



# 1995 Annual Educational Conference

**F**rom the traditional—the posting of the colors by a smart-stepping colorguard—to the unique—the musical rhythms of a washboard and guitar at the President's Banquet—and from the familiar—educational programs and exhibits designed to keep members on the cutting edge of the profession—to the new—NEHA's first Career Advancement Fair—there was a wide range of enrichment and enjoyment opportunities available again this year for attendees at NEHA's Annual Educational Conference (AEC). For many, the conference was also a busy period of renewing acquaintances, caucusing, networking with other professionals, and providing input for the association's business activities.

As usual, this 59th AEC, held June 24-28 in Denver, Colorado, drew members and guests from around the country, with attendees from England, Malaysia, and Scotland providing an international flavor.

Even the familiar sometimes had a new look, as with the educational sessions on food, onsite wastewater, air quality, and hazardous materials and waste, where workshops were designed to be more interactive, providing greater opportunities for learning. The exhibit hall was larger this year with more exhibits than in recent years and greater opportunities for members to learn where the cutting edge in products and services now stood. And the Sunday evening general assembly, in only its second year, drew a surprisingly large turnout. This event, which gives the individual members of the association the opportunity to learn more about NEHA and express their opinions on issues of concern, was a hit with the degree

of participation and number of constructive comments that were featured.

Evaluations of the conference were nearly uniform in describing it as a positive experience. A summary of this year's successful AEC follows.

## Keynote Address

Setting the tone for NEHA's Annual Educational Conference was Brian O'Malley, whose talk, "Everest: The Challenge in All of Us," poignantly tied in with the conference theme, "Ascend to the Pinnacle of Your Profession." The firefighter-paramedic-mountain climber-photographer-adventurer utilized a unique blend of audio and visual support to share his story of the decision-making, the detailed and careful preparations amid the certainty of risks, and the emotional goodbyes to loved ones in preparation for climbing the world's tallest mountain. When O'Malley described the excitement and obstacles of the climb itself, and told of his party's getting to within 800 feet of the summit, only to be turned back by poor weather conditions, he left his audience with the distinct impression that his attempts at Everest were not yet over.

More important than O'Malley's story was his message that everyone has an inner Everest. He acknowledged that there is risk in making the climb, (i.e., in ascending to our pinnacles), in following one's dreams, in leaving behind the comfortable and the familiar. But he challenged his attentive audience with the thought that the rewards are well worth the risks, and that reaching the pinnacle isn't as important as the journey itself. He also emphasized and

reminded everyone that people are judged not by their circumstances, but rather by how they handle them.

For the professionals gathered at the AEC, O'Malley's presentation was a quick kick-start into high gear and the other activities of the conference. That his message was appropriate and timely is evidenced by the number of times he was referenced throughout the conference, even up through the final night's President's Banquet. An ideal keynote speaker is one who sets the stage for what is to come, and leaves an indelible impression that somehow colors the remainder of the conference. O'Malley did all that and more, and we trust that his message will impact some of our members for some time to come.

NEHA also gives special thanks to the association's good friend, CRC Press, who sponsored this year's extraordinary keynote presentation.

Within the keynote session, Dr. Richard Jackson, Director of the National Center for Environmental Health, also stirred the audience with commentary regarding the importance of environmental health within the nation's environmental agenda. He counseled conference attendees that everyone present, and indeed the profession itself, had the shared responsibility to work to insure that the public health dimension to environmental problem solving and policy making not be made subservient to other agendas and interests.

In planning its AEC, NEHA focuses on three major components: 1) education, 2) exhibits of products and services, both of which are designed to keep us on the cutting edge of



our profession, and 3) networking opportunities. Since this is NEHA's only national gathering, it's also an opportunity to conduct the business of the association. Following are the highlights of the AEC '95.

## Educational Activities

For the past two years, NEHA has conducted extensive market research to determine its membership's educational needs. The results of the research were used to both define the education to be delivered at the conference and present strategies designed to help NEHA members meet their professional goals.

NEHA has committed itself to this type of an approach inasmuch as it assures the membership that the AEC educational program will be relevant, helpful, and in tune with the rapidly changing needs of this profession. Now that AEC '95 is over, NEHA is already in the throes of its next market research project, which promises to lead to an even more meaningful conference experience for attendees next year in Chicago.

As usual, this year's educational topics were wide ranging. To note just a few for the purpose of illustrating the variety offered in NEHA's AEC, some of the session topics included *Cryptosporidium*, radon, new foodborne pathogens, bioventing hazardous wastes, management and motivation, onsite wastewater, environmental auditing, pollution prevention, pest control, environmental legislation, risk communication, HACCP, and everything in between in this enormous and broad field.

NEHA's conference is unique for being one of the few if not the only educational experience available to professionals that covers virtually the entire field of environmental health and protection. Again, the variety and scope of a workshop or class were determined by what our members want and need for professional growth. In total, over 120 different presentations were made.

In addition to market research, we also rely heavily on our technical section chairs in planning our AEC. Their special expertise, and their commitment to professional growth, are valuable assets in our planning process. It was our section chairs that found the quality speakers featured at the conference once the market research identified what the educational program had to cover. We extend special thanks to the following technical section chairs for their many hours of effort on NEHA's and this profession's behalf this past year: Dr. Ginger Gist, air/land/water; Brian J. Zamora, environmental health management; Michael Chappell,

food protection; Thomas E. Wittkopf, RS, general environmental health; Laura Studevart Thacker, RS, injury prevention/occupational health; James Balsamo, Jr., MPH, institutional environmental health; Dr. A.J. Englande, international environmental health; Jennifer Campbell, hazardous and toxic substances; and Douglas J. Ebelherr, onsite wastewater management.

## Learning through Exhibits

Our exhibitors are valued for the opportunity they give our members to learn about and to stay current on the latest in relevant products and services. It is within the exhibition event that NEHA's members have the chance to ask questions, sample or try out new equipment, and just hear about how meeting their responsibilities can be achieved more quickly and efficiently.

This year the conference featured some 80 different exhibitors. As broad as the environmental health and protection field is, NEHA's exhibition was virtually just as broad. From onsite wastewater to hazardous waste, from third party certification to indoor air quality, from various governmental programs to relevant computer software and much more, conference attendees had a remarkable opportunity at the exhibit event to learn and experience the latest in what is now available to get the job done.

NEHA is very grateful to each of the exhibitors for their involvement in the AEC.

## Networking and Social Activities

Networking is an important aspect of a conference, whether it happens during a workshop exchange on a timely topic, over a chocolate sundae—yes, we had a chocoholic's special in the exhibit hall—or at the seventh tee. Opportunities for formal and informal networking abounded at the AEC.

NEHA has long appreciated that the AEC serves as a wonderful place for professionals to meet others and/or renew friendships of long standing. So often, it is these very relationships that enable people to solve problems. The

network that one creates and nurtures at events like this is often used when that troublesome problem develops or when one is looking for a better way to do something.

One of the network traditions of the conference is the NEHA golf tournament, which this year gave divot diggers a chance to play at the scenic Eagle's Nest golf course in the Colorado mountains. The fearsome foursome of Peter Thornton, Bruce Chelikowsky, Steven Olson, and Brian Spiers took first place honors.

The "High Country Hoedown" at Heritage Square saw some of NEHA's most solid citizens "screaming and careening" their way down a half-mile long Alpine slide, eating their fill of barbecued beef and chicken, and doing a lively



Past NEHA officers were on hand: (l to r) Dr. William G. Walter, past president, 1962-63; Mel Wilkey, elected treasurer, 1957-1979; and Franklin H. Fiske, past president, 1958-59.

Western line dance. They must have enjoyed themselves; rumor has it that the buses that were scheduled to return at 11 p.m. didn't get back until 1:00 a.m.

NEHA's annual silent auction was another networking opportunity, although this sometimes consisted of members snatching bid sheets from each other or taunting colleagues to up their bids. The end justified the means; more than \$3,000 was raised to help fund speakers at future AECs. Affiliates and sustaining members and one individual member generously donated a variety of items—creative, handmade, athletic, tasty, professionally useful, decorative, and educational—to the auction. One result of the auction was that Ruth Clay of Massachusetts was the high bidder at \$580 for NEHA's offer of registration and hotel expenses for the 1996 AEC; thus, she became the first member "committed" to Chicago.

The silent auction—almost a misnomer because the event gets quite vociferous—would not be the success it has become without the contributors, the bidders, and the sideline



kibitzers who appeal to the competitive nature in all of us by prompting higher bids. Thanks for your generous and enthusiastic support of this annual fun(d)raiser.

## Association Business

In addition to providing numerous educational programs, a wide-ranging exhibit event and networking opportunity, the AEC also afforded time for NEHA to conduct its business affairs. Three business meetings were scheduled, the board of directors meeting, the general assembly, and the council of delegates meeting. Since the AEC represents the transition from one president to the next, Diane Evans, 1994-95 president, presided over the first two meetings. At the Mangold Award President's Banquet held Wednesday evening, she turned the gavel over to 1995-96 president, Steve Tackitt, who conducted the council of delegates meeting Thursday morning.

In his acceptance speech at the banquet, the new president spoke of the need for courage in making the necessary changes that would help NEHA and its membership advance into the future. Referring to the keynote speaker, President Tackitt said O'Malley's call for all of us to take risks was as appropriate for NEHA as it was for each of NEHA's members.

Following are the highlights of each business meeting:

### Board of Directors

- The board discussed a request from the International Federation of Environmental Health that the *Journal of Environmental Health* devote four pages four times a year to publishing the IFEH newsletter. Because IFEH is an association of organizations, whereas NEHA is an association of individuals with differing informational needs, the board voted instead to print excerpts of the IFEH newsletter as they apply to NEHA members.

- First Vice President Peter Thornton reported on meetings with faculty members in an effort to bring about a better balance of practitioners and researchers in the teaching of environmental health.

- It was reported that a survey is being created that can be used to obtain information on how environmental programs are organized in each state. When completed, the survey will be available on the NEHA World Wide Web page and via hard copy.

- It was reported that the contract for a *Journal* publisher has been signed, with an anticipated changeover by October 1995. NEHA will maintain editorial control of the *Journal*, but members will see gradual changes

in graphics, format, and advertising over the next few months.

- Discussion continued over the matter of a contract between the NEHA Executive Director and the association that would be beneficial to each party. Further work on this project was outlined.

- In response to a report that NEHA occasionally receives requests from third world countries for publications, the board agreed that NEHA should continue its present practice of responding with old journals and materials that do not involve special costs to the association and its members.

- It was reported that an investment strategy is being prepared for adoption at the fall conference call meeting. NEHA prefers conservative investments, such as money funds, but is also setting criteria for other investments.

- The board met with Gary Silverman and Jack Conway of the National Accreditation Council to discuss issues of mutual concern.

- The board reviewed a report of NEHA's participation in the Education Development Center project to define the components of a comprehensive school health program and develop strategies to support the implementation of a school health program. NEHA was asked to participate and provide an environmental health perspective.

- The board also reviewed a letter addressed to President Diane Evans from the San Diego Department of Environmental Health regarding the Sanitary Sewer Overflow policy committee established by the Environmental Protection Agency Wastewater Management Branch.

### General Assembly

All individual NEHA members are invited to the general assembly to hear the latest

NEHA news, to ask questions of the board and staff, to provide input into issues of concern, or to raise issues for the board to take under advisement. NEHA belongs to its individual members. This is the one opportunity each year where any member is invited to say anything about their association.

President Diane Evans reported the following to the membership:

- The handouts members received at the door—*Journal* columns she had written titled, "From Process to Product," and "All Good Things," represented her annual report.

- The new REHS/RS exam being developed in conjunction with the National Assessment Institute will be available by fall. A study guide is also being prepared.

- The *Journal of Environmental Health* will have a new publisher, although NEHA will still manage the editorial content.

- Attempts to initiate electronic communications didn't pan out as planned because the company NEHA planned to work with went out of business; however, NEHA will continue to pursue this.

- A letter from President Evans to Carol Browner, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, speaking against EPA proposals to diminish the funding and resources of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), was cited as an example of how NEHA is attempting to become more visible in terms of national environmental policy.

- The president reported a turnaround in NEHA finances; at the end of this fiscal year we anticipate a profit that is larger than last year's.

- President Evans introduced Michael Halls, International Federation of Environmental Health vice president, who invited members to the IFEH international congress scheduled May 27-31, 1996, in Aberdeen, Scotland. Mr. Hall's slide presentation showed the customs, products, and scenic beauty of the host country.

- President Evans encouraged members to apply for the NSF-sponsored sabbatical exchange, which makes \$4,000 available for a sabbatical in England.

- Joint reciprocal member dues discounts between NEHA and other international organizations were described by President Evans as another opportunity for NEHA members. For example, she said NEHA members may join the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) at discounted rates and attend the upcoming CIPHI congress at CIPHI member rates.

Other activities on the general assembly



President Steve Tackitt places the past president pin on Diane Evans, while Ms. Evans passes the President's gavel to Mr. Tackitt.



agenda included the following:

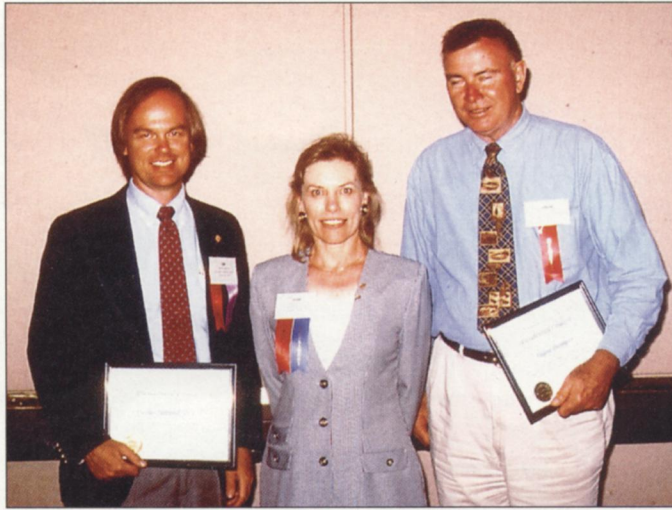
- First Vice President Peter Thornton introduced the NEHA position paper on healthcare reform. He noted that there were two issues: first, that continued delays perpetuated an already terrible system; and second, that prevention is a laudable goal that needs more emphasis in national policy. He explained that the position paper promotes simultaneous reform for public health and environmental health, because one cannot be done exclusively of the other without diminishing the result.

Second Vice President Art Bloom introduced his committee's position paper on the 1993 FDA Food Code with the comment that there was considerable interest in this topic at last year's council of delegates meeting, but interest had waned as people waited to see if the FDA planned any changes. He explained that the paper covered a broad range of subjects, which made it difficult to reach consensus. However, several changes were requested, and the paper's position was that the food code not be adopted until the changes were made. There was some discussion about adopting the code with reservations, or adopting it piecemeal rather than as a whole entity. It was reported that a meeting on NEHA's food code position would be held Wednesday morning.

Both First Vice President Thornton and Second Vice President Bloom asked attendees to share comments and concerns about the codes before the Thursday council of delegates meeting.

- Immediate Past President John Barry introduced the newly-elected NEHA officers: Second Vice President Ginger Gist, Ph.D.; and regional vice presidents, Mary Myzyska, Region 4; Douglas Ebelherr, Region 6; and David Rogers, Region 9. He then reported that there were two announced candidates for next year's second vice presidential election, Gary Coleman of Kentucky and Don Pugh of Alabama.

- The question of whether to use mail ballots when elections are uncontested was introduced by President-elect Steve Tackitt. He cited Ginger Gist's recent election as an ex-



President Diane Evans awards Eugene Devenport and Dr. Tom Hatfield with Presidential Citations.

ample of running unopposed and reported that some NEHA members had questioned the association about the expense involved in sending out ballots in such cases.

Several members spoke in favor of the present procedure even when there is only one candidate on the ballot. The basis for this position was the concern that the democratic process be followed even if it meant checking the box for the only candidate listed on the ballot. The opportunity to check a box and, in so doing, vote was deemed to be worth the expense of the ballot.

Regional Vice President Dick Pantages reported that the board had taken this question under advisement at its spring meeting and had reached the same conclusion: that members had a right to vote, regardless of the number of candidates. The issue was raised at this assembly, he said, so that members would have a chance to provide input.

At this point, the meeting opened for general discussion.

- The Georgia affiliate reported that they had received a proclamation from the governor citing June 28 as Environmental Health Day in Georgia; Alabama reported that it is Environmental Health Week in that state. President Evans reported that a NEHA committee had prepared a packet to assist affiliates in pursuing similar declarations in their states.

- Various members made several requests: that the board monitor what's happening on the state, local, and federal level and take positions on environmental issues; that NEHA consider videotaping AEC sessions and that non-attending members be allowed to view these tapes for a small fee; and that NEHA consider having a lobbyist in Washington, D.C.

## Council of Delegates

NEHA's council of delegates, made up of the board of directors and affiliate presidents or their representatives, annually meets after their focus groups and the conference educational sessions. This is the time of the year when NEHA's new leadership takes their seats. President Steve Tackitt presided over the council meeting. Highlights of the council meeting follow:

- Two candidates for second vice president, Gary Coleman and Don Pugh, made brief presentations. There were no nominations from the floor. Bob Vincent of Florida introduced himself as a candidate for Region 7 Vice President when Mike Moon's term expires in 1996. It was reported that Lt. Col. Tony Aiken has been endorsed by the Uniformed Services as a candidate for second vice president in the spring 1997 elections.

- A couple of delegates stated their opinion that NEHA should consider having a presence in Washington, D.C. This presence could take the form of an individual, a network, or a tree that can be activated when needed. It was also recommended that NEHA prepare camera ready inserts on its products and services that could be used in affiliates' newsletters.

- David Barowsky, president of the Illinois affiliate, commended the board and the NEHA staff for the work done on the AEC and invited the delegates to the 1996 AEC at Chicago's Palmer House.

- There was extensive discussion on the position paper recommending against adoption of the 1993 FDA Food Code. While some agreed the code wasn't perfect, the consensus was that NEHA should support the FDA in its effort and approve the code with reservations. Two delegates spoke against "not throwing the baby out with the bathwater" over a few minor issues which could be addressed later. Several delegates expressed concern over the lack of uniformity of the code, with states revising the code for their own use. The motion to approve the position paper was defeated. President Tackitt asked that comments and concerns be forwarded to First Vice President Art Bloom so that another draft of this position paper might be developed.

- The position paper on healthcare reform was adopted. The comment was made that the paper represented a good start but that it was short on specifics.

- President Tackitt reported that the radon classes sponsored by NEHA have been very successful. Bob Vincent claimed the radon class was the best class NEHA had ever sponsored and urged delegates with radon in their



state to participate in the program.

- Immediate Past President Diane Evans reminded delegates of the career enhancing opportunity, sponsored by NSF International, to conduct a sabbatical in the United Kingdom. She distributed informational packets to delegates.

- A resolution that thanked Diane Evans for her hard work was introduced and passed.

- The council accepted the budget that was previously adopted by the board of directors.

- Based on the discussion at the general assembly regarding a mail ballot when a candidate runs unopposed, President Tackitt summarized that the consensus was to continue to have a mail ballot.

- President Tackitt explained that since NEHA now has a general assembly, as of the 1994 AEC, it might be more appropriate to have nominations from the floor for the office of second vice president presented before that body, instead of at the council of delegates meeting, which is the present practice. This would allow NEHA members who do the actual voting, to meet and hear the candidates at the start of the conference. Members would also then have the opportunity to visit with the candidates throughout the remainder of the conference. President Tackitt clarified that should there be more than two candidates for the office, the primary election would be conducted by the council of delegates.

The council agreed to this revision. In order to implement it, however, the NEHA membership must approve. A committee will draft the necessary bylaws revisions and present it to the membership for a vote on the spring ballot.

- President Tackitt reported that the orientation manual for affiliate presidents had been completed. The manual was mailed to affiliate presidents and proxies before the AEC.

- Executive Director Fabian reminded affiliates that they can serve as subdistributors of NEHA publications and by so doing, offer NEHA publications to their members at NEHA member rates. He invited interested affiliates to contact him.

- The executive director reported on a meeting held the previous day with representatives from state boards on the new REHS/RS credential. He advised that where NEHA had names and addresses, it would contact each state registration board and present a proposal inviting them to participate in the new national credentialing program.

- For the third consecutive year, focus groups were conducted during the AEC involving the presidents of each NEHA affiliate. These ses-

sions are held to insure that grassroots input and influence are both getting into the association and influencing the direction of NEHA programs and services.

Two issues confronting NEHA were assigned to the focus groups: 1) define environmental health, and 2) specify how the environmental health professional measures professional advancement. The information garnered from these focus group was reported at the council meeting. This information will now be transformed into guidance that NEHA will use in connection with its policies and programs.

## Awards and Honors

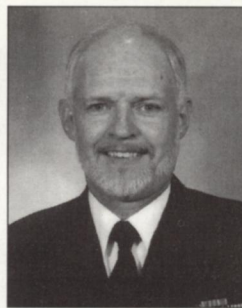
An important activity at each AEC is the awarding of special recognition to members for their professional achievements and for their contributions to the profession of environmental health. From the Mangold Award, representing the highest achievement in the field, to the Certificates of Merit, which are presented to affiliate members for their year of distinctive effort, the award program plays a significant role in NEHA and at the AEC.

### Walter S. Mangold Award

This award, NEHA's most prestigious, is named for the late Walter S. Mangold, professor of public health at the University of California School of Public Health, an outstanding sanitarian and educator, and first editor of *The Sanitarian*, forerunner of NEHA's *Journal of Environmental Health*. The Mangold Award recognizes superior achievement and attainment of the highest standards in the profession.

The award consists of a cash honorarium and plaque, and inscription of the winner's name on a larger rotating plaque.

The 1995 Mangold Award was presented to career Public Health Service Officer Capt. Bruce Chelikowsky, head of the Environmental Management Branch of the Indian Health Service. In making the presentation, former Mangold winner Sarah Kotchian referred to a busy schedule of concurrent Public Health Service assignments that had him working as chief sanitarian (1989-1994) with the Indian Health Service (1984-) and as emergency preparedness coordinator (1980-) involved in activities related to Opera-



CAPT Bruce Chelikowsky, 1995 Walter S. Mangold Award winner.

tion Desert Storm, hurricanes Andrew and Iniki, floods in the midwest and the south, and refugee camps for the Cuban/Haitian refugees.

Capt. Chelikowsky has a bachelor of science degree from Xavier University, Cincinnati, and a master's in public health from Tulane University, New Orleans. He has authored several publications, including the co-authored, *Environmental Health Field Manual for Sanitarians*. The Mangold joins a list of other awards he has received throughout his professional career, including the AAS's Davis Calvin Wagner Award, the PHS Commendation Award, the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal, and the Assistant Secretary for Health's Award for Outstanding Accomplishment.

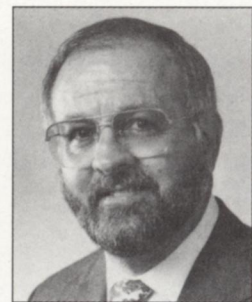
He serves NEHA as Region 10 vice president.

### Walter F. Snyder Award

The Walter F. Snyder Award, jointly presented by NEHA and the NSF-I, is named for Walter F. Snyder, who established the National Sanitation Foundation, now NSF International, at the University of Michigan, School of Public Health, in 1944. He served as NSF's executive director, pioneering the concept of solving environmental and health problems through cooperation, until his death in 1965. The award consists of a glass-enclosed trophy clock.

The Walter F. Snyder Award for Achievement in Attaining Environmental Quality was presented to Leonard Rice, health director of Edisto District, South Carolina, where he supervises all public health programs. Rice, who has a degree in environmental health from East Tennessee State University and a master of environmental science from the University of Oklahoma, is credited by his peers for being an acknowledged expert and resource person. His honorary memberships in the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors attest to the esteem in which he is held. He is an environmental health consultant to two departments in Michigan, has served as an expert witness, and has promoted public health on a goodwill trip to Russia.

In South Carolina, he is credited for championing the public health of his constituents



Leonard Rice, 1995 Walter F. Snyder Award winner.





President Evans and Journal Technical Editor Dr. Franklin Carver honor Scholarship winner, Carolyn Jean Oyster.

and the environmental safety of his home state for more than 30 years.

As president of NEHA in 1991-1992, he presided over a major revision of the Articles of Incorporation and appointed a task force to consider the future of environmental health and to make recommendations for the future of the profession. Rice is serving his second term on NSF's Council of Public Health Consultants.

#### Presidential Citations

*These citations are presented by the NEHA president in recognition of extraordinary contributions made to the association.*

President Diane Evans presented Presidential Citations to the following: the NEHA staff, the Santa Cruz Health Department staff, Eugene Devenport, Diane Eastman, Dr. Tom Hatfield, and Gary Stephany.

#### Industry Sanitarian Award

*This NEHA award recognizes an environmental health professional who has distinguished himself or herself in the practice of environmental health in industry.*

The award this year was appreciatively presented to Robert Harrington of the National Restaurant Association.

#### Harry Bliss Editor's Award

*The Journal of Environmental Health annually honors a member who has contributed in a special way to the advancement of NEHA and the environmental health profession through their work on behalf of the Journal.*

This year, Dr. John Barry was awarded this prestigious honor for the many contributions he has made to this program, including writ-

ing articles, peer reviewing manuscripts, restructuring the entire program, and composing the first Journal CE quiz. Dr. Barry has always been available to help with this program at a moment's notice. He also sits on the Journal Editorial Advisory Board.

#### NEHA/IEHO Sabbatical Exchange Program

This year's sabbatical exchange award was given to Mia Zmud of Virginia. This award,

funded by NSF International and managed by NEHA is one of the most distinctive honors available to any NEHA member. By virtue of an exceptional essay and only after an in-person screening by the award's jury, Mia was selected to represent NEHA, NSF, and this profession in a four-week sabbatical to England, which she will be taking this fall.

#### Past President's Award

In recognition of all of his devoted service to the association for well over a decade, the NEHA Past President's Award was given this year to former Region 13 vice president, Garland Gobble.

#### Outgoing Regional Vice Presidents

President Diane Evans presented commemorative plaques to outgoing regional vice presidents, Robert Hutchison, who represented Region 4 for six years, and James Schnackenberg, Region 6, and Phyllis Boucher, Region 9, both of whom served three years.

In all, the AEC in Denver was a hit with a capital H. In fact, so enthused were the participants that the conversation was heard many times that Denver, NEHA's headquarter's home, should be a regular stop on the AEC circuit. Who knows?!

See you next year in Chicago. 🇺🇸

## Certificates of Merit

Each affiliate may select one of its members for a national Certificate of Merit, which recognizes exemplary contributions to the profession of environmental health.

#### Certificates were awarded to the following individuals, listed by affiliate:

Alabama, Kenneth M. Sharpless  
 Alaska, Geri Lohmer  
 Arizona, George Williams (posthumously)  
 California, Douglas E. Turner  
 Connecticut, Judith Wrenn  
 Florida, Peter Thornton  
 Idaho, Richard M. Gabriel  
 Illinois, John Marcello  
 Indiana, Steven Creech  
 Industry Affiliate, Tom Chestnut  
 Iowa, Karen Sheppard  
 Louisiana, Richard Graham  
 Massachusetts, Vartkas Karaian  
 Michigan, Patrick Krause  
 Minnesota, Larry Carlson

Missouri, David L. Stull  
 Nebraska, Pamela Plunkett  
 New Jersey, Debra Vaccarella  
 North Carolina, Richard Clayton, III  
 North Dakota, Keith Johnson  
 Ohio, Susan Sutherland  
 Oklahoma, Ron Spencer  
 South Carolina, Samuel H. McNutt  
 Texas, Robert L. Drummond (retired)  
 Uniformed Services, Cecil Abels  
 Virginia, Keith C. Privett  
 Washington, Janet Anderberg  
 Wisconsin, David Holman  
 Wyoming, Chuck Sykes