



# IEHA Newsletter

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## President's Message

July 7, 2004

Dear IEHA Members -

I was proud to be Idaho's IEHA delegate at the Alaska NEHA Annual Educational Conference, May 9 - 12, I've been wanting to give you a brief report from the Council of Delegates meeting and other meetings I attended as president of IEHA.

**Bob Erickson**, District V, received a very special honor during the opening awards ceremony in Anchorage, receiving the National Certificate of Merit in recognition of his outstanding contributions to our profession. At March 2004, IEHA AEC Bob was awarded the prestigious EHS of the Year, and for that reason was nominated for the NEHA Certificate of Merit. Congratulations Bob!

Here are the main highlights from the annual Council of Delegates meeting held on Wednesday, May 12.

We heard from our new NEHA president **James Balsamo** whose goals include:

- (1) Expanding NEHA's efforts in Washington D.C
- (2) Upgrading NEHA's credentialing program
- (3) Expanding our professional recognition and development.
- (4) Opening up and making transparent NEHA
- (5) To push student efforts and mentor them.

It was announced that NEHA's newly elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President was **Rob Blake**, from Atlanta, Georgia. We are proud of our very own **Rich Gabriel** who ran against Rob, but unfortunately did not get elected. Rich remains the Region I NEHA representative.

Boise, Idaho is in the mix for being selected as the site for the 2008 NEHA AEC, along with 7 other possible cities under consideration. In an interest to consider less expensive cities NEHA is looking at a number of second tier cities for its 2008 Conference. The Boise Convention and Visitor's Bureau has been actively involved with NEHA in providing promotional material and

the infrastructure abilities to host such a conference. A decision will be made at the December 2004 NEHA Board of Directors meeting.

NEHA has an emerging Governmental Affairs Program, with a committee of four who oversee these efforts. They are finding ways to bring more influence to bear on public policy discussions having to do with the environmental health profession and the thousands of people who practice in it. They have been actively involved this past year in national agencies, councils, partnerships, coalitions, programs, and initiatives. Watch the NEHA Journal for news relating to their efforts.

One of these areas has been a partnership with CDC to develop a blueprint for the rebuilding of environmental health in our nation. A host of different organizations are also involved with CDC in this effort. More detail on this effort and the specifics of the CDC plan can be found on the CDC website: <<http://www.cdc.gov/healthyplaces/>>. Nelson Fabian states that this is the single most significant project to emanate from the federal government in years concerning our profession and the practice of it.

First and foremost, however, NEHA functions primarily as an educational resource for the environmental health profession. NEHA's website reflects the resources, training programs, workshops, and educational opportunities currently available to its members. Go to their website at <[www.neha.org](http://www.neha.org)> to discover what you can take advantage of. One of its key efforts this past year is in its focus on food safety education and training. NEHA now offers a registered food safety trainer program.

A status report was given on the REHS/RS possible name change, which in recent years has been given a lot of discussion. It was no surprise that a survey of NEHA members this past year revealed that there is no big desire for change. 44% were in favor of a change, and 37% were not in favor. A decision will probably be made sometime this coming year on this issue.

I was also privileged to attend the annual Affiliate President's meeting where there was an open discussion on what the various state associations (affiliates) were doing and what the associations were concerned about.

Lastly, I participated in focus group meetings. Each year NEHA seeks the affiliate president's opinions on an issue of national significance to the profession. During the Anchorage focus groups we discussed the role of environmental health in terrorism response and emergency preparedness. Lots of discussion and ideas! These are to be compiled and then approved by the NEHA board of directors, after which they will be published in the NEHA Journal. Be watching!

Thanks for letting me represent the Idaho Environmental Health Association at the Anchorage NEHA conference. It was my pleasure indeed!

**Paul Guenther**, President  
Idaho Environmental Health Association

# My Vision for the Idaho Environmental Health Association for 2004 - 2005

Paul Guenther, President

Continue a strong broad based annual educational conference

Explore venues where IEHA can take a role in speaking to environmental health issues

Develop a base of support of all practicing environmental health specialists in Idaho

Active area reps in each region of the state with area training meetings

Active IEHA committees

An effective web site be developed for IEHA

Redevelop an effective display board that is used at appropriate conferences

## *Secretary's Report and IEHA Committees*

IEHA Members:

Here is my final e-mail as (former) IEHA Secretary/Treasurer. I just wanted to update all of you on the current IEHA committee and Executive Council lists as determined at our conference in March. By the way, it was a great conference and well attended. In fact, I was told that it was standing room only in our solid waste sessions!

It has been fun, and challenging at times, serving as the Secretary/Treasurer but soon I will be turning it all over to our newly elected Sec/Treas, Steve Pew.

Here are the current committee chairs

**Legislative Committee--Jami Delmore**, Southwest District Health,  
jdelmore@phd3.state.id.us

(Keep up with legislation relevant to Environmental Health and/or IEHA, advises Exec Council on such issues)

**Budget Committee--Steve Pew**, Southeastern District Health Dept,  
spew@phd6.state.id.us

(Coordinate finances, produce budgets & reports, maintain accounting, etc.)

**Professional Promotion Committee--Frank Isenberg**, Central Dist Health Dept.,  
fisenber@phd4.state.id.us

(Promote IEHA, REHS credential, links with other associations and assist membership committee)

**Membership Committee--Jim Lane**, South Central District Health,  
jwlane30@hotmail.com

(Solicit new members, develop brochures, new member info packets, membership directory)

**Nominations & Elections Committee--Barry Burnell, DEQ**, bburnell@deq.state.id.us  
(Solicit members for IEHA positions, coordinate election process, etc.)

**Audit Committee**--appointed at general business meetings by President to audit finances.

Here is our current **Executive Council**

**Barry Burnell**, Past President (DEQ)

bburnell@deq.state.id.us

Paul Guenther, President (North Central District Health Dept)

pguenthe@phd2.state.id.us

**Dale King**, President-Elect (North Central District Health Dept)

dking@phd2.state.id.us

**Rob Miller**, Area A Representative (Panhandle Health District)

Represents areas covered by Health Districts 1 and 2

rmiller@phd1.state.id.us

**Malcolm McGregor**, Area B Representative (Central District Health Dept)

Represents areas covered by Health Districts 3 and 4

mmcgrego@phd4.state.id.us

**Cindy Johnson**, Area C Representative (District 7 Health Dept)

Represents areas covered by Health Districts 5, 6 and 7

cjohnson@phd7.state.id.us

As any of you have ideas for areas you would like covered at next year's educational conference or ideas for any improvements, you should direct those to Dale King. Finally, the general business meeting minutes from this year's AEC are attached for your reading pleasure in your spare time (as if those of us in Environmental Health ever really have any spare time!)

I hope you all have a great summer and if you have any suggestions for me as the new membership committee chairman, please feel free to let me know. Thank you!

**Jim Lane**

IEHA Secretary/Treasurer (2002-2004)

jwlane30@hotmail.com

Ed. Note: Hopefully, everyone got the minutes as an email from Jim. The minutes will be printed in the next *Digest*.

## ***Awards Reminder***

I would like to remind everyone of the IEHA Awards that are given out at the Annual Education Conference Banquet. There are two categories consisting of Field and Administrative EHS. However, if you have an employee who needs affirmation for a job well done or a special project and they do not meet all the criteria (contact me for criteria) for the annual award, please feel

free to arrange to use Awards time at the Banquet to acknowledge these deserving persons. The Awards packets must be submitted to the Awards Committee Chair and the IEHA Board by February 3. The Awards Chair will notify the Committee. Speaking of which, we do have a couple of prime vacancies on the Awards Committee. We need a representative from North Idaho and Southeast Idaho. Please consider this opportunity to serve IEHA. Contact me at dcarney@phd4.state.id.us if you are interested.

**Deborah Carney, REHS/RS**  
Awards Committee Chair

## **NEHA -2004**

I attended the Public Health Preparedness portion of the NEHA presentations. I was a little disappointed in the majority of the presentations. They seemed to be geared towards individuals at the entry level of bioterrorism preparedness.

The keynote speakers were very good. Martin Buser gave an interesting presentation regarding teamwork and winning, while showing a Powerpoint presentation of "mushing" through Alaska. He stated that the "Alaskan Man" needs two things; a pickup and a wife and they both have to be working.

The setting was beautiful and the conversations with other individuals involved in public health preparedness were invaluable. I made some great contacts and renewed a few old acquaintances.

**Dan Kriz**

### *Editor's Personal Note*

The story of my early retirement has been greatly exaggerated. My retirement was attributed to my last child's graduation from high school and entry into college and the possibility that I would be his personal care attendant. While this would be easier for all involved, it would not meet his expectation for "independent" living. So, in fact, I will not be able to retire until he graduates from college as we support Verizon and the state of California.

The editor.

## **IEHA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL AUGUST 19, 2004**

### *Present on the call:*

Paul Guenther, President  
Dale King, President-elect  
Barry Burnell, Past President  
Steve Pew, Secretary-Treasurer

Rob Miller, Area A Representative  
Malcolm McGregor, Area B Representative  
Cindy Johnson, Area C Representative

The call began at 5 pm MDT and Paul welcomed all the new committee members.

**Motion:** Cindy Johnson moved to approve the agenda as written.

Second by Rob Miller

Passed Unanimously

### **Vision for IEHA**

Paul began by going over a vision proposal that he had put together. Basically it encompasses where he feels the organization should be going in the upcoming year. The vision goals are:

1. Continue a strong broad based annual educational conference
2. Explore venues where IEHA can take a role in speaking to environmental health issues
3. Develop a base of support of all practicing environmental health specialists in Idaho
4. Active area reps in each region of the state with area training meetings
5. Active IEHA committees
6. An effective web site be developed for IEHA
7. Redevelop an effective display board that is used at appropriate conferences

Barry suggested that the word ‘registered’ be added in front of practicing in vision 3. Cindy agreed and also asked that we may want to change the word ‘practicing’ to show that anyone with an interest in environmental health, practicing or not can support the group. Paul will take a look at changing that wording.

Under goal 4 Paul encouraged area reps to hold meetings in their areas. This has not been a high priority in the past but he would like to see that change.

Paul is currently talking to Dale Stephenson to see if IEHA can utilize the Center of Excellence in Environmental Health and Safety as a way to house the website information for the organization.

It was decided that since Frank Isenberg is on the Professional Promotion Committee, he would be charged with taking a look into a display board and what we might want to have set up.

### **AEC Revenue Sharing Proposal to IPHA**

IPHA participated in the IEHA Annual Education Conference this year and Paul provided a proposal of a way to share revenue with them. It wasn't really clear how many people came to the conference just because of the IPHA sessions (land use and air pollution) so Paul had to estimate the number of attendees just because of the sessions. He recommended that revenue sharing with IPHA be at 20%, which means that IEHA would share \$648 (net revenue = \$3,229 x 20%) with IPHA.

It was suggested that in the future we might want IPHA to man their own registration table to get a more accurate count of their number of attendees at the conference.

**Motion:** Rob moved to accept the revenue sharing proposal with IPHA for the 2004 conference and direct the Secretary-Treasurer to write a check to IPHA for \$648.

Second by Barry

Passed Unanimously

### **Proposal from Rob Miller for IEHA to support PHD childcare legislation**

Rob explained that there is an Idaho Childcare Summit Coalition that was formed in November 2003 in the Panhandle region to look at childcare issues. The group consists of childcare providers, employees from childcare facilities, regulators, parents, general public, and political leaders. The goal of the group is to make improvements in the Idaho regulations concerning childcare.

The group's current proposal is the change the definition of a childcare center in Idaho statute. The current definition is a center has 13 or more children; the group wants to change the definition to mean 2 or more children from different families. They would like to propose this for the 2005 legislative session.

Paul was concerned with the impacts that this might have especially on small childcare facilities in rural areas. Rob stated that it should be too much but it will bring into play annual background checks for the operators and employees of the facilities. There was also some question as to the financial impacts to the state and enforcement agencies that this might have. The group does have some figures from the state of Washington but to date there has not been an impact calculated for Idaho.

It was decided that IEHA would wait on supporting the initiative until we had some further information. Executive committee member can submit questions to Rob and he will take them back to the group and will develop a position paper on the questions. He will bring this paper back to the committee during the December conference call.

### **Updates to last executive committee meeting and annual business meeting**

The key item discussed was in regard to the scholarship committee. Barry is to work with Bob Erickson and Deb Carney to develop criteria for evaluation of papers and presentation of scholarships. Barry reported that they haven't met yet but he will bring information back to the executive committee on the December conference call.

Discussion centered around whether the scholarship opportunity should also include other universities other than just BSU. The papers submitted over the last couple of years haven't been very "dedicated" and it may be better if we allow applicants from all universities in the state.

### **Preliminary Planning Report from Dale King for 2005 AEC**

Dale reported that he has some ideas on topics and is currently getting some names together to ask to head different sessions. He hopes to have this in place within the next 30 days or so and

will be contacting people for their input. He will also look at comments from the last AEC to get ideas of what attendees would like to see in further conferences.

### **Review of Committee Chairs and Responsibilities**

According to the by-laws the President of the association appoints the chairs of the various committees with approval of the executive committee. A list of committee assignments was shared with the group.

**Motion:** Malcohm moved to accept the committed members as assigned

Second by Dale

Passed Unanimously

Once Steve gets an e-mail address list of members, he will send out the committee assignments.

### **NEHA 2008 in Boise**

NEHA is considering Boise as a site for its 2008 annual meeting. While NEHA is not asking for local affiliates to support this, Paul felt that it would be worthwhile for IEHA to go on record in support of NEHA having their conference in Boise. The decision will be made during NEHA's conference call in December.

Motion: Rob moved that IEHA send a letter to NEHA in support of them having their 2008 conference in Boise

Second: Cindy

Passed Unanimously

Paul will draft a letter for Nelson Fabian.

Meeting adjourned at 6 pm MDT.

Next conference phone call scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2004