

1999 Annual Educational Conference and Exhibition

Nashville, Tennessee

Introduction

The National Environmental Health Association's (NEHA's) 1999 Annual Educational Conference and Exhibition (AEC) was attended by over 1,200 professionals—making it NEHA's second-largest conference ever—and the exhibit hall sold out with over 100 booths. In addition, this year's AEC received public attention via television and radio broadcasts by Good Morning America, Fox television network, and WLAC, WYYB, and GOWFM radio stations of interviews with speakers about food protection and counter-biological/chemical terrorism.

Each year, market research reveals the latest changes and trends affecting the profession, and that information is incorporated into the educational plan for the conference. Increased member participation in events, media coverage of the conference, and positive feedback on survey responses to the 1999 AEC in Nashville have, once again, confirmed the value of this process.

By publishing this special report about the 1999 AEC and Exhibition, NEHA hopes those who were unable to attend will be able to enjoy some of its offerings. And for those who did attend, we hope you enjoy this recap of the highlights at the conference.

Sponsorships

The success of this year's AEC would not have been achieved without the generous support NEHA received from the following spon-



Outgoing NEHA President Ginger Gist honors Region 1 Vice President Mike Halko with a Presidential Citation (in foreground is NEHA First Vice President Laura Studevart).

sors. We cannot thank these sponsors enough for their continued dedication to NEHA and to the profession of environmental health.

- Acurid Retail Services (a joint venture of Prism & Orkin Food Safety)
- American Academy of Sanitarians
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Educational Foundation of the National Restaurant Association
- Mars Air Door
- Mid-Atlantic Environmental Hygiene Resource Center
- National Center for Environmental Health/CDC
- National Drinking Water Clearinghouse
- National Restaurant Association
- NSF International
- Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

Opening Keynote Address—Jan Schlichtmann, *A Civil Action*

Jan Schlichtmann gave the opening keynote address. Schlichtmann is an attorney whose involvement in a high-profile personal-injury lawsuit (*Anne Anderson et al. v. W.R. Grace & Co. et al.*) is portrayed in the book and major motion picture, *A Civil Action*.

As Schlichtmann began by explaining, he represented the plaintiffs—eight families from Woburn, Massachusetts. The *Anderson* case (also known as the Woburn case) claimed that a cluster of leukemia cases afflicting the plaintiffs had resulted from severe chemical contamination of their drinking water, and that the contamination had been caused by the two defendants, W.R. Grace & Co. and Beatrice Foods.

Schlichtmann described how he spent eight long years and millions of dollars trying to win the case, but ultimately he failed. After losing many small battles against the defendants in court, he began to fear that he would not be able to prove causation to the jury and that, as a result, the entire case would be lost. In the end, the plaintiffs (at Schlichtmann's urging) settled for an amount that covered the legal bills and left each family with relatively small compensatory damages. The plaintiffs gained little by the settlement, especially since what they really wanted was justice: a verdict or an admission of wrongdoing by the defendants. Although posttrial discovery of new evidence later confirmed that the defendants were at

fault, it was too late to alleviate much of the plaintiffs' suffering. Everyone was a victim in this case, said Schlichtmann: the plaintiffs, the defendants, the lawyers—even society.

Schlichtmann's talk alternated between the facts of the Woburn case and his personal experience of it. He joked about the publicity he received from being the central character in *A Civil Action*. "People have asked me to describe what it is like to have John Travolta play me in a movie. How should I know? The only thing that comes to mind is that Travolta made a lot more money playing me than I ever made playing me." Schlichtmann said the whole idea sounded glamorous until he read the script and realized his character was portrayed as a self-ish and arrogant jerk.

Joking aside, Schlichtmann described the case as a bitter war that destroyed everyone involved. "No one benefited from this tragedy." By the time it was over, Schlichtmann was bankrupt. He lost his home, his car, and his legal practice—and he nearly lost his sanity and will to live. In an attempt to regain clarity and a sense of purpose in his life, he borrowed money from a friend for a plane ticket to Hawaii, taking little more than a backpack and a sleeping bag. He described his thoughts at the time: *I stood at the edge of a cliff over the ocean, and imagined I had slipped over. Seeing the waves crash below me on the rocks as I fell, I reached out and grabbed hold of a protruding branch. Hanging there, I wondered if I should let go. But I held on.*

Schlichtmann left the audience hanging onto the imaginary branch while he changed the subject to the effects of the trial.

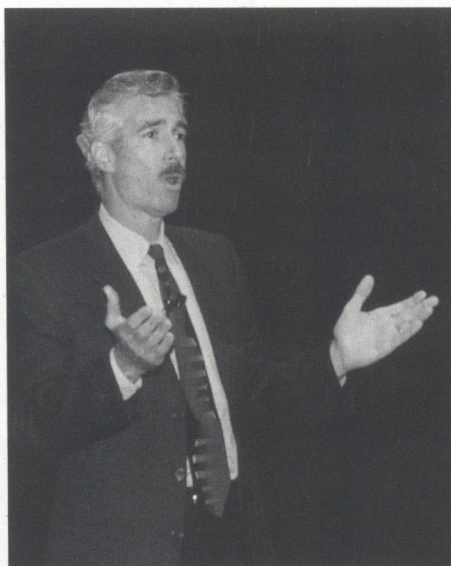
The trial had such a dramatic impact on Schlichtmann's life and career that he stopped being a plaintiff's attorney and became an advocate of mediation and consensus building. "Mediation," he said, "is the only way to solve problems." The experience of the Woburn case made Schlichtmann a firm disbeliever in the adversary legal system, which argues points of law and assigns blame, he said, but fails to solve problems—the most important remedy. In his opinion, the best way to solve a problem is to get everyone together in a room and talk it out as openly as possible. That means without the threat of litigation. "You can't solve problems with the rules of evidence and other courtroom devices looming overhead." Sometimes it takes the threat of a lawsuit to convince potentially liable parties to come to the table, but once they are there, it is critical for the sake of honest discussion to honor the promise of "no lawsuits."

Schlichtmann said another key to success-

ful problem solving—once all parties with a stake in the matter have agreed to mediation—is to "get all the 'ologists' there too; bring the geologists, the hydrologists, the oncologists, the cardiologists, the psychologists, etc., and throw in a few engineers." He said a funny thing happens when the lawyers leave the room. All the experts start talking, and, regardless of whether they agree at first, they get to work on solving the problem instead of deciding whose fault it is.

Schlichtmann credited environmental health professionals as experts who solve problems daily. He specifically acknowledged those with whom he worked throughout the trial and its discovery period, including professionals from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. He emphasized the importance of environmental health to life in general.

Toward the end of his presentation, he brought the audience back to the imaginary branch over the edge of the cliff. Having found himself clinging to it in desperation to find something worthy to live for, he confirmed to himself the insignificance of wealth and fame—two qualities he once strove to achieve. Environmental health, on the other hand, he said, is absolutely necessary for human health and happiness. It occurred to him that the branch he was hanging onto was rooted in good earth; with that realization, he pulled himself up to solid ground and started his life over.



Jan Schlichtmann during his keynote address.



Thaddeus Koeune (left) and Robert Tarter (center) accept the Crumline Consumer Protection award on behalf of the Lake Co. Health Dept., IL.

Awards & Honors

An integral part of the AEC is the recognition of individuals for their excellence, professionalism, and 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 the AEC.

The following awards were presented at the conference.

Walter S. Mangold Award

NEHA's highest honor was bestowed this year on a very deserving David Z. McSwane for his many years of service to environmental health. Please see the accompanying story on page 36, which details David's contributions.

Walter F. Snyder Award

The Snyder Award was bestowed this year on Dr. Khalil H. Mancy. This award is a very special act of joint recognition by NEHA and NSF International. Please see the accompanying story on page 36.

NEHA/CIEH Sabbatical Exchange

The sabbatical exchange program, financed by NSF International and managed by NEHA and its English counterpart, the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), enables a deserving NEHA member to spend a four-week sabbatical in the United Kingdom while a CIEH member spends four weeks in the United States.

Martha Smith Patnod from the Department of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Rhode Island was selected as this year's sabbatical ambassador to the United Kingdom. Applicants were screened on the basis of their portfolios and essays, and finalists were personally interviewed by the jury to receive this award.

1999 Mangold Award Recipient David Z. McSwane

The National Environmental Health Association is proud to present the 1999 Walter S. Mangold Award, its highest honor, to Dr. David Z. McSwane.

Dave has worked in the environmental health profession for 29 years. Twenty-five of those years have been dedicated as an instructor and professor at Indiana University, where students and faculty alike rave about his qualities as a uniquely gifted educator. In the words of John A. Marcy, Ph.D., he is an "incredible mentor and positive influence on people."

Concurrent with his career as a professor of public and environmental affairs, he has established a very respected reputation as an expert in food safety. In 1998, he co-authored the book *Essentials of Food Safety and Sanitation*, which has since become the authority on food protection among many professionals in environmental health. Ellen R. Morton, Managing Editor of *Food Protection Report* and *Food Talk*, wrote "Of all the resources I've reviewed ... I've singled out *Essentials of Food Safety and Sanitation* ... to be my bible. The book is a reliable and clearly written resource, and I refer to it and quote from it frequently."

Dave is also very involved in training food service operators and restaurant personnel, and he has worked with various professional groups developing and testing training materials for food service handlers. Steven F. Grover, Vice President of Technical Services, Public Health and Safety, at the National Restaurant Association, described Dave as having a "distinguished history of working with public health professionals, regulators, and the industry to address ... challenges ... in worker training, food safety, and environmental health." Larry M. Eils of the National Automatic Merchandising Association wrote that Dave "is respected as a person who leads by example." And William A. Oleckno describes Dave as "one of the most industrious and dedicated environmental health professionals [he has] known.... In many senses, he is the consummate environmental health professional, always seeking to improve and apply his skills to the betterment of environmental health."

Another quality of Dave's that many find incredible is that he never seems to turn down a request from anyone. He is always willing to help, whether the need is as simple as answering a question or serving on a committee. For example, in 1995, the Marion County Health Department approached him about participating in a collaborative effort to develop "Food Safety Day." He accepted the invitation and put together the section on avoiding temperature abuse. To this day, the "Food Safety Day" program is a success, widely used throughout the state of Indiana and available on the Internet.

Dave has accomplished a feat most in the environmental health profession would think impossible. He has successfully integrated and encouraged cooperation between three very distinct sectors of environmental health (the academic, regulatory, and private sectors). Although his primary responsibilities are academic in nature, he has never forgotten his roots as a regulator, and has found a way to work with private industry. Many of his colleagues not only admire him for his professional accomplishments, but also for his wonderful personality and tireless efforts.

The environmental health profession is fortunate to have David Z. McSwane. As a boy, Dave wanted to be a medical doctor, so he began his college career pursuing that dream. Following the advice of his parents, he spent a couple of summers working in hospitals. As a result of that experience, he decided he would rather dedicate his life to keeping people healthy rather than making them well after they had become ill.

Dave can be heard saying "education and training are the keys to the prevention of foodborne illness—and I would like to be a part of making that happen." In his career of 29 years he has truly achieved this goal. As expressed by former Mangold winner RADM Webster Young, Jr., "He embodies and personifies the principles of leadership, service and dedication." NEHA is very proud to present the 1999 Walter S. Mangold award to such a deserving candidate as David Z. McSwane.

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. This year's national certificate of merit winners are listed on page 40.

Davis 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 NEHA President-elect Colonel Anthony C. Aiken.

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*.

For the first time ever, the 1999 Harry Bliss Editor's Award was presented to an organization (rather than an individual)—the Environmental Health Division of the Volusia County Public Health Unit (EHD/VCPHU) in DeLand, Florida.

EHD/VCPHU went over and above the call of duty this year through its generous contributions to the *Journal*. While researching cover options for the October 1998 issue, which featured an article about Geographic Information Systems, NEHA's content editor phoned Past NEHA President Peter Thornton (known among NEHA staff for his expertise in GIS) for advice about potential resources for obtaining GIS images. His response was "We'll make the image for you. Just tell us what you need." Within 48 hours a draft image was prepared, and after minor modifications, it became one of the *Journal's* most striking covers.

Three months later, EHD/VCPHU staff members Paul Minshew and Jack Towle submitted a manuscript to the *Journal* titled, "1998 Florida Wildfires—Volusia County's Own Armageddon." This paper was reviewed and quickly accepted for publication as a special report in the March 1999 issue of the *Journal*. The photo of a Florida wildfire that was featured on the March 1999 cover was, again, the result of assistance from EHD/VCPHU staff. It is rare to receive contributions of such exceptional quality as those EHD/VCPHU provided to NEHA's *Journal* program this year.

Crumbine Consumer Protection Award

The Samuel J. Crumbine Consumer Protection Award is presented annually by 10 co-

sponsors, including NEHA, to a local government health unit for the excellence of its food protection program. Only local government health units in the United States and Canada are eligible for the Crumline Award.

The award was presented this year to the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) in Waukegan, Illinois. Bob Tarter, Director of Administrative Services at LCHD, accepted the award on its behalf.

Past Presidents' Award

The Past Presidents group, made up of former NEHA presidents, annually recognizes a NEHA member for outstanding achievement. Their award this year was presented to Marty Smilo of Mars Air Door, Inc.

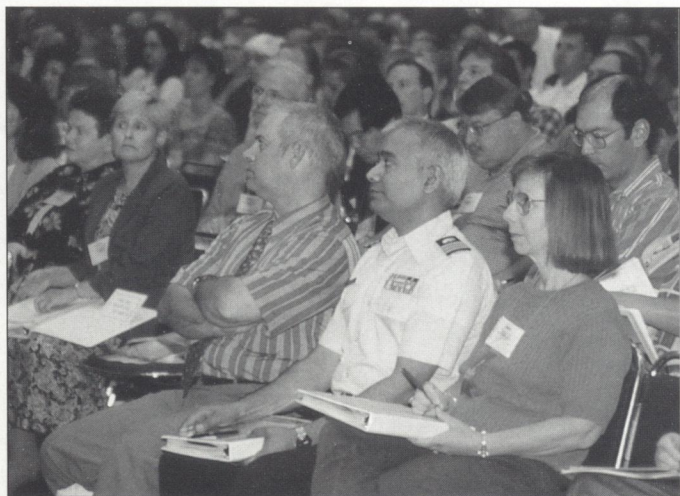
NEHA/AAS Scholarship Awards

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 Michael Zittle, an environmental health student at California State University, Northridge. Undergraduate scholarships went to Jeannine Riess, an environmental health student at Colorado State University; Caroline Kabiru, an environmental health science student at the University of Georgia; and Eric Huddleston, an environmental health student at Illinois State University.

Student Research and Poster Presentations

NEHA congratulates the following students for presenting their research and posters at the AEC. Thanks to a generous donation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the students who participated in these events received a plaque and up to \$1,000 to cover their travel and related expenses.



Attendees listen closely in a room filled to capacity.

Presenting research were Joe McHugh from Western Carolina University ("Effects of Using Tire-derived Fuel at a Pulp and Paper Mini Mill"); Panagiota Kitsanta from James Madison University ("Acute Health Effects among Sanitation Landfill Employees"); Troy Ritter from Eastern Kentucky University ("Resource Efficient Desalinization—Protecting Public Health through Increased Availability of Fresh Water"); Angela Hobson from Illinois State University ("Improving the Learning Environment through Indoor Air Quality"); and Sanders K. Chai from the University of Washington ("Perceptions on Pediatric Environmental Health—A Needs Assessment Survey").

Presenting research with posters that were awarded first, second, and third place, respectively, were Michael Box from the University of Washington ("Particulate Matter Exposure Assessment in High-Risk Subpopulations"); Nicole Allen from Mississippi Valley State University ("The Validity of Radiation-induced Chromosomal Aberrations—A Measure of Environmental Toxicity"); and Angela Jean Hobson from Illinois State University ("Improving the Learning Environment through Indoor Air Quality Awareness and Education"). Three additional posters were presented by two students from Illinois State University: Bryan DeDoncker ("Survey of Publicly Available Resources to Address Indoor Air Quality in Illinois") and Eric Huddleston ("Chemical Analysis of Water Samples from a Reconstructed Wetland Project" and "Monitoring of River System Microcosms for Physiochemical Indicators of Pollution").

Past President Pin

Outgoing NEHA President Ginger Gist was recognized by the association for her 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 individuals or organi-



David McSwane accepts the 1999 Walter S. Mangold award.

zations that made exemplary contributions to the association during the president's term of office. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Anthony Aiken, John Barry, Michael Halko, Jack McGurk, Mary Myszka, the NEHA Staff, and Shawn Price were honored with presidential citations this year.

Educational Activities

NEHA's trademark is providing in-depth education on the vast spectrum of topics that constitute the environmental health profession. Sessions included speakers on ambient air quality, consulting in environmental health, counter-biological/chemical terrorism, drinking water, emerging pathogens, environmental justice, food protection, geographic information systems, hazardous materials, indoor air quality, injury prevention/occupational health, international environmental health, environmental health management, onsite wastewater systems, solid waste management, swimming pools and spas, uniformed services, and vector control. In addition, there were student research and poster presentations, as well as review courses and exams for the Certified Food Safety Professional and Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian credentials.

It would be impossible for NEHA to offer such high-quality educational sessions without the dedicated individuals who serve your association as technical section chairs. These are the people who carry out the important task of assembling speakers on particular topics—the topics you tell us you want to learn about—within their respective areas of expertise. NEHA extends special gratitude to the technical section chairs listed below:

- Tim Radtke, Air/Land/Water
- Mia Zmud, Environmental Health Management



NEHA Exhibition hall.

- Darryl B. Barnett, Dr.PH., R.S., D.A.A.S., Environmental Health Research
- George Nakamura, Food Protection
- CAPT Patrick O. Bohan, R.S., M.S., M.S.E.H., General Environmental Health
- John Steward, Hazardous and Toxic Substances
- Richard F. Collins, M.S.E., R.E.H.S., Injury Prevention/Occupational Health
- James Balsamo, Jr., M.P.H., Institutional

Environmental Health

- Vicki Everly, R.E.H.S., International Environmental Health
- Tony Smithson, Onsite Wastewater Management

Special Educational Tours

Adding practicality and uniqueness to the educational experience at the AEC were three special facility tours, described below, for environmental

health professionals with expertise in onsite wastewater, radon, hazardous materials, and food protection.

Lost River Cave and Valley Tour

This sold-out tour provided attendees with the opportunity to take an onsite wastewater systems tour of the unique Karst formations of the Lost River Cave and Valley. Dr. Nick

Crawford of the Center for Cave and Karst Studies at Western Kentucky University was the tour guide; he discussed wastewater, radon, and hazardous materials issues related to the formations.

Tennessee Cook/Chill Facility Tour

The Tennessee Cook/Chill Facility provided a fascinating tour for food protection professionals. This 93,000 square-foot facility uses state of the art food science and processing technology to serve 49 receptor sites throughout Tennessee.



Khalil Mancy accepts the 1999 Walter F. Snyder award.

1999 Snyder Award Recipient Khalil H. Mancy, Ph.D.

The Walter F. Snyder Award is conferred each year upon a professional who upholds the strong ideals and commitment to environmental health subscribed by the award's namesake. In presenting Khalil H. Mancy, Ph.D., with the Snyder Award for 1999, we recognize an individual who has made major scientific contributions to improve environmental quality.

Dr. Mancy earned a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Cairo, Egypt in 1952. Accepting the position of Chief Chemist at the Cairo Water Company, he continued his education earning a Diploma in Public Health from the University of Cairo in 1956. In the fall of 1957, he was accepted as a graduate student at the University of North Carolina and awarded a master of environmental sciences and engineering degree in 1959.

Dr. Mancy was the first Ph.D. student advised by Professor Daniel Okun at the University of North Carolina. "His work as a doctoral student was exemplary," states Dr. Okun. In 1961, Mancy's doctoral research resulted in the development and application of the Galvanic Cell Oxygen Analyzer, which gave environmental scientists the ability to instantaneously measure dissolved oxygen concentrations in water systems (quiescent or flowing). Revenue from his patented invention was used to improve the facilities of the Environmental Sciences and Engineering Department at the University.

While Dr. Mancy was an undergraduate student, Hillel Shuval (visiting professor of environmental sciences at the Hebrew Univer-

sity of Jerusalem in Israel) became good friends with Mancy. "A brilliant young Egyptian born graduate student," stated Professor Shuval. "We promised that some day we would work together to promote improvement in the quality of the environment in the Middle East and to promote mutual understanding and peaceful cooperation on shared environmental problems between Egypt, Israel, the Palestinians, the Jordanians and the other nations of the area for the benefit of the peoples of the region."

For over a decade, Mancy was the principal investigator for collaborative projects between Arab and Israeli institutions. The studies included investigations on the environmental health and socioeconomic impacts of wastewater reuse in aquaculture and agriculture applications, seafood safety, environmental protection, and the joint management of groundwater resources shared by the Israelis and the Palestinians.

"I can now say that Professor Mancy's blessed initiatives have made the almost unrealistic dream—that idealistic hope for better environmental quality in the Middle East in the spirit of peaceful cooperation—into a reality," stated Professor Shuval.

"A remarkable achievement of Dr. Mancy was his ability to bring Israeli and Arab scientists and engineers to work together in mutually beneficial projects," writes another colleague and supporter. "He was successful in securing funds and coordinating research in Israel, Egypt, and the Palestinian territories. The goal was the 'Promotion of Peace Through Scientific Cooperation.'"

Opryland Hotel Food Tour

AEC attendees who signed up for this free tour had the opportunity to see first-hand how the world famous Opryland Hotel ensures food safety. This unique food preparation facility also uses state of the art quick chill technology.

Learning Through Exhibits

A total of 110 companies and organizations were represented at this year's sold-out exhibit hall, making it the largest exhibit event NEHA has ever hosted. The exhibits at the AEC represent an important component of NEHA's 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 cutting-edge tools and services for the profession. This effort is rewarded when attendees report that they learned about educational opportunities through exhibitors, and that they were 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 have assumed a teaching role and help AEC attendees understand what is new and how it will affect the attendees' jobs. Some exhibitors also serve as presenters in AEC educational sessions, so the classroom and the exhibit hall constitute an integrated educational experience.

Networking & Social Activities

Networking luncheon

In response to the fact that AEC attendees consistently rate networking second only to education as the primary reason for attending, NEHA reserves special time for networking opportunities at each conference. In the relaxed setting of a buffet luncheon, attendees can easily identify professionals of various



Attendees learn from exhibitor Joanne Raleigh of Tucel Industries.

disciplines to mingle with by the placards at each table.

Golf Tournament

The golf tournament this year was held at the Hermitage golf course in Nashville. The winning team was the threesome of Aiken, McCleod, and Reiss. In second place was the team of Anderton, Armstrong, Armstrong, and Thornton. Third place went to Dalton, Goulis,

Currently a professor of environmental chemistry and environmental health at the University of Michigan, Mancy has over forty years of experience, both nationally and internationally, including major projects dealing with environmental health management and pollution prevention. He designed and implemented the scientific study of major rivers such as the Danube, Nile, Parana, Odra and Vistula river systems.

He has expertise in a variety of environmental fields, including water resources and water quality management, pollution control technology, marine pollution prevention, environmental exposure and health risk assessment, environmental quality monitoring, toxic chemicals, and hazardous waste management.

Mancy's research at the University of Michigan resulted in the development of membrane electrode systems for in situ measurement of Ozone and Chlorine Dioxide gases. More recently, he developed biofilm electrodes for the detection of a variety of toxic chemicals and viruses in water. These developments were published in peer reviewed journals and have been widely applied.

For thirty years, Mancy has participated in activities of NSF International in the development of voluntary standards. In 1970, he was the principal investigator for NSF's five-year study of water quality changes in distribution systems. A mobile monitoring laboratory was developed, and water quality changes were monitored in Ann Arbor, Michigan; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Illinois; and Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Mancy has published over 100 papers and reports, co-authored 11 books, and given numerous invited lectures and presentations. He has directed more than two dozen students in their doctoral dissertations, as well as advising scores of Master's students.

Dr. Mancy's endless hours of dedication have brought him well-earned recognition for his work. His long list of awards include: Distinguished

Alumni Award, The University of North Carolina; Distinguished Achievement Award, Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, Egypt; Research Achievement Award, Korea Institute of Scientific Research; Scientific Achievement Award, Ministry of Health, Venezuela; and Distinguished Achievement awards from the Swiss-Romance Chemical Society and the Polish Academy of Science.

At present, Dr. Mancy is working to develop private sector institutions, styled after NSF International, in the Middle East. He believes that such third-party organizations will significantly strengthen the local economy, environmental quality, and public health.

So brief a summary as this, one can appreciate the measure of a man about whom a colleague wrote: "Not many people have achieved such important and socially worthwhile goals in their life time. His inspired initiatives and leadership have helped hundreds of Israeli, Egyptian, and Palestinian environmental quality experts learn to work together for a common environmental quality goal. As these environmental quality experts from different nations learned to work together on joint projects, they developed a spirit of mutual respect and mutual understanding, which helped their nations of the Middle East learn to live together and solve their shared problems of environmental quality in the spirit of peaceful cooperation. For these achievements alone, Professor Mancy is most deserving of the highest awards and recognition."

For these contributions and others accumulated over a span of forty years, NSF International and the National Environmental Health Association take great pleasure in honoring Khalil Hosny Mancy by presenting him with the 1999 Walter F. Snyder Award for Achievement in Attaining Environmental Quality.

and Hanson, and fourth place went to Coll, Fortune, Grimes, and Kittles.

Silent Auction

This year's silent auction raised \$4,638. It's not often that one can find something sporting, comforting, recreational, beautiful, warm, handmade, tasty, smooth, international, practical, collectible, humorous, high-tech, wearable or educational all within the confines of one small space, but that's exactly what was offered at the Silent Auction booth at the AEC in Nashville. Items as diverse as the U.S. flag, flown over the capitol and donated by the National Capital Area affiliate (value \$33, sale price \$215) and a Pendleton blanket donated by the Oregon affiliate (value \$100, sale price \$95) drew the most spirited bidding. But there were enough donations from affiliates, exhibitors, sustaining and individual members and friends of NEHA so that (almost) everyone could go home happy.

Thanks to the donors and purchasers who generously participated in this annual event, the AEC speakers' fund is now \$4,638 richer. This figure represents an 11% increase over the \$4175 raised in 1998.

UL Theme Party

In grand Nashville-theme style, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., (UL) hosted a country barbecue dinner on a ranch away from the city at a place called Smiley Hollow. The festivities were complete with live country music, line dancing lessons, and impersonators of Garth Brooks and Reba McIntire. Attendees also had the opportunity to jump on a tractor-pulled hay ride around the ranch. NEHA extends a very special thanks to UL for this fun event.

President's Banquet and Entertainment

Befitting Music City, USA, NEHA's final night in Nashville (and final conference in the

20th century) was marked by a musical revue featuring music from and impersonations of the biggest American stars of the past four decades: Sonny and Cher, Garth Brooks, Reba McIntire, Elvis Presley, Roy Orbison, Buddy Holly, Madonna, Diana Ross and the Supremes, Michael Jackson, and more. "The Tribute Show" was an impressive display of vocalization and costume changes that energized the audience and capped both the last social event of the 1999 AEC and the last AEC of the millennium!



Attendees bid on items at the silent auction booth in the exhibit hall.

Association Business

Board of Directors

The NEHA board of directors is comprised of five national officers and 10 regional vice presidents. President Ginger Gist presided.

- The Board heard from the following special guests:
 - Gary Silverman and Chuck Treser, Accreditation Council, who reported that environmental health programs in colleges peaked in enrollment several years ago and have since had a slight decline;
 - Robert Bradbury, Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors President, who presented an honorary CIPHI membership to President Ginger Gist and spoke of developing a sabbatical exchange program with NEHA; and
 - Dr. Paul Locke, Pew Charitable Trust, who reported that his project, funded for 18 months, is investigating children's environmental health, right to know, and scientific and policy capacity building. He and the board explored ways to work together. He also asked NEHA to endorse their definition of environmental health.

- Executive Director Fabian reported that the AEC had about 1200 attendees, exhibitors and speakers, which is slightly under the figures for Las Vegas but ahead of previous year totals. The exhibits and auction this year, however, were larger.

- The board discussed AEC site selection issues and how future sites and dates are selected.

- It was reported that NEHA earned more than \$700 because of its members' participation in the Sloan Valve Survey.

- Executive Director Fabian reported that NEHA had applied for a grant to fund a con-

ference on bioterrorism.

- The board voted not to include reference to the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) on NEHA letterhead.
- There was considerable discussion on the

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 president and executive director are forwarded to affiliate presidents so presentations can be made at affiliate meetings.

- Alabama—Lonnie Pressley
- Alaska—Jeffrey Smith
- Arizona—Reg Glos
- California—Jun Makashima
- Florida—Lisa Lambert
- Idaho—Robert W. Jue
- Illinois—Mary Passaglia
- Massachusetts—George Young
- Michigan—Harry Grenawitzke
- Missouri—Janet Williams
- Nat'l Capital Area—Elizabeth Busenlehner
- NCLEHA—Chuck Treser
- New Jersey—Kim Zagorski
- North Carolina—David L. Rust, Jr.
- Ohio—Terry Allan
- Oregon—Jim Peterson
- South Carolina—J. Wesley Bolding
- Texas—Ginger Shaffer
- Virginia—Bob Custard
- Wisconsin—Gerald Gabor
- Wyoming—Neal Bloomenrader



Garth Brooks look-alike poses for a photo with Tabby Bernardo, NEHA staff.



Art Bloom, Nelson Fabian, Ginger Gist, Gary Coleman, Jan Schlichtmann, Laura Studevant, and Anthony Aiken (left to right).

name for the NEHA food credential because "CFSP" is used for another credential. After proposing several alternatives which didn't meet NEHA's criteria, the board voted to retain the designation CFSP or Certified Food Safety Professional.

- The board approved resolutions regarding youth tobacco use and smokeless tobacco.
- The board discussed two requirements of NEHA affiliation that are not met by all affiliates: the affiliate president and one other board member must be members of NEHA, and affiliates must have at least 15 NEHA members. The board and staff will continue to discuss ways to bring affiliates that don't meet these criteria into compliance.
- The board voted that an affiliate must meet affiliation requirements in order to nominate someone for the certificate of merit.
- The board voted not to join the Joint Council for Health Safety and Environmental Education of Professionals at this time.
- The board reallocated some of its investment plan moneys.
- The board approved of moving forward with a major computer conversion within the Denver office.

For more details on any actions taken at the meetings of NEHA's governing bodies, members are encouraged to contact their regional vice presidents or the Denver office.

General Assembly

- President Gist summarized the highlights of the previous year (NEHA's 62nd), including NEHA's office renovation, the Board's decision to continue publishing the *environment news digest* (under a new name, *FOOD environment news digest*) for at least one more year, NEHA's new and improved website, the recent completion of NEHA's new model body art code and comprehensive guidebook, and NEHA's aggressive pursuit of new grants to provide NEHA members with conferences on biological terror

ism, vessel sanitation, and brown-fields.

- Regional Vice President Larry Yates encouraged people to participate in the NEHA/CIEH sabbatical exchange program.
- Executive Director Nelson Fabian put the year into perspective by explaining NEHA's strategic direction.
- NEHA Operations Manager Becky Roland gave the audience pointers on navigating the AEC.
- President Ginger Gist summarized the issues that NEHA took official positions on this year.
- Past President Art Bloom explained the NEHA election process and that members are given the opportunity at the General Assembly to nominate persons from the floor under NEHA's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
- President Gist invited any member who had filled out the proper paperwork for a floor nomination to either now present themselves or have themselves presented.
- Candidates for the office of NEHA Second Vice President (Douglas Ebelherr and Mia Zmud—in alphabetical order) delivered speeches on their respective candidacies.
- President Gist opened the floor, inviting comments from NEHA members. One member encouraged individuals to assist the International Federation of Environmental Health accomplish its mission of establishing an environmental health library in Tanzania; another member recommended NEHA provide a paper or plastic wrapping around the *Journal* prior to mailing to protect its covers from becoming damaged.

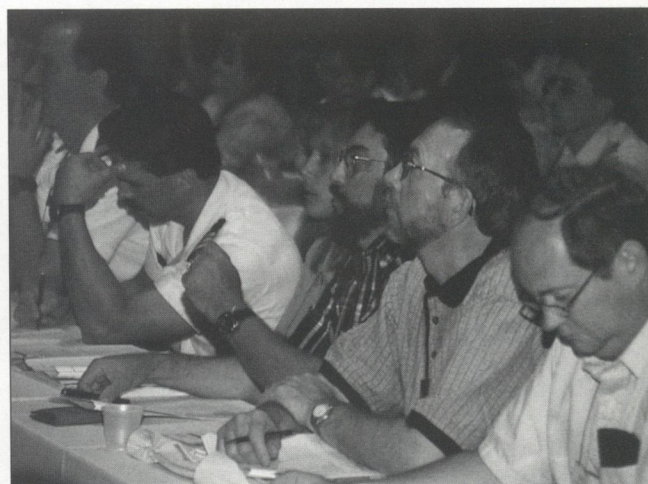
Council of Delegates

The NEHA Council of Delegates is comprised of the NEHA Board of Directors and all of NEHA's affiliate presidents. New officers were seated at this meeting; President Gary Coleman presided.

- In his message, President Gary Coleman announced that he would appoint a committee that would look at the future

of environmental health, building on an extensive report done for the association under Leonard Rice's term as president in 1991-92.

- The results of the spring membership election were reported as follows:
 - President-elect—Col. Anthony Aiken;
 - First Vice President—Laura Studevant;
 - Second Vice President—James Dingman; and
 - Regional Vice Presidents—Mike Halko (1), Anthony Bennett (5) and Bruce Chelikowsky (10) were re-elected to their positions, and Thomas Ward was elected Region 7 Vice President.
- RVP Doug Ebelherr and Mia Zmud, candidates for second vice president in the upcoming spring elections, presented their platforms to the council. These platforms will be presented in more detail in the March 2000 issue of the *Journal*.
- Initial earnings of \$4,638 were reported from the AEC silent auction.
- *Journal* content editor Julie Collins outlined the growth and development of the *Journal* and plans for eventually increasing its frequency to 12 issues a year. She described the *Journal's* strategy of developing columns and special features so that the *Journal* would appeal to both generalists and specialists.
- NEHA Sales and Marketing Manager Kim Brandow described the many varying opportunities for members to make an impact as volunteers.
- NEHA Operations Manager Becky Roland described the association's benefits program (such as discounts on services and products), which is designed to give members more for their membership dollar. She also explained how NEHA tracks continuing education credits for its credentialed people. In addition, she said, NEHA is tracking continuing education for several state



Attendees intent on learning during an educational session.

credentialing programs and can provide this service for interested affiliates as well.

- NEHA Executive Director Nelson Fabian reported on the association's efforts to seek out grant opportunities that would support NEHA sponsorship of major conferences on bioterrorism and vessel sanitation.
- In providing an overview of the AEC site selection process, the executive director described the many components of a successful AEC, such as hotel costs, room blocks, exhibit halls, access to airports, city attractions, etc. In response to suggestions, he said that Baltimore and Philadelphia were already among the cities being researched for the 2003 AEC.
- Brief reports were given on some of the recognition and opportunities available to NEHA members:
 - Mangold Award: NEHA's highest recognition of professionalism;
 - Snyder Award: recognizing excellence in the profession and one's ability to bring parties together for consensus and achievement;
 - Credentialing opportunities: NEHA will work with affiliates in providing credentialing exams as requested;
 - NEHA-NSF International-CIEH Sabbatical: Martha Patnod, representing Rhode Island, was introduced as the winner of a month-long sabbatical to England. NEHA and the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) are also looking at a sabbatical exchange program;
 - Scholarships: NEHA provides graduate and undergraduate scholarships in partnership with the American Academy of Sanitarians;
 - Radon/Air Quality Classes: This EPA-funded program offers all-expense-paid training in Washington D.C. on radon and indoor air quality;
 - Joint Publishing Programs: NEHA is working with affiliates to co-publish their publications, thereby making them available to people around the country while generating income for the affiliate and NEHA; and
 - NEHA WEB site: NEHA is offering links to any affiliate with a WEB site.
- Immediate Past President Gist who now heads the Nominations Committee asked delegates to look for people able and willing to serve as NEHA directors.
- Executive Director Fabian shared statistical information on the demographics of NEHA's membership. He also pointed out that NEHA has held steady on its membership despite a decreasing pool of potential "traditional" members from which to draw.
- Resolutions were adopted by the council

on 1) recognizing Immediate Past President Gist for her service, 2) food irradiation, 3) brownfields, 4) water fluoridation, 4) youth tobacco use and 5) smokeless tobacco. (Copies are available from the Denver office.)

- Executive Director Fabian presented the fiscal 2000 budget of \$2.1 million. The budget was approved.
- Focus groups summarized their discussions on what the practice of environmental health will look like 15 years from now, and on NEHA's role in helping professionals meet the challenges of 2005, 2010 and 2015.

Closing Keynote Address— How to Get Fired Up Without Burning Out

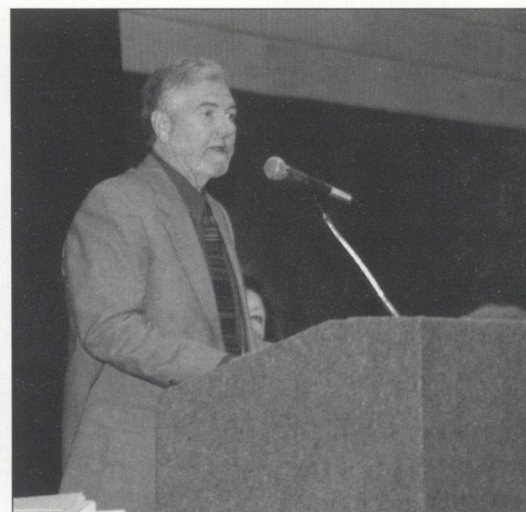
Carol Grace Anderson, author of *Get Fired Up Without Burning Out*, delivered a motivational closing keynote address. Throughout her presentation, she affirmed the power of positive thinking by telling true stories about historic world figures and personal triumphs in her own life. She demonstrated to attendees how to exceed their own expectations in setting goals and accomplishing them. At the end of her presentation, she received a standing ovation and was greeted by a line of attendees interested in asking questions and purchasing her book.

Success is all about attitude, Carol explained. Life is full of obstacles, but we need to look at them as opportunities. Many of us experience the same conditions, but we make different decisions about how we choose to react.

Another thing Carol emphasized is the importance of "now" and focusing on the present. She credited an unknown source as saying "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift ... that's why they call it the present." Now is really the only time we have. If there is something in your past that you regret, let it be a learning tool. Instead of saying "if only I had," say "now I can." Worry never changed a moment of history, she said. Action changes things.

Success is a choice, Carol continued. Adding new goals to our lives doesn't have to add to our "busy-ness" either. What we need to do is prioritize—clean out the closet, so to speak. We should take inventory of the things consuming our time and eliminate clutter from our daily routines. Then we can focus on what is most important.

At the end of her talk, Carol shared 10 tips for a "fired-up" life: 1) be yourself, 2) feel grate-



Incoming NEHA President Gary Coleman.

ful, 3) simplify everything, 4) be positive, 5) have fun, 6) take responsibility, 7) believe, 8) stay focused, 9) give, and 10) live—let go and don't be afraid to fall. Finally, she concluded her presentation in a unique way—with a song she had composed about being upbeat and positive in life.

Early in the presentation, Carol mentioned that the difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra. We hope all those in attendance benefited from hearing her presentation—and that the entire conference experience provided everyone with "that little extra."

Conclusion

NEHA is already preparing for next year's AEC in Denver. As promised, we will continue listening to your feedback and ideas for improvement through the market research we will be conducting over the next few months.

We hope that even more of you will join your colleagues in environmental health by attending the 2000 AEC in Denver. Perhaps the best words of encouragement NEHA can offer for your attendance next year are from some of the 1999 post-AEC attendee surveys: "[NEHA's AEC] is an excellent opportunity to gain professional education and to have the chance to network with environmental health professionals from all over the country." "Without reservation, [it is] the best conference that exists to gain a wide variety of updated, highly professional information." "The networking is invaluable." "Attend next year!"

At the very least, NEHA's 2000 AEC will be a unique opportunity to develop your own ideas, listen to those of others, and in general, improve your outlook, your career, and the profession of environmental health. 