



NEHA's 54th Annual Educational Conference

President's Message

George Kupfer

“Super,” “outstanding” and “well done,” were a few of the superlatives we heard following the Charlotte annual meeting of our association. Truly it was an outstanding meeting which everyone enjoyed.

Attendee evaluations expressed great appreciation for the technical quality of the sessions, as well as for the activities and recreational events that were offered at the AEC. Our sincere thanks to Sylvia Daniel, Eddie Pierce, Jr., the fine staff from the North Carolina affiliate and our staff in Denver, for a job well done and a tremendous AEC experience.

For those of you who could not make it, you were missed, and we hope you can set your sights on the next annual education conference in Portland, Ore., June 22-27, 1991. We also encourage you to plan to attend this year's mid-year conference, Jan. 27-29 in Reno, Nev. These meetings are excellent opportunities to exchange ideas and discuss problems with professional colleagues, and to profit from the fine technical sessions.

Sincere congratulations are offered to Harvey Collins, winner of the Walter Snyder Award and Sarah Kotchian, winner of the Walter Mangold Award. These are two outstanding professionals who deserve the recognition given them and who serve as an inspiration to their colleagues.

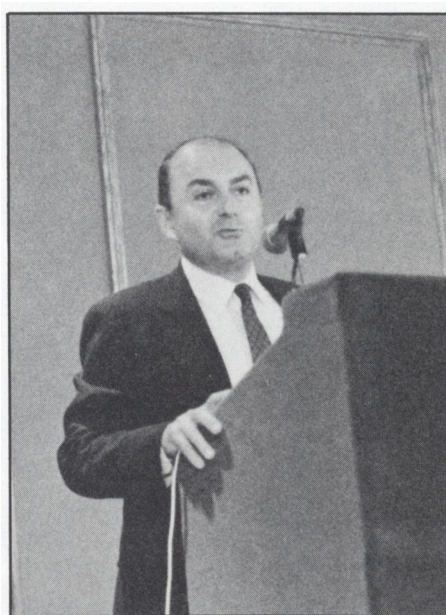
Many quality presentations and a number of challenges were delivered to attendees. The Board of Directors wrestled with several pressing issues, one being how to best implement the NEHA policy of international involvement. The board considered what affiliations and what degree of involvement are possible and most effective with the resources at our disposal. How can we best establish professional relationships with other countries? The board reiterated its commitment to determine the answers to these questions and to seek the most effective vehicle for international involvement.

In another area, the board reaffirmed its commitment to recycling as one of the most effective solutions to solid waste

problems. We will determine how NEHA can effectively use recycled materials in its operations. It was agreed that we must promote methods to minimize solid waste and to recycle waste materials. In this process, we must assure that the health of the public is protected.

The board also discussed the need to improve communication throughout our association. It was agreed that we need to study how we are communicating within and without our association. We must keep members informed of our activities and seek their input concerning association operations.

A number of quality technical papers were presented on toxic and hazardous substance control. As research continues, we better understand the severity of the problems and realize that we must increase our commitment to address them. The expertise of environmental health professionals and the efforts of our association are required to assess the problems and develop solutions. We, as environmental health professionals, must provide



Jean-Claude Faby, right, delivers a stirring keynote address. Below, attendees examine merchandise at NEHA's Silent Auction booth. The 3rd Annual Fun Run, bottom photo, provides an opportunity for fun and exercise.



leadership in this area.

The NEHA section on solid and hazardous waste, chaired by John Abraham, has been charged with the specific goal of increasing NEHA involvement and activities in this area during the coming year.

The immediate challenges to NEHA and our profession are numerous and complex. While we take great pride in what we have accomplished in the field of food sanitation, we must be aware that we cannot relax on the basis of our past efforts. There is much to be done to determine whether or not our food is really safe. What chemicals from the environment are in the nation's food supply? What is their effect on the health of people?

How can the farm industry continue to produce good quality and sufficient food, free of disease and insect damage; and yet protect the environment from dangerous chemicals and substances which appear in fertilizers, pesticides and stimulants? Do the methods of bulk food handling protect the consumer from contamination in the retail market?

Another major challenge involves the detection and assessment of emerging environmental issues of potential public health significance. For example, what is the public health significance of the many forms of electromagnetic radiation that permeate the environment as a result of our communications networks?

We are aware of the effect of electromagnetic energy on food placed in our microwave ovens. Many different electromagnetic energies are radiated into our environment. What is the significance to the health of our population of varying amounts and combinations of these energies?

Our methods for treating public drinking water supplies are little better than they were decades ago. They generally are effective in removing bacteria but may be inadequate for virus and chemical control. Many communities that take their drinking water from nearby rivers are using water that has been in and out of people and machines several times before it is collected and treated for human use.

Throughout our nation a multitude of private drinking water systems exist that are never tested to determine their quality. Indications are that many of these supplies are producing water which has been contaminated with chemicals and other substances which are dangerous to human health. What programs have we initiated to assess and address these problems?

We must publicize the need for more research and more resources to address these and other similar problems. Environmental health professionals certainly

have no lack of challenge. We are limited only by "tunnel vision." At the AEC I announced the formation of a special committee, comprised of experts in our profession, to identify and assess current and emerging problems of environmental health significance.

This panel also will be asked to identify gaps in expertise and to suggest ways to fill these gaps. How might our profession assure continuing competency and have access, with the limited available resources, to training which is so desperately needed? We intend to suggest an environmental health agenda for our nation and to be proactive rather than reactive.

NEHA is a professional organization, designed to be of help to individuals and our profession. We look forward to a busy year in which we will unite in major efforts to improve and protect the health of our nation through judicious control of our environment. I solicit your constructive comments and suggestions. □

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Changing of the guard

Each year the AEC marks the conclusion of one presidential term and the beginning of another. Outgoing president Harry Grenawitzke passed the gavel to incoming president George Kupfer. It was noted that on behalf of NEHA, Grenawitzke had traveled around the nation, to Canada, and to England.

In addition, during his term of office, the association greatly expanded its automation capabilities, expanded the Denver office and increased staff, completed the computer-based training project in toxicology and risk assessment, advanced projects on an array of different ongoing services, revamped NEHA's entire awards program, increased membership, scholarship awards, the number of journals printed each year and, in general, continued the progress being made to strengthen the national association.

Kupfer, at the concluding banquet, emphasized that as NEHA grew, it was incumbent on the association to stand up for and promote those who work in environmental health and further to increasingly work to ensure that NEHA's voice is heard on a wide variety of environmental issues. Kupfer committed to continuing NEHA's successful win/win/win membership campaign and also announced that he was commissioning a special panel made up of the best experts in the profession to identify the gaps in expertise in the environmental health profession and suggest ways in which these gaps might be addressed.

Special Highlights

Monday's keynote address was delivered by Jean-Claude Faby, Director of the New York based Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and

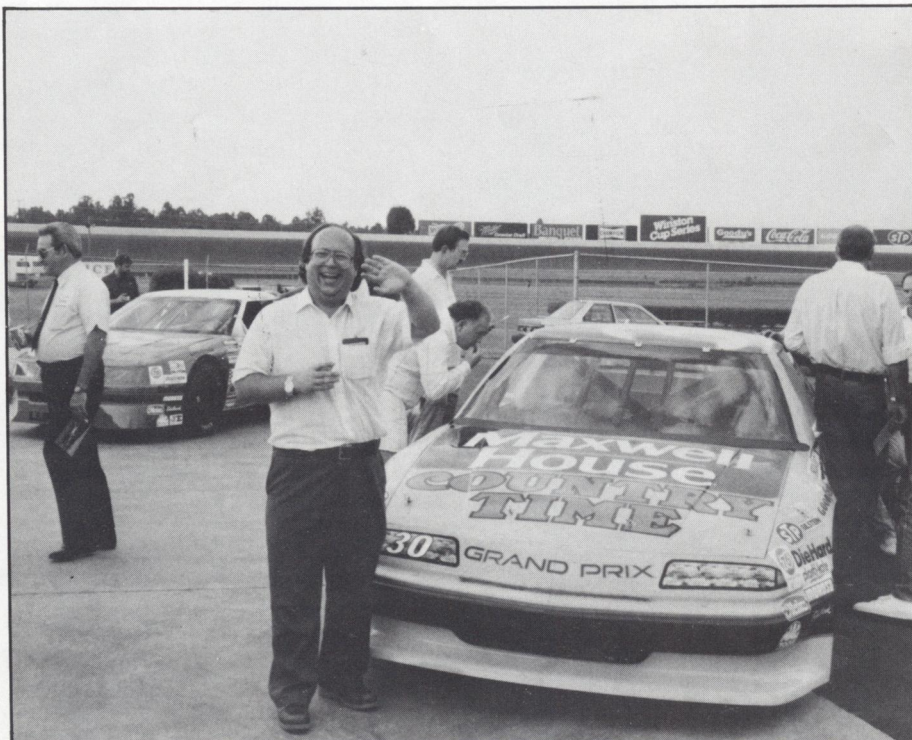
Development.

In his eloquent speech, Faby compared current attitudes with those expressed at the first international conference concerned with environmental issues, held in Stockholm in 1972. At that time, representatives from the industrialized world believed they could solve all the problems by "not" doing, or at least doing less of those activities known to pollute the air or water, or otherwise degrade the environment.

Developing countries, however, would not voluntarily undertake such measures if the implementation of environmental protection programs would slow their economic development.

Since that time, the most progress has been made in the areas of institutional development and public awareness. Faby pointed out that nearly all nations now have agencies or organizations charged with the protection and preservation of the environment. He believes the three most important environmental issues today are loss of biological diversity, depletion of the ozone layer and climatic change.

One of the truly special events to take place at an AEC is NEHA's Silent Auction. This year 35 affiliates and three sustaining members contributed gifts. Proceeds from the auction help to bring the best possible speakers to NEHA conferences. This year \$3,278 was raised.



Outgoing President Harry Grenawitzke, above, presents a plaque of appreciation to Executive Director Nelson Fabian. A great time was had by all at the Charlotte Motor Speedway, left.

Business

Business meetings are a major component of a NEHA Annual Educational Conference. The NEHA Executive Committee and Board of Directors meet at the AEC as does each NEHA section, various NEHA committees and NEHA's credentialing board.

NEHA Executive Committee

Below is a listing of some of the significant items that were discussed or acted upon at the June AEC executive committee meeting:

1. The executive committee saluted Horace Jones who, as past president, was leaving the executive committee. As both a regional vice president and national officer, Horace has participated in 26 executive committee meetings over 11 consecutive years.

2. The executive committee voted to award two undergraduate scholarships next year of \$1,000 and \$400, respectively, to co-fund with the American Academy of Sanitarians a graduate scholarship for \$800.

3. The executive committee determined that the issue of an individual being able to vote in more than one regional vice presidential election by virtue of having membership in more than one affiliate needed to be clarified by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

4. The addition to the NEHA staff of

Linda Lehman-Murphy, as NEHA's new membership manager, was announced.

5. The executive director announced that NEHA had received a new grant from EPA, the purpose of which is to develop guidelines for local environmental health agencies to use in developing contracts with state drinking water primacy agencies for carrying out Safe Drinking Water Act responsibilities.

6. The executive committee directed its publications committee to study the feasibility of printing the NEHA journal on recycled paper. In addition, it directed the Denver office to use recycled paper in as many of its office functions as possible.

7. The nominations committee reported that A.J. Englande from Louisiana and Diane Evans from California had both submitted the appropriate paperwork to run for the NEHA office of Second Vice President in next spring's mail ballot election.

8. The executive committee decided that because of confusing wording and inadequate instructions on this spring's second mail ballot, the issue of where national affiliates should be positioned within the association would be rebaloted next spring. It did, however, accept that part of the second mail ballot where the membership voted to extend voting privileges to representatives of sustaining and educational/institutional NEHA members.

9. Two- and three-year quantified objectives were adopted for NEHA's strategic plan.

10. The executive committee approved,

in concept, a financial contribution to the development of a video that would document environmental progress from Earth Day and on to the future.

11. NEHA committed to using the audit firm of Bondi and Company for another year.

12. The executive committee unanimously voted to take the 1994 AEC to the general Fort Worth/Dallas area.

13. The executive committee also confirmed its decision to take the fall 1991 midyear conference to Des Moines, Iowa. The topic of this conference will be risk assessment across the spectrum of environmental health issues.

14. The executive committee agreed to participate in an exchange sabbatical program funded by the National Sanitation Foundation. The program, which will receive \$10,000 yearly from NSF, will give a professional in the United States and a professional in the United Kingdom an opportunity to work in the other country. The first award will be given in Portland at the 1991 AEC.

15. Policy documents defining the role of a section chair and the process for the development of position papers and resolutions were adopted by the executive committee.

16. The executive committee reviewed concerns of members who work in industry and reaffirmed the association's commitment to being as responsive to these members as to those who work in other employment settings.

Board of Directors

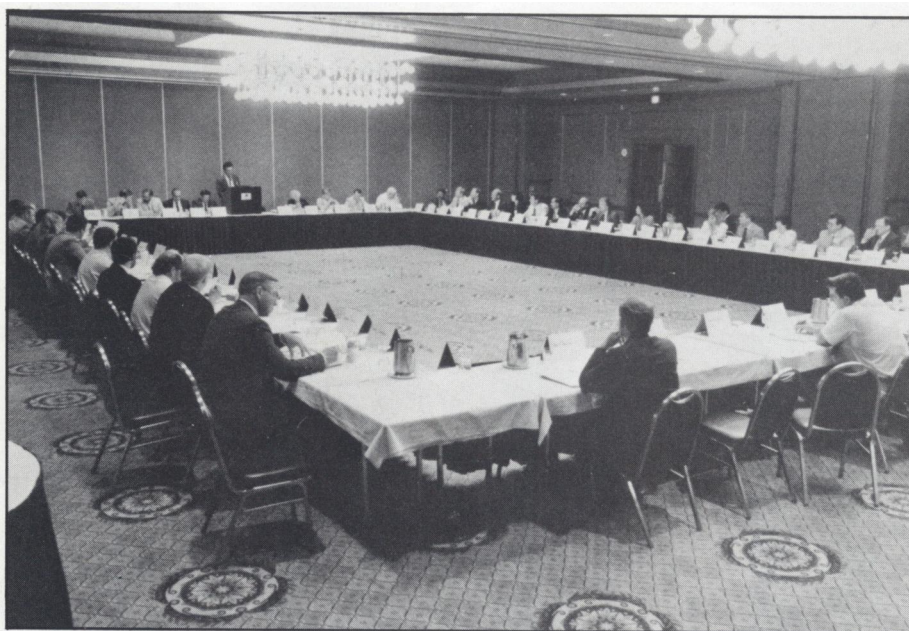
Significant items discussed or acted upon by NEHA's Board of Directors included:

1. The board adopted a budget for next year of \$936,470.

2. The executive director announced that NEHA's membership was continuing to climb at about 10% a year and that total membership now exceeded 5,500. The executive director also explained that the association currently employs 14 paid professional staff, organized in four different departments.

3. The board was greeted by special guests who included Galina Sorokina, president of the Central Committee of Local Industry and Public Service Worker's Union in the Soviet Union; George Gregg, president of the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors; and Eric Fosskett, executive secretary for the International Federation of Environmental Health.

4. The board voted to put into nomination for the office of Second Vice President for next year's election the names of



The NEHA Board of Directors, above, takes action on multitude of significant issues affecting the association's future.

NEHA's foreign guests included Galina Sorokina, right, president of the Moscow Central Committee of the Local Industry and Public Service Workers Union, shown with President-elect Leonard Rice. Attendees, below, listen intently to one of many fine speakers. Some participants in NEHA's largest golf tournament ever are seen in bottom photo.



A.J. Englande, a professor from Tulane University in New Orleans, and Diane Evans, currently Region 2 NEHA Vice President from California.

5. Affiliate presidents were invited to prepare bids on winter 1993 and fall 1993 midyear conferences. They also were invited to offer various national credentials at state affiliate meetings.

6. The board of directors agreed to put on the upcoming spring ballot a bylaws change that would require that any proxy at a board of directors meeting also be a NEHA member.

7. The board of directors accepted the executive committee's recommendation to maintain an "associate" membership in the International Federation of Environmental Health, but at the same time determined that a study needed to be conducted that would review all potential opportunities available to NEHA to participate in international environmental health activities — including membership in IFEH. Included in this motion vote was a commitment to commence negotiations with IFEH to resolve the issues that led to the executive committee's determination that membership in IFEH was inappropriate.

8. The board of directors also directed that another study be conducted that would result in a policy document clarifying the authority of the executive committee and delineating the relationship between the executive committee and board of directors.

9. President Kupfer announced that he was going to continue Immediate Past President Harry Grenawitzke's win/win/win membership campaign. The essence of this campaign is to extend to affiliates the opportunity to enlist new members for NEHA at only \$45 with \$5 of that payment to be returned to the affiliate in the form of a contribution to their association.

10. The board contingently approved of a petition from Maine for affiliate status in NEHA. Upon submission of the appropriate papers, an affiliate in Maine can be instituted.

11. Teller Committee chairman Jim Dingman announced to the board the official results of the spring mail ballot election which included the election of John Barry to the office of Second Vice President, Toby Harris to the office of Region 1 Vice President, Bob Galvan to the office of Region 5 Vice President, and Michael Moon to the office of Region 7 Vice President.

12. Several resolutions and position papers were adopted by the board. A resolution on risk assessment/risk communication, submitted by the Food Protection Section, noted the need to main-

tain consumer confidence and economic stability in the marketplace, and requested that FDA and USDA take the lead in food risk assessment/risk communication, while frequently disseminating their scientific data to the food protection agencies to assure a uniform response is ultimately transmitted to the consumer.

NEHA joined the American Public Health Association (APHA) in support of a position on "Public Health Control of Hazardous Air Pollutants." NEHA and APHA advocate a national policy which will establish prevention as the primary premise for controlling and managing hazardous air emissions and will expeditiously reduce emissions, for existing and new sources, of all substances which are reasonably anticipated to pose hazards to human health and the environment.

The position states further that environmental programs should reflect their public health origins and focus on preventing exposure to toxic substances and on the best means of controlling emissions, rather than on if and when they should be controlled.

An APHA position on "Resource and Solid Waste Management," calling for a revision of the current federal solid waste policy, also was supported by NEHA. Included are the following recommendations:

- Develop a federal policy based on resource conservation and pollution prevention.

- Support the imposition of sanctions under the Clean Air Act which would place a construction ban on garbage incinerators within all non-attainment areas. Incinerator ash residues should be designated as hazardous material.

- Promote efforts to use the least toxic alternative in product composition with a secondary reliance on alternatives which are most reusable, most recyclable, most durable or most biodegradable, thus minimizing waste at all points of transfer.

- Support legislation which promotes the use of recycled materials over virgin material through fees and taxes, thus providing incentives to businesses that engage in recycling.

- Recommend that all levels of government provide procurement guidelines which take into account product life and ability to be repaired as part of the relevant criteria on which to base a procurement decision.

- Support research in problem areas of waste management, such as battery recycling, household hazardous waste collection and recycling possibilities.

- Urge the Environmental Protection Agency to assist local communities in the development and implementation of recycling and compost plans to handle 80% of the waste stream.

- Support extensive research and monitoring of existing facilities with the need to be more protective of public health

and to establish the needed databases if stringent regulatory standards are demanded.

- Ask EPA to develop interim guidelines for existing incineration which are more protective of public health.

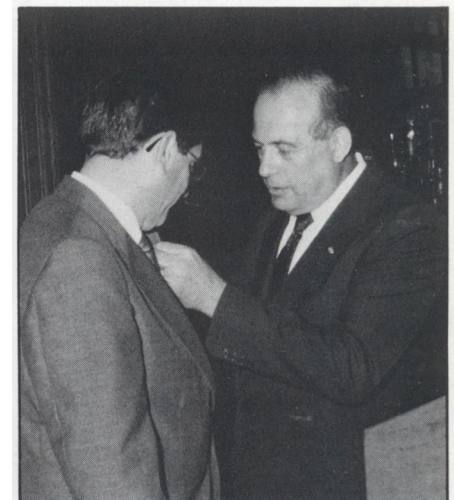
Excellence

The NEHA Annual Educational Conference provides the opportunity to recognize excellence in the environmental health field. Pausing to reflect on excellence allows members of the profession to rededicate themselves to the noble mission they serve.

A variety of meaningful awards are presented during the AEC. The two most prestigious, the Walter F. Snyder Award and the Walter S. Mangold Award, are bestowed at the concluding dinner banquet.

Walter F. Snyder Award

This year's Walter F. Snyder Award, jointly sponsored by the National Environmental Health Association and the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), was presented to Harvey F. Collins by Nina McClelland, NSF president and chief executive officer. This very special award is presented to an individual who has achieved



George Kupfer, above, place past president's pin on Harry Grenawitzke. Attendees, left, visit one of more than 80 exhibit booths.



Trenton Davis, far left, presents Mangold Award to Sarah Kotchian. Harvey Collins, left, was recipient of this year's Snyder Award.



peer recognition for outstanding accomplishments in the field of environmental health.

As California's Deputy Director of Public Health, Dr. Collins oversees not only the state's environmental programs, but also the Divisions of Family Health, Laboratories, Preventive Medical Services, Rural and Community Health, Health Hazards Assessment and the Offices of AIDS and Drinking Water — a workload encompassing more than 100 program areas, 1,650 professional employees and an annual budget of about \$1.5 billion.

Dr. Collins was honored for achieving the goals and objectives he set for himself in his professional career, and for his accomplishments in environmental improvement over the past 27 years.

Walter S. Mangold Award

NEHA's Walter S. Mangold Award was presented to Sarah B. Kotchian, Director of the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Environmental Health Department. The award was presented by Dr. Trenton Davis, a previous award recipient.

Kotchian is described as energetic, a progressive manager, a highly respected community leader, innovative, a loving wife and mother, a prolific writer and author, and a manager who makes recommendations based on science rather than emotion. She insists that staff be proactive, be on the cutting edge of advancements, and anticipate emerging environmental health

problems in order to be effective practitioners of prevention.

In addition to actively participating in a wide variety of local, state and national groups, Sarah is a frequent guest lecturer and has been involved in developing new environmental and public health degree programs at the University of New Mexico. She has been the recipient of many honors and awards for her dedication to excellence including: "Women on the Move" award presented by the Albuquerque YMCA, *Glamour Magazine* Outstanding Young Working Woman, *Albuquerque Tribune* Rising Star, New Mexico Legislative Memorial for leadership in public health, and American Lung Association of New Mexico Clean Air Award.

Larry Gordon, 1961 Mangold Award recipient, writes that "it is appropriate that the National Environmental Health Association recognize the preeminent woman environmental health administrator in the nation by presenting the 1990 Walter S. Mangold Award to Sarah. I knew Walter Mangold and know that he would have been proud of Sarah Kotchian."

Presidential Citations

Presidential citations were given at the awards luncheon by President Harry Grenawitzke to Larry Gales, Connie Herzog, Richard E. Petticrew, Steve Tackitt, Sylvia Daniel, Chris Wiant, John Nussbaumer, David J. Lieberman, Tom Chestnut and Ann Anderson. Grenawitzke expressed

his appreciation to the recipients for their efforts and valuable contributions to NEHA.

Certificates of Merit

In its determined effort to recognize excellence, NEHA also salutes outstanding achievements in each affiliate. Each year, every NEHA affiliate is encouraged to submit the names of candidates deserving of recognition for work on behalf of the profession. Certificates of Merit were awarded this year to the following individuals, listed by affiliate:

Alabama — Andy Adams
 Arizona — Peggy Guichard-Watters
 Arkansas — Sandra Lancaster
 California — Gerald H. Winn
 Colorado — Jim Dingman
 Connecticut — Joseph Hock
 Idaho — Robert Jue
 Illinois — Douglas Ebelherr
 Industry — Larry Eils
 Iowa — Bobby Baker
 Louisiana — Paul Miller
 Massachusetts — Phyllis Boucher
 Michigan — Guy Estep
 Minnesota — Joan A. Gilchrist
 Nebraska — Thomas D. Breikreutz
 Nevada — Clare A. Schmutz
 New Mexico — Pamela Reynolds
 North Carolina — Robert E. Whitwam
 Ohio — Charles F. Cummins
 Oregon — Julie Down
 South Carolina — Harvey McConnell, Jr.
 Texas — Janice Coates
 Uniformed Services — Captain Ervin L. Moore, USPHS

Utah — Frank Jackson
 Virginia — A. James English
 Washington — Bill White
 West Virginia — John Bertram
 Wyoming — Paul Ng

Crumbine Award

Each year the Food Service and Packaging Institute recognizes the outstanding food protection program in the nation. This year, on behalf of the institute and the Crumbine Jury, Charles Felix presented the prestigious Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award to the San Joaquin County (California) Environmental Health Service. The award was accepted by Dan Guerra.

The Crumbine Award was instituted in 1954 to honor the memory of the public health pioneer who outlawed the common drinking cup in the state of Kansas and who launched the nationwide campaign which eventually banished the common cup as a major source of disease transmission in the United States.

Food Industry Sanitarian Award

This award, given out by NEHA's Food Section, is bestowed on a NEHA member employed in the food industry in recognition of outstanding contributions to the field of food protection and sanitation. This year's winner was Robert E. Harrington, Assistant Director of Technical Services, Public Health and Safety with the National Restaurant Association.

Harrington has developed and produced publications which have set the standard for technical information in the food service industry. In his current position, he serves as liaison with regulatory agencies and advises members of NRA on the issues of public health and safety.

At the awards luncheon, Diane Eastman presented the Past President's Award to Eric Mood from Connecticut, who has given much to the association over the years. Outgoing regional vice presidents John Barry and Trudy Rolla were recognized for their many contributions to NEHA.

The Hancor Award that recognizes excellence in the field of on-site wastewater management was given to Nina McClelland, CEO of the National Sanitation Foundation.

Congratulations to all award recipients. You have inspired us, and have shown by example the path to excellence in our profession.



Conference chair Sylvia Daniel, left, addresses attendees. Harry Grenawitzke, below, receives the prestigious Winston Churchill Commemorative Crown. Bottom photo shows a packed banquet hall.

