.com](http://www.customdatainc.com)

**Decade Software Company LLC**

[www.envisionconnect.com](http://www.envisionconnect.com)

**Decagon Devices Inc**

[www.decagon.com](http://www.decagon.com)

**Digital Health Department**

[www.garrisonenterprises.com](http://www.garrisonenterprises.com)

**Ecolab Inc**

[www.ecolab.com](http://www.ecolab.com)

**Edlund Company**

[www.edlundco.com](http://www.edlundco.com)

**Eljen Corporation**

[www.eljen.com](http://www.eljen.com)

**Environmental Health Testing**

[www.nrfsp.com](http://www.nrfsp.com)

**EZ Set Company**

[www.e-zset.com](http://www.e-zset.com)

**F R Mahony & Associates Inc**

[www.frmahony.com](http://www.frmahony.com)

**FDA, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)**

[www.cfsan.fda.gov](http://www.cfsan.fda.gov)

**Food Talk/Food Protection Report**

[www.foodtalk.com](http://www.foodtalk.com)

**FoodHandler Inc**

[www.foodhandler.com](http://www.foodhandler.com)

**FoodSafety.Com**

[www.foodsafety.com](http://www.foodsafety.com)

**Garden State Laboratories**

[www.gslabs.com](http://www.gslabs.com)

**Government Institutes**

[www.govinstpress.com](http://www.govinstpress.com)

**HealthSpace USA Inc**

[www.healthspace.ca](http://www.healthspace.ca)

**Hoot Aerobic Systems Inc**

[www.hootsystems.com](http://www.hootsystems.com)

**Industrial Hygiene News/Rimbach Publishing**

[www.rimbach.com](http://www.rimbach.com)

**Interactive Occupational Training (IOT)**

[www.iot-edu.com](http://www.iot-edu.com)

**Intertek Testing Services**

[www.intertek-etisemko.com](http://www.intertek-etisemko.com)

**Kairak Inc**

[www.kairak.com](http://www.kairak.com)

**Knight Treatment Systems**

[www.knighttreatmentsystems.com](http://www.knighttreatmentsystems.com)

**LaMotte Company**

[www.lamotte.com](http://www.lamotte.com)

**Mars Air Door**

[www.marsair.com](http://www.marsair.com)

**NASCO Whirl-Pak**

[www.enasco.com](http://www.enasco.com)

**National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH)**

[www.nalboh.org](http://www.nalboh.org)

**National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH)**

[www.centerforhealthyhousing.com](http://www.centerforhealthyhousing.com)

**National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)**

[www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)

**National Environmental, Safety & Health Training Association (NESHTA)**

[www.neshta.org](http://www.neshta.org)

**National Environmental Services Center (NESC)**

[www.nesc.wvu.edu](http://www.nesc.wvu.edu)

**National Ground Water Association (NGWA)**

[www.wellowner.org](http://www.wellowner.org)

**National Library of Medicine**

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov>

**National Registry of Food Safety Professionals (NRFSP)**

[www.nrfsp.com](http://www.nrfsp.com)

**National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF)**

[www.servsafe.com](http://www.servsafe.com)

**National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF)**

[www.nspf.org](http://www.nspf.org)

**NCEH/ATSDR (National Center for Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry)**

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**NEHA/CERT EH Online Education Series**

[www.nehacert.org](http://www.nehacert.org)

**Netafim USA**

[www.netafim-usa-wastewater.com](http://www.netafim-usa-wastewater.com)

**New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services (HIPER) Health Infrastructure**

[www.state.nj.us/health](http://www.state.nj.us/health)

**New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, Indoor Environments Program**

[www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/tsrp](http://www.state.nj.us/health/eoh/tsrp)

**New Jersey Environmental Health Association**

[www.njeha.org](http://www.njeha.org)

**NSF International**

[www.nsf.org](http://www.nsf.org)

**ORAU/ORISE**

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov>

**Orkin Commercial Services**

[www.orkin.com](http://www.orkin.com)

**OverNite Software Inc**

[www.overnitecbt.com](http://www.overnitecbt.com)

**Paster Training Inc**

[www.pastertraining.com](http://www.pastertraining.com)

**PHFE**

[www.phfe.org](http://www.phfe.org)

**Poly John Enterprises Corp**

[www.polyjohn.com](http://www.polyjohn.com)

**Portable Sanitation Association International (PSAI)**

[www.psaai.org](http://www.psaai.org)

**Premier Tech Environment**

[www.ptenv.com](http://www.ptenv.com)

**Rutgers NJAES Office of Continuing Professional Education**

[www.cookce.rutgers.edu](http://www.cookce.rutgers.edu)

**Sage Publications**

[www.sagepub.co.uk](http://www.sagepub.co.uk)

**San Jamar**

[www.sanjamar.com](http://www.sanjamar.com)

**SANI SINK**

[www.onsitesanitation.com](http://www.onsitesanitation.com)

**SneezeGuard Solutions Inc**

[www.sneeze-guard-solutions.com](http://www.sneeze-guard-solutions.com)

**Steton**

[www.steton.com](http://www.steton.com)

**TAP Series**

[www.tapseries.com](http://www.tapseries.com)

**The University of Findlay**

[www.seem.findlay.edu](http://www.seem.findlay.edu)

**Tucson Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau**

[www.visittucson.org](http://www.visittucson.org)

**Twenty First Century Communications**

[www.tfcci.com](http://www.tfcci.com)

**Underwriters Laboratories Inc**

[www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com)

**University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire**

[www.uwec.edu](http://www.uwec.edu)

**URS Corporation**

[www.urscorp.com](http://www.urscorp.com)

**US EPA Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)**

[www.epa.gov/care](http://www.epa.gov/care)

**US EPA Indoor Environments Division (IED)**

[www.epa.gov/iaq](http://www.epa.gov/iaq)

**US EPA Memorandum of Understanding**

[www.neha.org/onsite](http://www.neha.org/onsite)

**US EPA Office of Science & Technology**

[www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish)

**US EPA Office of Solid Waste**

[www.epa.gov/sc3](http://www.epa.gov/sc3)

**US EPA Office of Water**

[www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish)

**US EPA Onsite Wastewater**

[www.epa.gov/owrm/onsite](http://www.epa.gov/owrm/onsite)

**US EPA Sunwise Program**

[www.epa.gov/sunwise](http://www.epa.gov/sunwise)

**US Navy Recruiting Command**

[www.navy.com](http://www.navy.com)

**US Public Health Service (USPHS)**

[www.usphs.gov](http://www.usphs.gov)

**Waterloo BioFilter Systems Inc**

[www.waterloo-biofilter.com](http://www.waterloo-biofilter.com)

## 2008 Tucson AEC & Exhibition

June 22-23 (conference to be held June 22-25)

To exhibit please contact Toby Rodriguez at 303.756.9090, ext. 338, or at [trodriguez@neha.org](mailto:trodriguez@neha.org).



# 2007 Networking and Social Events



*Carvin DiGiovanni, senior director technical with the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals, and Nelson Fabian, NEHA executive director, at the Networking Luncheon.*



*Alicia Enriquez, Rick Collins, Mike Allred, Vince Radke, Bob Custard, and Rosalind Custard at the UL-sponsored dinner.*



*NEHA staff at the UL dinner.*



*Sharunda Buchanan, Tom Dickey, and Brian Collins at the UL dinner.*



*Dr. Chris Wiant, recipient of the Walter S. Mangold Award, at the President's Banquet.*



*President Rob Blake at the President's Banquet.*



*President Rob Blake presents Immediate Past President Rick Collins with the past president pin at the President's Banquet.*



- mobilization of past presidents to educate state legislators about the benefits of a well-functioning environmental health program.
- NEHA recently took a seat on the Council for Improved Foodborne Outbreak Response.
- NEHA is involved in several CDC initiatives such as the national IAQ partnership and the definition of a role for environmental health personnel in emergency response.
- NEHA's 13 strategic directions focus on relevance so that NEHA can react in real time to world events and challenges. These directions fall into the following categories:
  1. training and education,
  2. credentialing,
  3. advocacy, and
  4. organizational capacity.
- Attendees were encouraged to nominate deserving people for the Mangold Award or the Snyder Award, to submit a name for a Certificate of Merit, to apply for a sabbatical exchange award for England or Canada, to apply for a scholarship for undergraduate or graduate school courses, and to take training courses (which are 100 percent subsidized through grant funding) such as radon/IAQ classes, food EPI classes, and R&D special workshops.
- NEHA's pre-conference workshops will be developed into regional workshops on environmental health performance standards and insect and rodent control.
- Troy Ritter, president of the Alaska affiliate, commented on his sabbatical experience in the remote areas of the Northwest Territories in Canada.
- Attendees were encouraged to refer affiliate member information to NEHA to be published in the *Journal of Environmental Health* and to reserve space in affiliate newsletters for regional vice presidents to write a column.
- NEHA maintains lists of potential volunteers and, as the need arises, people are asked to provide their particular expertise to the committee and become involved.
- Tom Gonzales, regional vice president for Region 3, presented highlights of the activities of the newest NEHA strategic committee on sustainability, which was created in December, 2006. A reference page on sustainability issues has been created on NEHA's Web site, and a new award has been developed, called Excellence in Sustainability.



Immediate Past President Rick Collins at the General Assembly.

- President Blake introduced resolutions in support of the 60th anniversaries of the Florida and Colorado affiliates.
- NEHA has been receiving inquiries that reflect the breadth of NEHA's reach as well as recognition from outside the profession that NEHA is a major player in representing the profession.
- NEHA will send policy makers complimentary copies of the *Journal of Environmental Health*. NEHA is aggressively active in monitoring and responding to policy issues as they relate to environmental health.
- NEHA worked in partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing to create a Healthy Homes Practitioner credential.
- Every year, affiliate presidents participate in focus groups before the meeting to discuss a single issue in depth. This year's issue was "marketing the invisible profession." See the November Managing Editor's Desk column for a synopsis of the focus group recommendations.

### General Assembly

Outgoing President Rick Collins explained that this assembly is held so that individual members can ask questions of the president and the board of directors and hear firsthand what is going on within the association. He began by giving a report on NEHA's accomplishments of this past year:

#### Training and Education Activities

- Launched the high-quality NEHA CERT program of distance-based educational products.
- Developed within the CERT program high-quality streaming videos that enable NEHA to bring its AEC educational offerings to many other environmental health professionals.



CAPT Charles Otto, U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) team leader, and CDR Richard Gelting, U.S. PHS environmental engineer, both with CDC.

- Planned out and conducted the 2007 AEC, inclusive of various pre-conference workshops and credential study courses.
- Continued to improve and enhance the *Journal of Environmental Health*.
- Added to our publications collection to provide more educational material for the environmental health professional.
- Both the NEHA president and the executive director were involved in presentations to various affiliates and other audiences.

#### Credentialing Activities

- Strengthened and updated the R.E.H.S./R.S. credential and study guide.
- Continued to push for uniformity on behalf of the national NEHA R.E.H.S./R.S. program.
- Recognized all R.E.H.S./R.S. credentialed professionals who have held the credential for more than 30 years with a special certificate.
- Completed a brand-new credential—Healthy Homes.
- Strengthened the program for our new credential for onsite wastewater.
- Continued to improve both the C.F.S.P. exam and study guide.
- Developed a position on credentialing in the field of food safety that more clearly defines the roles of the C.F.S.P. and the R.E.H.S./R.S. credentials.

#### Advocacy Activities

- Expanded the number of coalitions and alliances that NEHA participates in for the good of environmental health.
- NEHA's opinions and inputs are being sought by more outside interests ranging from federal agencies to other NGOs to the private sector.
- NEHA is involved in the emergence of the new state Environmental Health Director's Forum.



Dr. Amer El-Ahraf, Ron Grimes, Dr. Monroe Morgan, and Doug Ebelherr, all past presidents of NEHA.

- Our advocacy work has also been directed toward marketing our profession and includes efforts ranging from presentations NEHA officials have made to enhancements on the Web site aimed at the public to engaging in various dialogues in which the goal is to increase understanding of our profession.
- Developed an e-newsletter that not only keeps the membership informed as issues break, but now also includes a special feature that enables members to register their opinions on issues.
- Expanded our international efforts, which range from building a relationship with WHO to helping the Saudi Arabian government set up a food safety program.

#### Organizational Capacity

- Our grant projects are being sustained, and our advertising, exhibit, and sponsorship income is increasing.
- We moved the association offices this year into a new space that is much more conducive to our future success—and at a price that is a substantial financial bargain in the Denver marketplace.
- Our IT capabilities are also continuing to improve, thereby enabling us to be cost-effective and better at quickly responding to and serving our members.
- We are continuing to build the staff's capabilities, which represents an important element in building our organizational capacity.
- We're also enhancing our Web site and the infrastructure that supports it.

- Finally, we developed a whole new initiative this year that involves setting up a new committee on sustainability. This committee has been active in developing a new award program—NEHA's first new award program in over 10 years—that will enable our profession to recognize noteworthy efforts to improve sustainability.

#### Elections

Mr. Collins explained that NEHA's articles of incorporation and bylaws allow for nominations from the floor for any NEHA office, and he invited any member who had filled out the proper paperwork to make a nomination. No nominations were made, however. The floor nomination process supplements the regular nomination process, which officially cleared one candidate to run in next year's election. The candidate running for second vice president is Mel Knight, retired director of environmental management of the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Management.

#### Conclusion

A thank-you goes to all of the 2007 AEC & Exhibition attendees—including speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers—for their dedication and commitment to the environmental and public health professions. We hope to see you next year at NEHA's AEC & Exhibition in Tucson, Arizona, June 22–25, where, once again, your eyes will be opened and your soul recharged. As one attendee commented, "This is an opportunity for one to get an idea of how important one's contribution to public health is. It reminds you of how important your work is." 🐾

## 2007 Conference Grants & Sponsors

NEHA received valuable financial support from the following organizations and gratefully acknowledges their contribution to the conference.

#### Grants

- ◇ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health
- ◇ U.S. Food and Drug Administration

#### Sponsors

- ◇ NSF International
- ◇ Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

- ◇ American Academy of Sanitarian (AAS)
- ◇ CSA International
- ◇ Decade Software Company, LLC
- ◇ Digital Health Department
- ◇ Mars Air Doors
- ◇ National Environmental Services Center (NESC)
- ◇ PHFE
- ◇ Steton

## 2007 NEHA's AEC & Exhibition Partners

NEHA thanks the following organizations for their contributions to the AEC & Exhibition and its educational sessions and workshops:

- ◇ National Environmental, Safety & Health Training Association
- ◇ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- ◇ U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- ◇ Association of Pool and Spa Professionals
- ◇ Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association



# 2007 NEHA's AEC & Exhibition





# Atlantic City New Jersey



Photos: Joanne Scigliano, Andy Timm, and Steven Lipton.