



# Taking the Trail

A Report on NEHA's 58th  
June 18-22, 1994

**N**EHHA President John Barry officially opened the association's 58th Annual Education Conference on June 20, 1994 in Ft. Worth, Texas. It was one year earlier that Barry became NEHA's 58th president. His first official action as NEHA's president was to address NEHA's Mangold banquet in Orlando, Florida. At that time, he emphatically declared that both his and the association's commitment was to advance each of NEHA's individual members. Likewise, the Ft. Worth conference was dedicated to the theme of advancing the individual.

From the memorable, individually oriented keynote session to the hard work within NEHA's business meetings to the interactive workshops and educational sessions to the inspiration of individual excellence recognized through the award's ceremonies, NEHA's AEC, as never before, focused on advancing the individual practitioner in environmental health.

On Monday, June 20, the opening keynote address clearly set the tone for what followed. This year, NEHA invited Joe Land, an eighth grade educated and self-made millionaire, to give the keynote address. Land shared that early in his life he proactively set a goal to make a lot of

money and then focused his energies on achieving that goal. Explaining his self-made success, he appealed to everyone to consider the power that each inherently possessed once one sets one's mind to doing something. He challenged the audience with the proposition that if with an eighth grade education he could achieve such success, then certainly each and every member of the association could do likewise...as long as the principle of goal setting was understood and the commitment was made to organize one's life around achieving those goals—whatever they might be.

As motivating as his presentation was, he confessed that once his monetary goals were reached, he realized that he wasn't any happier than before. He offered the quip that he realized something was wrong when the millions of dollars he had earned had not resulted in happiness, especially realizing that on the other side of the world there was probably someone with no money lying on a bed of nails that was both content and happy.

In his essential message, he noted that it is easy to control others, but the real battle in life lies in controlling one's self. Land shared that once he began focusing on himself, he finally learned that happiness was a personal experience—one that he alone commanded. He drew laughter from his attentive audience when he screamed that the next time someone walks into your office with a dark cloud hanging over them, don't allow yourself to accept that cloud. He stressed that each of us has the power to either allow other's clouds to be brought over us or not.

In concluding his presentation, he urged each and every person in the audience to realize that they have the "ultimate power" to control themselves. Once that power is unleashed anything is possible. He acknowledged this was a particularly important facet of working in the environmental health field, where the goals are so important.

While the keynote address always represents the official kickoff to the conference, there were other activities that preceded this big event. Again this year, the Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association held two exceptional pre-conference seminars. In NEHA's ongoing commitment to be a leader in food protection, the association worked with the Educational Foundation to conduct workshops in applied food service sanitation and HACCP. Post-workshop evaluations made it clear that the two workshops were outstanding successes. NEHA thanks John Marcello, Paul Martin, and the Educational Foundation for their participation and support.

NEHA's annual golf tournament was held Sunday, June 19. The first place team consisted of Al Black, Steve Berry, Jim Archer, and Herbert Dalton. Second place winners included Horace Jones, Bob Finn, Dana Miller, and Allan Hammar. In third place were Mike Price, Tom Hatfield, Patrick Seger, and Sylvia Garrison. Rounding out in fourth place were team members Jim Schnackenberg, Bobby Baker, Stacey Madson, and John Cutter. Congratulations to the winners and to all who participated. Also we extend a special thanks to Bob Galvan for organizing this successful event. NEHA's golf tournament has become a major part of the AEC providing many members with a unique opportunity to meet new friends and to take advantage of those friendships in the course of carrying out their professional responsibilities in the years that follow.

This year, NEHA did something it had never done at the AEC. In its ongoing commitment to be market oriented and to listen to the views of its members, NEHA sponsored a general



President John Barry kicks off the keynote session with (l-r) Barry; Nelson Fabian, Bob Galvan, Anthony Bennett, TEHA president; and Kay Granger, Mayor of Ft. Worth.

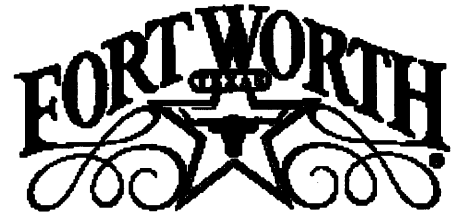


John Barry thanks Joe Land, the AEC keynote speaker, for his enlightening presentation.

# to Advancement

## Annual Education Conference

### Fort Worth, Texas



assembly on Monday night. NEHA's president, John Barry, and its executive director, Nelson Fabian, gave brief "state of the association" summaries, followed by a stimulating period when association members expressed their views on issues of concern. Among other things, two messages that clearly emerged were that many members look to NEHA to perform more of a "clearinghouse" role and to increase the visibility of the profession, itself. NEHA's incoming president, Diane Evans, also committed that NEHA will vigorously explore various electronic initiatives to service membership more effectively.



*NEHA's Team America golfing legends include (l-r) Steve Tackitt, Harry Grenawitzke, Bob Galvan, and Steve Jenkins.*

The focus groups then clarified, refined, and finetuned these views, providing the association with information to be used in a strategic plan to make NEHA's programs and services maximally relevant to NEHA's members.

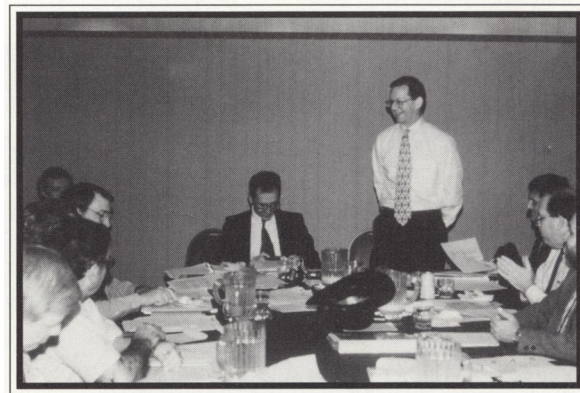
Another exciting event at the AEC was the silent auction. Again this year, thanks to NEHA's affiliates, sustaining members, and various individual members, the association was able to raise \$4,771. This money is used to help fund the speaker slate for the AEC educational programs. In this way, NEHA is able to recruit notable speakers for the benefit of all who attend the conference. A special thanks goes to those contributors and bidders for their support.

Crucial to the success of NEHA's conference is the quality of the educational programming offered. NEHA's technical section chairs organized another outstanding educational program, broad in scope. This year the program evolved from extensive market research conducted by NEHA to identify actual educational needs of its members. A special thank you for the efforts of the section chairs including Dr. Ginger Gist, Brian Zamora, Michael Chappell, Thomas Wittkopf, Laura Studevart Thacker, George Byrns, Dr. A.J. Englande, John Kindschy, and Doug Ebelherr. The conference also marks the occasion when some section chairs "retire" after years of service. This year, NEHA says goodbye to and wishes to thank George Byrns and John Kindschy for their tremendous contributions as section chairs.

A very special part of the AEC is the transition in leadership of the association. At the Mangold award banquet this year, John Barry passed the president's gavel to Diane Evans from Santa Cruz, California. After accepting the gavel, President Evans addressed the members and pledged her commitment to the three goals of institutional and financial stability, and visibility, in general.

Another special highlight of the conference this year was the conduct of nine separate focus groups involving affiliate presidents and members of NEHA's board of directors. The purpose of the focus groups was to zero in on the real world, everyday work-related needs of professionals in environmental health. The objective was to better understand what professionals in this field are facing, thus giving NEHA insight into the kinds of programs and services the association might form to heighten assistance to members.

As a basis for their discussions, the focus groups used a compilation of views from the Orlando AEC meeting last year.



*President Barry presides over the board of director's meeting.*

Beyond the more than 100 technical papers delivered, the education exhibit event and the myriad of networking opportunities that the conference provided, NEHA carried out its business affairs and honored many in the profession through the various awards it bestows. Highlights of these AEC events follow.

#### Board of Directors Meeting

NEHA's board of directors meet three times a year, one at the AEC. Highlights of this year's AEC board meeting include:

- It was reported that the national association and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts had entered into a contractual arrangement not to exceed \$200,000 that has NEHA, with the assistance of the National Assessment Institute, preparing a credential for the license of hazardous waste site professionals that conduct work in Massachusetts.

- It was also reported that NEHA and the state of Nevada had successfully negotiated a continuation of their contractual arrangement for the upcoming fiscal year. NEHA will continue with its assistance to Nevada's certified environmental manager program.

Work in this upcoming year will involve further enhancing the credentialing examination, setting up a continuing education program, and surveying professionals who have this credential to determine how the cre-

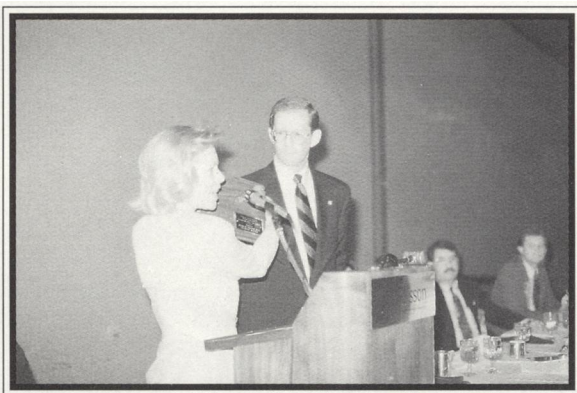
credential might be improved.

- It was also reported that the association had negotiated a \$20,000 grant with the Center for Occupational Research and Development. The association will work to assist in the development of a work-rel-

evant college curriculum for people studying to become hazardous materials/hazardous waste professionals.

- It was also reported that NEHA's grant with the EPA for work in radon control will likely be significantly expanded in the upcoming year. This will enable the association to conduct more classes to prepare environmental health professionals to become special community resources in this critical area.

- It was announced that the *Journal of Environmental Health* will now be assisted through the resources of a technical editorial advisory board. Members of the board include Leonard Rice, Dr. Ann Rossignol, Eugene Devenport, Dr. Amer El Ahraf, Dr.



*Incoming NEHA president, Diane Evans, presents outgoing president, John Barry, with a recognition plaque for his year at the helm.*

Tom Hatfield, Dr. Welford Roberts, and Dr. John Barry. These individuals will serve the *Journal* and, in particular, Dr. Franklin Carver, the *Journal's* technical editor, with respect to insuring that the technical material published is sound and of high quality.

- The board discussed at length a paper that had been developed on the topic of affiliate roles in NEHA. Meeting with representatives from the Ohio affiliate, the board clarified how association governance works and where affiliates fit into the overall picture. In follow up to this discussion, President Diane Evans committed to assemble a small group of volunteers to prepare for affiliates a manual of NEHA's policies relative to the affiliates. The manual will be completed within the upcoming year.

- It was announced that David Robbins from Arizona had been selected this year as NEHA's sabbatical exchange ambassador.

Mr. Robbins' specialty area is on-site wastewater management. At some point in the upcoming year, he will partake on a four-week sabbatical to the United Kingdom. All members of the association are encouraged to apply for this unique opportunity.

- The board reaffirmed its tentative decision to hold NEHA's 1997 annual conference in Washington, D.C.

- The board discussed, with representatives from NEHA's Florida affiliate, issues pertaining to the AEC held in Orlando last year. It was determined that there was still a small balance owed to the Florida affiliate, hosts of the 1993 AEC, and arrangements were made to insure that balance be paid.

- Considerable discussion was held with respect to NEHA's move toward a new REHS/RS credential. For the most part, details have now been worked out between NEHA and the National Assessment Institute who will soon begin a project of creating a new national REHS/RS exam for NEHA. In addition, NAI will create, under contract to NEHA, not only the exam but also a study workbook to enable people to better prepare for the credentialing examination. It is anticipated that this entire effort could be completed by as early as January 1995.

The board also affirmed its desire to offer candidates for this credential the opportunity to prepare for the exam through a seminar/workshop experience sponsored by NEHA. Finally, the board continued its support for the association offering this credentialing opportunity to each state program, thereby contributing to what could ultimately be a unification of most of the REHS/RS programs in the nation.

- The board also approved a contract that NEHA will extend to its Illinois affiliate for hosting the 1996 AEC in Chicago.

- The board gave final approval to a new system of operation for NEHA's sections. In essence, the major purpose of NEHA's sections was clarified to be the preparation of the educational program for NEHA's AEC. As NEHA addresses various issues, special purpose committees will be assembled in which section chairs will be invited to participate. By clarifying roles and equipping the organization with the ability to move on issues through special purpose committees, NEHA hopes to involve more of its members and to become more active in a broad range of environmental health concerns.

- The board took several positions with regard to upcoming issues involving membership policies within the International Federation of Environmental Health. The positions taken essentially supported efforts for other national bodies to join IFEH even if they were not as broadly based in

environmental health as is NEHA. The board voted, however, to not liberalize membership policies to the point where IFEH became something other than the loose federation of national environmental health organizations that it was originally set up to be. NEHA's representative, president Diane Evans, will vote at the upcoming IFEH Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur in these regards.

- The board considered foregoing NEHA's primary election that is held at an AEC when more than two candidates vie for the office of second vice president. The board decided, however, to concentrate efforts to provide the membership with quality candidates each year through NEHA's nominations committee. The board agreed that a section of NEHA's Policy and Procedures Manual needed to be drafted that more clearly defined the roles and responsibilities of this important committee and function.

- The board decided that the regional vice president for Region 10 is best suited to represent NEHA members who live or have addresses in other countries.

#### **Council of Delegates Meeting**

At the AEC, NEHA's council of delegates assembled for its annual meeting. The council is made up of members of NEHA's board and delegates from each of NEHA's affiliates. Highlights of this year's council of delegates meeting can be summarized as follows:

- One individual, Dr. Ginger Gist, presented before the council of delegates her candidacy for the NEHA second vice president position. This spring's ballot will therefore offer one official candidate for this elective office. A five-year commitment, once a person is elected to the second vice president position, he/she automatically moves through the positions of

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first vice president, president-elect, president, and immediate past president, in subsequent years.

- Affiliates were thanked for their participation again this year in NEHA's silent auction. Altogether, \$4,771 was raised on behalf of funding support for the AEC speaker slate.

- Regarding the National Certificate of Merit, it was explained that NEHA's policy provides for each affiliate to nominate one worthy candidate for this honor. There was some discussion in the past over whether or not more than one individual from an affiliate might be able to be recognized through a National Certificate of Merit. It was clarified that only one such certificate per affiliate will be issued by the national association.

- It was also explained that every NEHA affiliate has the opportunity to offer any of NEHA's credentials at its meetings by contacting the NEHA office to make appropriate arrangements. The intention is to make taking the exam as convenient, geographically, as possible to those interested.

- It was also explained that each NEHA affiliate is now being invited to participate as a distributor for various publications that are available to NEHA. Within such an arrangement, an affiliate can make available NEHA publications at NEHA member rates to its members.

- Resolutions of appreciation were adopted by the council for outgoing president, John Barry, and for the Texas affiliate and Bob Galvan for their work on behalf of this AEC.

- The council voted to continue NEHA's policy offering its credentialed professionals the option of selecting either the title of Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Registered Sanitarian as their professional designation.

- The council accepted the \$1.485 million budget for fiscal year 1996 that previously was adopted by the board of directors.

- A briefing was given on the efforts being made by the national association to designate a special week each year (the week of the AEC) to recognize the environmental health specialist. A resolution in support of this initiative was adopted. NEHA is in the process of getting a proclamation signed by President Clinton.

- Representatives from the nine focus groups conducted at the AEC presented summaries of their discussions. In the various presentations made, special emphasis was given to initiatives ranging from NEHA becoming more of a clearinghouse on behalf of its members to offering some type of an electronic bulletin board or E-mail communication ability to its members. The information generated by the focus groups will be thoroughly studied and will become a principle emphasis for NEHA's slate of programs and services.

- A brief presentation covering some of the issues that had been raised in the affiliate role in NEHA paper was made. President Evans committed that before the end of this year an orientation manual would be prepared to clarify the affiliates role in the association. To assist in this effort, a special committee will be assembled.

### NEHA Awards

Each year at the AEC, the national association conducts a very special program of awards and honors. NEHA awards are bestowed upon those within the profession who have demonstrated, through example and achievement, excellence in the practice of environmental health. The following is a listing of both the awards and their recipients at this year's conference.

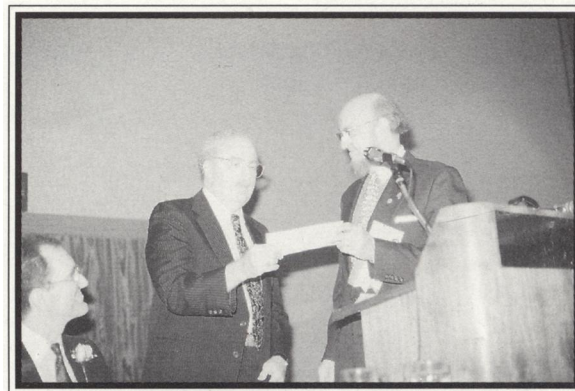
#### Walter S. Mangold Award

The 1994 Walter S. Mangold Award was presented at the president's banquet to Joseph "Jay" Walsh of Beverly, Massachusetts. Jay has worked his entire 26-year professional career in the Boston area, currently serving as Director of Public and Environmental Affairs for the city of Beverly.

In making the presentation, former Mangold Award winner, Dr. Oris Blackwell, relayed Walsh's local fame, as he was responsible for establishing and operating a local health department program that serves as an example for many other departments. He noted that

Walsh's contributions to the profession are widespread. Respected highly, he teaches, serves on the board of North Shore Community College, has participated in the CDC/UC Public Health Leadership Institute, and consults.

As NEHA's elected president from 1985-1986, Walsh was instrumental in moving NEHA closer toward international activity. He helped establish the groundwork for the relationship that exists today between NEHA and CIPHI. In addition, Walsh was a leader in expanding the boundaries of the AEC educational program to include sessions on environmental issues from around the world and speakers from many other countries.



*Dr. Oris Blackwell congratulates Jay Walsh on being selected as this year's Mangold award recipient.*

Blackwell noted that in honoring Jay Walsh, the association also honored the thousands of men and women who practice in the profession at the grassroots level.

In accepting the award, Walsh referenced mentors and the impact Walter Mangold had on his life. He noted that he was the first registered sanitarian to be employed by the Beverly Board of Health, and by committing to this degree of professionalism, a strong program was built with a strong foundation. He stressed that his own roots had forever given him an appreciation for the grassroots sanitarian and the possibilities available to such an individual. In conclusion, he gave special thanks to his Beverly staff and his family.

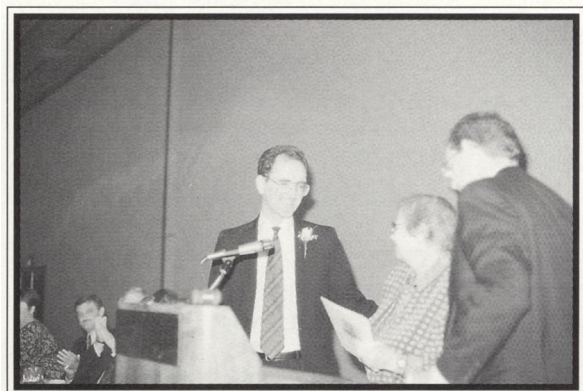
#### Walter F. Snyder Award

The 1994 Walter F. Snyder Award, jointly sponsored by NEHA and NSF International, was presented to NEHA executive director

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Nelson Fabian. Dr. Nina I. McClelland, NSF president and CEO, made the memorable presentation. As the award winner is usually informed of the honor beforehand,



*Dr. Nina McClelland presents a surprised Nelson Fabian with the Snyder award.*

Fabian was surprised not only by the announcement of this honor, but also by the surprise attendance of his wife, Marsha.

Dr. McClelland noted that this was a particularly special one for her inasmuch as it would be her last in her capacities with NSF International. She noted that many of the attributes that Fabian brought to NEHA paralleled the kinds of attributes that Walter F. Snyder himself exhibited. Referencing the nomination's material, she noted that his "perceptive analysis of issues and the needs of the profession... has resulted in the development, promotion, and implementation of numerous initiatives to improve the practitioner's performance and the profession of environmental health." She continued that "his efforts to improve the dialogue between and among individuals in the public and private sectors for the purpose of resolving mutual concerns and problems was also noteworthy and that his understanding of environmental issues and his ability to assemble a diverse group and move it toward a solution have been major factors in the success of NEHA projects—all to the direct benefit of the environmental health profession."

She shared that he was described by one NEHA member as "an exemplary leader who leads by example—whether it is through his work ethic, his dedication to promoting the profession of environmental health, or his personal commitment to excellence." She also quoted a NEHA officer who com-

mented that "there are literally thousands of environmental health workers who go to work and do a better job every day because something Nelson has either said or done has had an impact on the way those people feel about themselves and their profession."

Fabian has been the association's executive director since May 1993. Over that period of time, the association has grown from a budget of \$280,000 to a budget of close to \$2 million, and its membership has increased from under 3,000 to almost 6,000 members.

Fabian responded to the award with an emotional and appreciative thank you to Dr. McClelland, those involved in his nomination, his staff, and the membership of the association, whom he described as his many friends.

#### **Presidential Citations**

Presidential Citations are given each year by NEHA's president in recognition of extraordinary contributions that are made to the national association. NEHA's presidents typically limit the number of citations they give so as to emphasize how special they indeed are. President John Barry awarded presidential citations to president-elect Diane Evans, immediate past president Chris Wiant, *Journal* technical editor Franklin Carver, Barry's supervisor Don Willard, his assistant Jane Griffith, and his wife, Beth Barry.

#### **Samuel J. Crumbine Protection Award**

The Food Service and Packing Institute recognizes the outstanding food protection program in the country each year at the NEHA annual awards luncheon. This year the prestigious Samuel J. Crumbine Protection Award was presented to Tom Chojnacki and several of his staff on behalf of the DuPage County Health Department in northeast Illinois. As in the past year, Charlie Felix represented the institute and the Crumbine jury in making the presentation of this award. Since 1954, this award has honored the memory of the public health pioneer who outlawed the common drinking cup in the state of Kansas and eventually throughout the United States. It is fitting that Crumbine's substantive and symbolic act to eliminate a major source of disease transmission is remembered and recognized yearly.



*DuPage County Health Dept. wins the Crumbine award.*

#### **Industry Sanitarian Award**

NEHA's Industry Sanitarian Award recognizes an environmental health professional who has distinguished him/herself in the practice of environmental health in industry each year. Last year's award winner, Marsha Robbins, made the presentation this year to Michael Kasnia. Kasnia has been active in the profession for many years.

#### **Harry Bliss Editor's Award**

Each year the *Journal* honors one who has contributed in a special way to the advancement of NEHA and the environmental health profession. Presented by Dr. Franklin Carver, this year's recipient was Barry Drucker from Missouri. Dr. Carver noted an article that Drucker had written, entitled "The Blob." This memorable article offered a story with which virtually every practitioner in this profession could identify. In particular, he commented that so often in the course of a regular work day, the professional comes to term with problems rarely confronted. With little or no previous understanding, the practitioner solves it. Carver also noted that this story had been published in other sources including the *Wall*

