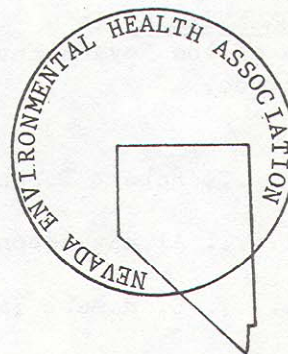


THE

NEVADA

ENVIRONMENTALIST



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PROLIFERATION OF SANITARIAN AND ENVIRONMENTALIST ORGANIZATIONS

By AL EDMUNDSON, President Elect

Sanitarians keep giving lip service to upgrading their profession. Upgrading the profession is not only desirable but is really needed. I wonder if the various sanitarian associations are actually taking a unified approach.

Let us take a look at what we have as far as sanitarian organizations are concerned. We have the "National Environmental Health Association" with headquarters in Denver, Colorado. The Nevada Environmental Health Association is affiliated with this organization along with 46 other affiliates.

Many of us are familiar with the "International Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians". Their headquarters are in Shelbyville, Indiana. This organization has 21 affiliates all of which are not necessarily state organizations.

How many of you know of the "National Society of Professional Sanitarians". This organization has about 6 affiliates.

All of the above organizations have as a major portion of their memberships individuals with comparable qualifications. I happen to know members of all three groups.

What I have been leading up to is that a drive to upgrade the sanitarian pro-

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EDITORIAL

In the December issue, it was reported that the Association had officially recommended an individual to the Governor to fill the vacancy on the State Board of Registration. Two others were also recommended to the Governor for the position and as yet, no appointment has been made. We have been informed that another vacancy exists. Dr. Hahn's term expired at the end of Dec. and he has not been re-appointed. There are presently three active members. These are Art Warden whose term expires December 1975, Clare Schmutz, expires December 1974 and Dr. Carr, an ex officio members whose representative has been Doc Mastroianni. The two vacancies are for lay (non sanitarian) members.

We fully realize that the Governor is exceptionally busy what with the State Legislature in session and that appointments to this Board are not of the highest priority. Legally, the Board can meet and conduct business with a quorum of three members as called for by NRS 653.070. So these vacancies will not prevent anyone from going through the process of becoming registered.

But the makeup and attitude of the Board is definitely affected. Without a full compliment of members, matters such as

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This publication is received not only by the members of the Nevada Environmental Health Association, but also by national and regional Environmental Health officials, all state affiliates of the National Environmental Health Association, local political leaders and professional groups.

Editorial (cont)

reciprocity and fees will never be completely settled. With only sanitarians on the Board, the original intent of the law with regards to a counterbalance of members from the public at large is at jeopardy.

There are rumors again that there may be a feeling among some that the Board should be eliminated. There is also the talk of consolidating the Board with other professional Boards. It is up to all of us to protect the Registration Act and to make the future of the State Board of Registration for Sanitarians responsive and active.

ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTERS

Many of the state affiliates have sent copies of their newsletters in exchange for receiving The Nevada Environmentalist. There is quite a variation in these newsletters with regards to format and theme. Some are quite short and of a bulletin nature such as Oklahoma, others are elegantly published such as Georgia and Utah. Those from Oregon and Washington recently covered legislative matters with Oregon attempting to poll its membership on their views on certain

matters. Very few of the newsletters use advertisement. Utah, California and Wisconsin routinely carry ads. All newsletters are provided to the members of an association through their dues, but Indiana requires a subscription fee for nonmembers.

Receiving all of these newsletters enables one to get to know the problems that other affiliates are having and how they are dealing with these problems as they may be similar to our own.

Virtually all of the newsletters suffer from lack of participation by the membership. Contributing articles seems to be a bigger problem than getting members for their associations which is a close second. Georgia even offers to pay for articles in the form of meeting registration fees.

These newsletters are a rich source of humorous articles and it is obvious that some of the better ones are reused often. Several of the past articles in the Nevada Environmentalist have been used in other newsletters. Oregon reprinted the salary survey from the June 1972 issue. Georgia reused the editorial carried in the last issue. Credit for source is always given.

The response to The Nevada Environmentalist from across the nation has been most gratifying. Letters of acknowledgement and congratulations have been received from Nick Pohlit, Verne Reiersen, NEHA Past Pres., Dr. Monroe Morgan, NEHA 1st Vice Pres., and many of the officers of other affiliates. The country knows that Nevada exists and that our association is active. It is quite evident that a newsletter is a viable part of an association.

Sanitarian Organizations (cont)

profession cannot be effective unless a united front is put forth. Granted all three organizations really want to achieve the same goals but the effectiveness of each organization alone is greatly impaired.

There has been talk of merging NEHA and the IAMFES. I think it would be in the best interests of both groups to merge. Talks have been renewed to accomplish this. It is believed that the main deterrent in the merger is administrative and organizational body politics.