

President's Message

By Monroe T. Morgan, Dr.P.H.



THE CHALLENGE

I deem it an honor to have been elected President of the National Environmental Health Association. As I accept the Presidency, I accept it with determination to serve you and this organization. I pledge to do everything that I am capable of doing to better our profession and the organization. I do not intend to use the office to better myself, except for, hopefully, better health through environmental control.

As I accept the office, I have five major goals. They are:

1. To augment the environmental profession in every way possible.
2. To assist the National Environmental Health Association in an endeavor to ascertain that environmental health becomes a part of appropriate future legislation at all levels.
3. To serve in such a way as to represent all disciplines represented in this organization and to assist each N.E.H.A. member and non-member in the environmental health profession.
4. To implement a plan by which employers may find qualified employees and, consequently, help the environmental health majors seek gainful employment.
5. To make available (by filing at the National Environmental Health Association headquarters) materials that are needed and frequently requested by the practicing environmentalists at all levels.

As you know, the President's term in any organization will only be as successful as the efforts put forth by him and the membership of that organization. Hence, I humbly solicit your support in every way possible. We will be calling on many members of the organization to serve on com-

mittees and task forces. If you do not intend to put forth an extra effort, it would be preferred that you not accept the appointment. I have written to each Regional Vice-President asking for the names of people to serve on various committees of this organization. This has been done for two reasons. First, it is one way of letting the membership of this organization have a larger say as to the direction of the organization. Secondly, it should aid in locating the most competent, dedicated, willing members of the organization for various committees and task forces. By utilizing, to the fullest extent, the members of the organization in the areas of their greatest expertise, the organization should progress. Every N.E.H.A. committee has been given a charge for the forthcoming year. This organization has the potential of being the greatest, largest, and strongest in this country and the world. Let's dedicate ourselves to making this become a reality.

I know that many of you, as my family and I do, enjoy reading about and seeing movies concerning the frontier people and early settlers of the United States. You remember that the settlers joined forces and grouped together to travel. They shared knowledge on how to better overcome the obstacles of travel and, consequently, enhance their chances of getting to their destination. They realized that with more people they were stronger, safer, more competent, and more likely to reach their destination. Each person worked hard to protect his family and to reach their destination. As you remember, the early settlers camped at night and had various strong, reliable people stand guard. The guard stood guard so that the families could sleep and rest in peace. In essence, the guard was protecting the food, water, sleeping space, precious possessions, and

lives of the families (community) from the enemy, which in that case was wild animals, snakes, and outlaws. Further, the early settlers saw the need to send out scouts. The scouts went ahead and gathered information (monitored the environment) and reported the results to the wagon train (community). The reported results were analyzed, plans were made, and a course of action was set. The plans were implemented so that they could overcome the unfavorable environment that the scouts had reported. It is evident that the plan worked for the early settlers since California, Arizona, Colorado, and the rest of the Western states have been settled.

The National Environmental Health Association, like the early settlers, wishes to improve the surroundings and, consequently, to improve the quality of life and to increase the longevity of ourselves and our family (the public). However, we cannot do as the early settlers did, up and move away from the polluted unfavorable environment, because there is no longer an "away." To improve the quality of life and increase longevity, we, like the settlers, must realize that: (1) it takes a lot of hard work, (2) the goal is more easily obtained if we work together and share our knowledge, (3) there is strength in numbers, (4) "I" must do my part in order that we may reach our destination.

Like the early settlers who sent out scouts after they realized the need to explore the beyond and unknown, and share their findings with the guards and families (community); so does the sanitarian and this organization need to monitor his "community" and the unknown. Hence, we need to explore, to research, to gather information, and to share information concerning the present methodology of environmental health practice. Some health departments today are faltering by trial and error with practices that other health departments have adopted and found to be ineffective and thus abandoned years ago. Hence, the committees of the National Environmental Health Association should be of greater service by making available materials of time-tested methods. Filling this need could prove to be one of the greatest assets of the organization. Environmental monitoring, with the programs based on monitored results, will become

more and more important in environmental health practice in the next few years. I am confident that we can surmount the many obstacles and clear the various hurdles, particularly if we work together and share our knowledge.

During the next year, we wish to accomplish some things. We can only do this if you put forth a good effort. I solicit the support of each of you, wives as well as husbands, because, wives, you are the key to their success and do not let them tell you otherwise. I repeat, I entreat each of you to: (1) work hard and put forth a good effort for the organization, (2) share your information and knowledge by assisting the various committees and task forces. Many people have excellent ideas as far as environmental health practice, but let the ideas go to never be realized, (3) I beg each of you to increase the membership of this organization by one during the next year. In other words, I am asking each member of this organization to educate a person to see the need to become a new member of this organization. Remember, they can help the organization, as well as the organization helping them, (4) I encourage each of you to support the profession and organization in every way possible. Be proud of your profession and your community, because as a member of the National Environmental Health Association, and as a sanitarian or an environmentalist, or the wife of a sanitarian and/or environmentalist, yours is an important job! This organization will have a large role in programming the future of mankind. Be sure you do your part!

Hence, I supplicate your support and hard work in the coming year. Let's promise ourselves to make this the best year in the history of the National Environmental Health Association. Not because we desire the personal recognition, the monetary benefits, the psychic rewards, and personal gain, but, because it is desperately needed and is our duty to serve our fellow man in such a way as to enable him to better enjoy health, peace, and a good quality of life.

Plan now to attend the 1975 National Environmental Health Association Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., June 28-July 3, at The Radisson, downtown.