

"Capitol"-izing on a Bigger and Better AEC

Introduction

It continues to get bigger and better. At least that's what we've been told by many of the people who attended the latest Annual Educational Conference and Exhibition in Washington D.C. "It's the best conference I've attended in 20 years," one member told our staff. "It gets better each year," wrote Eugene Devenport. Carol Schwar noted, "I found it difficult to decide what sessions to attend due to so many excellent topics!"

We also heard from Capt. Tom Hunt: "I thought it was the best that I have attended ... this year's conference provided more in-depth educational sessions than others that I have attended." He also commented on the program book. "The formatting of the binder, e.g., space for notes, organizational tips, daily

agenda page, and attendees and speaker information was excellent."

Taking into account members, nonmembers, vendors, speakers, and guests, the staff estimated attendance to be upwards of 1,500 people. That made the conference NEHA's largest in at least two decades.

The AEC focus is threefold: education, exhibitions/trade show, and networking opportunities. Additionally, a great deal of business is conducted at your conference by NEHA, its committees, and its affiliates. There are also meetings of caucus groups, focus groups, and even other organizations—such as the American Academy of Sanitarians—which take advantage of this opportunity to convene their national membership.

In planning for upcoming conferences,

NEHA staff will build on several innovations introduced this year. The innovations ranged from a first-ever networking luncheon to educational tours to standing-room-only sessions on geographic information systems (GIS) to a differentiation within the educational program between basic and more advanced educational programming. To promote networking, the program book for the first time also included a list of conference attendees.

A major highlight of the AEC experience this year—and certainly an activity that was unprecedented for NEHA—was the Monday evening theme party featuring President Bill Clinton look-alike and sound-alike Damian Mason (right down to the jutting jaw and Arkansas drawl). With a White House facade, red, white, and blue bunting, a Dixieland band, and a hearty American-style dinner of ribs and chicken setting the stage, NEHA's special guest entered the party room preceded by the sounds of "Hail to the Chief." NEHA President Peter Thornton introduced the special guest and was frisked by the secret service men (imposters) before being allowed to take his seat. The hall was then filled with laughter as Mason spoke about his presidency, Hilary and Chelsea, and his detractors, all the while maintaining Clinton's "thumbs up" signature gesture.

This year's grand conference had many other highlights, ranging from award presentations to the business transacted at NEHA's Board of Directors meeting. Many of these matters are summarized below.

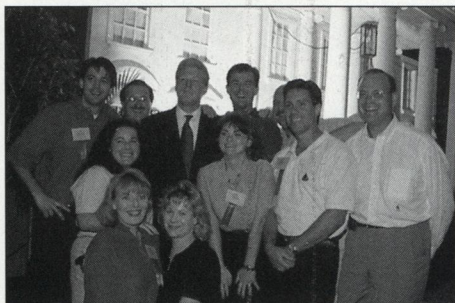
All in all, and based on conference evaluations that have already been analyzed, it seems as if this year's AEC met most of its lofty objectives with respect to education, networking, and the exhibit/trade show. The constructive suggestions offered on many evaluations



The AEC officially kicks off with the presentation of the colors at the keynote session.



NEHA President, Pete Thornton, presents Mangold award to Charlie Felix.



NEHA members enjoy posing with "The President."

will serve as the basis for making your annual conference next year even more of a rousing success.

Sponsorships

The success of the theme party and a number of the other conference events can be attributed to the generous contributions of sponsors who underwrote some of the event costs. The theme party was made possible by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., a first-time sponsor. Other corporations and organizations that annually support the AEC and enable NEHA to present quality and variety in its activities and educational programming are

- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)—Health Risk Communication Program Development;
- Taco Bell—cosponsor of the Walter S. Mangold Banquet;
- American Academy of Sanitarians—the keynote session and cosponsor with NEHA of the scholarship program;
- PRISM-PROfessional Integrated Systems Management—"Evening Under the Stars";
- NSF International—President's Reception, Snyder Award, Sabbatical Exchange;
- U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—Emerging Pathogens Workshop;
- National Center for Environmental Health—general conference support;
- Mars Air Door—program book;
- National Drinking Water Clearinghouse—

Charlie Felix Wins 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, a plaque, and an inscription of the winner's name on a larger plaque at the NEHA headquarters office.

For 30 years, in the course of editing three publications on environmental health and public health, educator and communicator Charles (Charlie) W. Felix focused everyone's attention on the achievements of others. Now, after succumbing to the lure of retirement, Charlie is finding that the spotlight is relentlessly focused on him, first by the Past President's Award (see pages 27-28), and then by the highest honor that NEHA can bestow, the Walter S. Mangold Award.

Charlie's exemplary career began in 1966, when he accepted the position of associate editor for the monthly *Health Officer's News Digest*, published by what is now known as the Foodservice & Packaging Institute, Inc. (FPI). Charlie's keen ability to communicate ideas and values to his colleagues, combined with his genuine interest in contributing to the worthy field of environmental health, inspired him to pursue a Master's degree in Public Health—which he received from Yale University in 1969.

He went on to become vice president and director of Environmental Health, Public Affairs and Communications at FPI, and also became the editor of *Environment News Digest* (successor to *Health Officer's News Digest*), *Food Talk*, and *Food Protection Report*.

In 1985, Charlie established a new career as a public health consultant when he opened his own private practice, Charles Felix Associates. His consulting services were retained by clients such as FPI, the Packaged Ice Association, NSF International, and the National Humane Education Society. During this time, he continued to serve as editor of the three publications previously listed.

Perhaps one of the finest examples of Charlie's genuine interest in encouraging others through the recognition of performance is the Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award, which was previously awarded by FPI but is now cosponsored by nine organizations, including NEHA.

The Crumbine award is presented annually to a local government health unit that has demonstrated sustained excellence in food protection. To generate nationwide interest in striving for excellence among food protection programs, Charlie wisely alternated the presentation of the Crumbine award among three different national conferences, including NEHA's. He personally advised runners-up about areas in their programs where they could make improvements, and he encouraged them to reapply for the award in following years—which they did.

Over the years, NEHA's 1997 Mangold Award recipient has held leadership positions in a number of organizations, including the American Public Health Association, the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association, and the International Association of Milk, Food, and Environmental Sanitarians. From these and other groups he has received numerous awards for his extraordinary contributions to the environmental health profession, with the Mangold representing just the icing on a very large cake.

In addition to his skills in mentoring, teaching, educating, communicating, and consulting, Charlie has a very special trait—he has the ability to generate enthusiasm. Former NEHA President Steve Tackitt referred to Charlie as always exuding positive energy. "Anyone who believes environmental health is lackluster and fraught with dead ends," he wrote, "should have a chat with Charlie. At the end of the conversation, the person will know that environmental health is the most exciting career, full of opportunities, and one in which the personal rewards of serving mankind are never ending."

International Expert Wins Snyder Award

The Walter F. Snyder Award for Achievement in Attaining Environmental Quality, jointly presented by NEHA and NSF International, 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.

Roy Hickman, senior director general for the Canadian government's Environmental Health Directorate, received the Walter F. Snyder Award in recognition of his contributions to improving the quality of life on a worldwide scale.

As a leading expert in irradiation and food safety, and because of his work in developing major environmental legislation in Canada, his expertise and guidance have been sought by organizations around the world. He has advised the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, and the United Nations Environment Programme, among others. He served a three-year appointment as the first director of the International Project in the Field of Food Irradiation, cosponsored by the FAO/International Atomic Energy Agency, Division of Atomic Agriculture, and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Just last year, he was appointed Chair of the Programme Advisory Committee of the International Programme on Chemical Safety. This year, he is president of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety, which brings together senior representatives from government, industry, and environmental nongovernmental organizations from more than 170 countries to provide guidance, develop strategies, and foster understanding of issues in the field of chemical safety.

He has been a member of NSF International's Council of Public Health Consultants since 1983 and served as council chairman in 1995.

In Canada, Mr. Hickman has led federal, provincial, and industrial groups in developing major environmental legislation concerning environmental protection, environmental assessment, drinking water, materials safety, and tobacco control.

His integrity, dedication, common-sense approach to problem solving, and ability to build consensus on many controversial issues are a living testament to the qualities that define the Snyder Award. The result, as one of his colleagues described it, is that his efforts "have increased the quality of life not only for people in North America, but also for the world at large."

conference newsletter and general conference support;

- Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association—educational programs;
- Food Marketing Institute—educational programs;
- Industry Council of Food Safety—educational programs;
- National Automatic Merchandising Association—educational programs; and
- National Restaurant Association—educational programs.

Our thanks to our sponsors for their generous support and for enabling us to present a

bigger and better AEC!

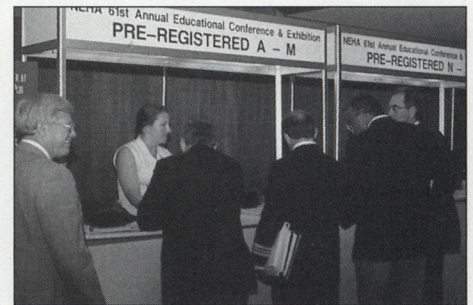
So much happened during the AEC, ranging from preconference sessions on ISO 14,000 to the final good-byes at the Mangold President's Banquet, that we have prepared the following summary both for those who weren't there, and, most importantly, for those who were, but who couldn't possibly have found the time to take it all in.

Opening Ceremonies and Keynote

NEHA was indeed fortunate this year to have Dr. Audrey Manley, Acting U.S. Surgeon General, address the conference at the keynote session. It was also Dr. Manley's last official act



Dennis Mangino, President & CEO of NSF International presents Snyder award to Roy Hickman.



Registration area, overseen by NEHA Administrative Manager Becky Roland.

in office before she moved on to accept the position of President at Spelman College in Atlanta. Her inspiring keynote was therefore a special courtesy to NEHA and its members.

Dr. Manley offered a wide-ranging presentation that emphasized the importance of environmental health not only for the field of public health, but also for overall national health policy. She also stressed the importance of this profession and urged all environmental health practitioners to maintain their spirit and dedication, even though many of the prevention-related accomplishments of this profession never get recognized.

Awards and Honors

An integral part of your annual conference is the recognition of individuals for their excellence, their professionalism, and their contributions to environmental health. Whether they are receiving the sabbatical award, a certificate, or the Mangold Award, it's a special occasion when members are recognized by their peers in the professional setting of your AEC.

The following awards were made during the AEC.

Walter S. Mangold Award

NEHA's highest honor was bestowed this year on a very deserving Charlie Felix for his many years of service to environmental health. Please see the accompanying story on page 25, which details Charlie's contributions.



Dr. Darryl Barnett receives the Sabbatical Exchange Ambassador Award from NSF Vice President and former NEHA President, Harry Grenawitzke.



Dr. Franklin Carver receives the David Calvin Wagner Award from Admiral Dr. John Todd.

Walter F. Snyder Award

The Snyder Award was bestowed this year on Roy Hickman. This award is a very special act of joint recognition by NEHA and NSF International. Please see the accompanying story on page 26.

NEHA/CIEH Sabbatical Exchange Program

This program, financed by NSF International and managed by NEHA and its English counterpart, CIEH, enables a deserving NEHA member to spend a four-week sabbatical in England while a CIEH member spends four weeks in the United States.

Darryl Barnett, associate professor at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky, was selected as this year's sabbatical ambassador. Applicants were screened on the basis of their portfolios and essays, and final-



Crumbine Award is given to Madison (Wisconsin) County Health Department.

ists were personally interviewed by the jury for this award.

Certificates of Merit

Each NEHA affiliate is invited to have one of its own members nationally recognized for exemplary contributions to the profession. A national Certificate of Merit is prepared for and presented to each honoree. A listing of this year's national certificate of merit award winners is presented to the right.

David Calvin Wagner Award

This award is sponsored by the American Academy of Sanitarians and is presented for such distinguished achievement in the environmental health field that it merits the academy's recognition.

This year, the Wagner Award was given to Dr. Franklin Carver.

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 presented to David Yates McBrayer. McBrayer has distinguished himself over a long career in environmental health and has earned the respect and recognition of his peers in both the public and the private sectors.

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 work on behalf of the Journal.

This year's recipient was Dean Boeing, who was cited for being the first Journal contributor to write a Journal article; prepare an accompanying continuing education quiz; and develop, with the NEHA staff, a press release on the article. In addition, Boeing's article, "Persistence and Antibiotic Immunity of Bacteria from a Wetland Used as a Medical Waste Landfill," was on a topic precisely positioned at the intersection of health and the environment.

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. Award recipients are announced at the awards program, and certificates signed by the NEHA resident and executive director are forwarded to affiliate presidents so presentations can be made at affiliate meetings.

- Alaska—John Spriggs
- Arizona—Carrie Senseman
- California—Jack Petralia
- Connecticut—Barbara Fredericks, R.S.
- Florida—Virginia M. Beard
- Georgia—Barbara Wenzel
- Idaho—Robert Webster
- Illinois—Patricia Welch
- Indiana—Deanna English
- Michigan—Gary Witkowski
- Missouri—Joe Hainline
- National Capital Area—Robert C. Irving, Jr.
- Nevada—Jack Fralinger
- New Jersey—Greg Nagy
- New Mexico—Tom Duker
- North Carolina—Connie J. Pixley, R.S.
- Ohio—Liz White, R.S.
- Oregon—Ron Baker
- South Carolina—Robert L. Dickinson, Jr., R.E.H.S.
- Utah—Joel Hoyt
- Virginia—Gary Switzer
- Wyoming—Shirley Etzell

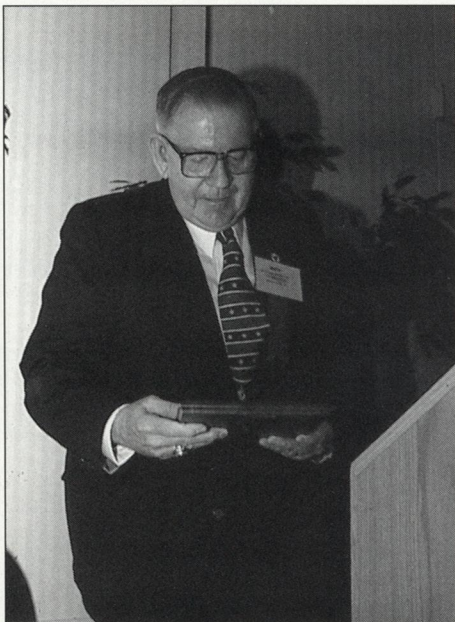
Crumbine Award

The Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award is presented annually by ten cosponsors, including NEHA, to a local government health unit in recognition of the excellence of its food protection program. Only local government health units in the United States and Canada are eligible for the Crumbine Award.

The award was presented to the Madison, Wisconsin, Health Department. Tommy Schneider, director of environmental health and laboratories for the department, accepted the award on behalf of her staff and program. This was the first time the award had been given to a program in NEHA Region 4.

Past Presidents' Award

The Past Presidents group, made up of former NEHA presidents, annually recognizes a NEHA



David McBrayer receives Industry Sanitarian Award.

member for outstanding achievement.

Their award this year was presented to Charles Felix, who recently retired after a 30-year environmental health career that included editing three publications, serving as a public health consultant, and taking active leadership roles in several organizations. This is the first time that a Mangold recipient has also been recognized with the Past Presidents' Award.

NEHA/AAS Scholarship Awards

The scholarship program, sponsored both by NEHA and the American Academy of Sanitarians, awarded one \$2,000 graduate scholarship and three undergraduate scholarships worth \$1,000 each this year.

The graduate scholarship was awarded to Robin Newbrey, supervisor of environmental health education and community outreach for Weld County Health Department, Colorado, and a student at University of Northern Colorado. Undergraduate scholarships were won by Steven Charles Hall, Ferris State University, Michigan; Jeremy Scott Peacock, University of Georgia; and Michelle Marie Vitello, California State University at Northridge.

Past President Pin

Outgoing NEHA President Pete Thornton was recognized by the association for his exceptional year of service with both a past president's pin and a past president's plaque.

Presidential Citations

These citations are very special to the NEHA President and are given to those individuals who gave of themselves during the president's term of office. They are few in number and are meant to

recognize extraordinary contributions made on behalf of the association.

Jim Dingman, Ginger Gist, Tekla Thornton, Willard Galbreath, Paul Fell, E. Jerry Tyler, and Steve Weiner were honored with presidential citations this year.

Educational Activities

We're always trying to improve the AEC, and this year was no exception. For the first time, we offered Blue Ribbon Sessions, which were actually repeat presentations of sessions that were popular but which might have been missed because of scheduling conflicts. With so many educational programs scheduled each day, it was sometimes difficult for attendees to choose between classes being held at the same time. Next year we plan to take this a step further by identifying the Blue Ribbon Sessions in advance of the AEC and informing you of them so that you can schedule your classes accordingly.

Also new this year was a tour of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, sponsored by the National Capital Area Environmental Health Association, and an On-site wastewater systems field trip to Anne Arundel County in Maryland. The results were so positive, that we plan to schedule field trips during AEC 1998 in Las Vegas. The idea is to provide more hands-on learning experiences.

For our student members, and for those looking at different career options, a Career Mart was also offered. Advice and useful information for those considering their career options was provided.

NEHA also expanded on its customized learning modules for professionals who wanted to concentrate on single subject areas of interest. As such, self-contained conferences were designed and offered on food protection, air quality, hazardous materials/waste, on-site wastewater, emerging pathogens, and management/GIS. While attendees receive better value by registering for the entire conference, the modules may be a better fit for those professionals who are limited to just one or two days at the AEC and who have time to focus on only one area. Use of the learning modules has also enabled NEHA to target its marketing to members and nonmembers in specific areas of the profession.

Another plus this year, and one which attendees appreciated, was the use of abstracts in the program book. As the AEC moves toward increasingly enhanced educational programming, geared toward meeting specific member needs, there has been a correspond-

ing change in how we present the information so that attendees can make wiser choices on the sessions they will attend. This year's abstracts described the material to be covered, the learning objectives associated with each session, and whether the session was basic or advanced.

As usual, market research plays a big role in how an AEC is planned. The process begins immediately after the annual conference, when attendees' survey forms are reviewed and tabulated. Hundreds of interviews are also conducted to insure that we are understanding what members need in the way of educational help. The market research continues right up until the next AEC is in session.

Even as market research helps identify our members' educational needs and the topics to be covered, it is NEHA's technical section chairs who have the very important task of fine tuning the topic and identifying the profes-



A Presidential Citation is given to Jim Dingman, NEHA Regional Vice President.



Presidential Citation is given to Paul Fell.

sionals who can best deliver the education to the attendee.

On behalf of the hundreds of environmental health professionals who benefited from the long hours and diligent work of our section chairs, we say "thank you" to the following:

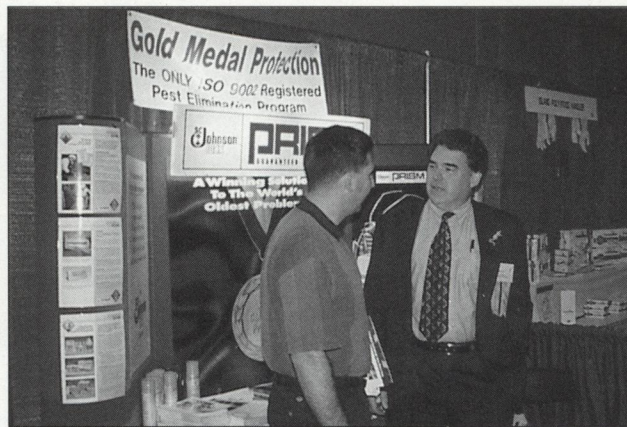
- Tim Radtke, air/land/water;
- Brian J. Zamora, environmental health management;
- Larry Robertson, R.S., food protection;
- Laura Studevart Thacker, R.S., injury prevention/occupational health;
- John A. Steward, R.S., MPH, general environmental health;
- James Balsamo Jr., MPH, institutional environmental health;
- Vicki Everly, REHS, international environmental health;
- Jennifer Campbell, hazardous and toxic substances; and
- Paul Chase, on-site wastewater management.

Learning Through Exhibits

The exhibits at the AEC represent an important component of our educational programming, because what is seen and heard in the exhibit hall can reinforce and enhance what is seen and heard in the classroom. NEHA actively recruits exhibitors who can present what is new and cutting edge in the profession, and the effort is rewarded when attendees report that they have learned about educational opportunities through exhibitors, and that they were finally able to have hands-on experience with equipment they had read or heard about. A noticeable trend in the exhibit hall, and one that attendees have commented on, is that exhibitors are not there for the hard sell; instead, they are assuming a teaching role and helping AEC attendees to understand what is new and how it will affect their jobs. Some exhibitors are also serving as presenters in AEC educational sessions, so that the classroom and the exhibit hall are an integrated educational experience.

Networking and Social Activities

Networking has been identified by members as their number-two reason for joining NEHA; thus, we are making an ever-increasing effort to enhance networking opportunities in business and social settings at the AEC. Net-



Exhibitors teach us about new products and services (both photos above).

working is even more valuable if it continues after the conference; to encourage this, lists of attendees, speakers, and exhibitors were included in the program books that were distributed to those who attended the full conference.

For the first time, a networking luncheon was scheduled so that conference participants could meet over lunch without any agenda whatsoever—except to break bread with their colleagues. The NEHA staff is working on making the networking luncheon a bigger and better event in 1998.

A traditional competition at the AEC is the golf tournament, which this year was held at Meadows Farms, famous for its par-6, 700-yard monster. Members of the winning foursome this year were the Geoffrey Langer party and Edwin Flutte.

In keeping with its goal of a bigger and better AEC, NEHA offered more sightseeing tours than usual. Participants enjoyed tours of the Washington Cath-

edral, embassy row, monuments, power institutions such as the Treasury Building, and the Smithsonian. Specially planned activities that were definitely off the beaten tourist track were a mystery trip and an evening at the beautiful Russian Embassy. When an "Evening Under the Stars," featuring a concert on the Mall by a military band, was rained out, music lovers instead enjoyed a "Monuments by Moonlight" tour of Washington's high spots. Graciously hosting this latter event was the perennial AEC sponsor, PRISM—Professional Integrated Systems Management.

Another activity that certainly got bigger this year (and, we hope, better) was the Silent Auction. Expanded in size, the auction this year earned more than \$4,400, a substantial increase over the \$3,715 raised in Chicago. Proceeds help support the AEC speaker fund, which covers speaker honorariums, travel and hotel expenses, and the cost of duplicating handouts. The big bidder at the silent auction was Colin Thacker, who paid \$680 for his registration fee and hotel stay at next year's conference in Las Vegas and thus became the first member to commit to AEC 1998.

Donations this year came from affiliates, sustaining members, individual members, and a growing number of exhibitors. Thanks to these generous contributors, and to the many folks who bid generously on the items donated, the auction continues to be a valued tradition at the AEC!

Association Business

Because the AEC is NEHA's only membership-wide gathering each year, this is also the time when the association conducts its busi-



NEHA Executive Assistant and Silent Auction Coordinator Tabby Bernardo.



NEHA President Pete Thornton confers with "The President" At Washington theme party.

ness affairs. The NEHA Board of Directors, composed of national officers and regional vice presidents, meets on the Saturday before the start of the AEC. The general assembly, which is open to the NEHA membership, is held Sunday evening and gives members and directors a chance to speak directly to each other about association affairs, concerns, and issues. It is at this meeting that nominees for second vice president present their candidacies.

The Council of Delegates (COD), made up of the NEHA Board of Directors and delegates from the affiliates, reviews policy papers, considers the NEHA budget, conducts focus groups, and acts on changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws before these changes



Alan Johnson, President of CIEH in England is recognized by NEHA President, Pete Thornton.

go to the membership for a vote. The COD also acts on agenda items presented by the board and the membership and, if there are more than two candidates for second vice president, it conducts a primary election.

Following are highlights of each of the NEHA business meetings held in conjunction with the 1997 AEC.

Board of Directors

- Region 8 Vice President Mia Zmud announced that she was relocating to Salt Lake City, Utah, and was therefore unable to serve out her term. Larry Yates from Virginia was selected by the board as her replacement.
- No action was taken on a recommendation that technical section chairs serve three-year terms.
- The board adopted proposed position papers on children's environmental health, global climate change and endocrine disrupters.
- Because of interpretation problems and the desire to be fair, the board elected not to support reduced memberships for unemployed members and families in which there are two NEHA members.
- A special report and set of recommendations concerning a national presence for NEHA was considered and adopted. In essence, the report recommends that NEHA remain active on a national level but conduct such affairs within its current arrangements and systems. The report also stresses that NEHA needs to maintain a program of liaisons with various federal agencies.
- The board accepted a petition to form a new technical section on environmental health research.
- There was discussion on two items relating to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws and accepted NEHA policy: 1) that each affiliate must have a minimum of 15 NEHA members to maintain its affiliation with NEHA; and 2) that the president of the affiliate must be a NEHA member. The significance of these considerations had to do with who could be an official delegate to the Council of Delegates meeting. More specifically, the issue was raised about whether an affiliate not in compliance with its affiliation requirements could be represented on the council. President Thornton appointed a committee to further discuss these issues and make recommendations at a future meeting.
- Mia Zmud presented her committee's re-



Changing of the guard with incoming NEHA President Art Bloom and Immediate Past President Peter Thornton and his wife Tekla.



Incoming NEHA President, Art Bloom, presents his vision of the year at banquet.

port on satellite conferencing, and this led to a lengthy discussion about how this technology could best be used by NEHA for the benefit of its members.

- The board approved the model body art code as prepared by the Committee Studying Body Art. To avoid legal implications for NEHA, the code will include a disclaimer recommended by NEHA's attorney.
- Credentialing Board Chair Rick Collins suggested the board establish a protocol for reciprocity with foreign professionals.
- An arrangement that involves closer ties with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was explored with FDA officials.
- A significantly enlarged set of membership benefits was reviewed with the board along with a timetable for their availability.
- A decision on the site for the 2000 AEC was deferred pending further information on potential sites.
- Support was given for NEHA to move

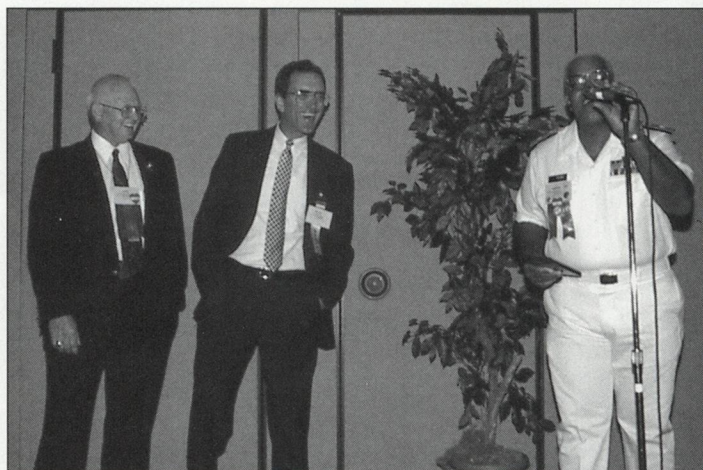


NEHA Board of Directors listens to member comments at the General Assembly.

ahead with the development of a new credential for food protection specialists.

General Assembly

- President Peter Thornton summarized the highlights of the past year, as well as some of the board actions of the previous day. He reported on NEHA liaisons with other associations and agencies, improvements to the *Journal of Environmental Health*, the publishing of *environment news digest (e.n.d.)*, the new Far East affiliate, new position papers and resolutions, and the work of NEHA committees. He also encouraged members to apply for the NEHA/CIEH Sabbatical Exchange Program sponsored by NSF International.
- Alan Johnson, president of CIEH, NEHA's U.K. counterpart, made a presentation to President Thornton on NEHA's behalf.
- Laura Studevart Thacker, who is the only candidate for second vice president, made a brief presentation.
- Executive Director Nelson Fabian explained the staffing of the association and some of the future possibilities open to NEHA.
- Various members talked about a host of issues ranging from upcoming meetings, to the desire to see more strategic planning information in the journal, to encouragement for more sabbatical applicants.
- Holly Coleman reported that her Kentucky affiliate felt that the body-piercing section of the proposed code on body art should be left for the medical community to develop.
- President Art Bloom reported on the results of the Spring 1997 election: Tony Aiken was elected second vice president, and Mia Zmud, Jim Dingman, and Dick Pantages were re-elected regional vice presidents. He noted that all proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation/Bylaws had been approved. He also reported that Larry Yates was appointed to fill Mia Zmud's term.
- Laura Studevart Thacker presented her candidacy for second vice president.
- Executive Director Nelson Fabian reported that NEHA now offers five national credentials and will soon offer a food protection credential as well. He suggested affiliates consider offering national credentialing exams at their meetings as a convenience to members.
- First Vice President Gary Coleman, a former exchange ambassador who described his



Admiral Webster Young makes a point with Jim Pees and NEHA Executive Director, Nelson Fabian.

Council of Delegates

(New officers were seated at this meeting. President Art Bloom presided.)

- Diane Eastman reported on behalf of the accreditation council that there are 23 undergraduate and three graduate programs accredited by the council.

sabbatical experience as a highlight of his professional career, encouraged affiliates to promote the NEHA/CIEH sabbatical program to their NEHA members.

- NEHA Research and Development Manager Larry Marcum described the Radon/Indoor Air Quality classes that NEHA conducts and encouraged professionals to apply.
- NEHA Executive Coordinator Tabby Bernardo reported initial earnings of \$4,148 for the silent auction.
- Regional Vice President Mary Myszka spoke of the role of the RVP and how each RVP tries to work with affiliates and NEHA members in their region. She asked that affiliates provide space in their newsletters for RVPs to report on NEHA activities and issues.
- Executive Director Nelson Fabian explained NEHA's process of site selection for AEC meetings and the amount of affiliate involvement required. He also asked affiliates to ensure that NEHA is on their newsletter mailing lists, as the information in these newsletters is helpful to NEHA.
- The council adopted the resolution on "Dioxin, Health Care Facilities, and the Use of PVC—A Chlorine-Based Product," as well as position papers on global climate change, endocrine disrupters, and children's environmental health. First Vice President Ginger Gist urged affiliates to report on the position papers in their newsletters. President Art Bloom commented that the Food Code position taken by NEHA last year is now being used by FDA.
- Treasurer Bruce Wilson presented the 1997/98 budget and also shared that the board had adopted a strong investment policy. The budget was approved.
- Although the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws call for NEHA to present one candidate for regional vice president, it has been the practice to present at least two candidates when possible so that members have choices in electing a representative. The COD approved presenting this issue to the members on the spring ballot: the membership will be asked if it would like to see more than one candidate on the ballot.
- Focus groups summarized their discussions on the topic of information needs for the environmental health professional.