

NEVADA STATE BOARD for REGISTRATION
of
PUBLIC HEALTH SANITARIANS
NEWSLETTER

September 1991

TO ALL STATE of NEVADA REGISTERED SANITARIANS :

The following items and actions have occurred relating to the Board of Registration for Public Health Sanitarians which should be of interest to registrants:

1. Dave Minedew, R.S., Chairman of the Nevada State Board for Registration of Public Health Sanitarians, resigned effective May 14, 1991. Dave accepted a position with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, overseeing environmental affairs on military bases in Nevada. The Board and registrants will miss Dave's leadership.

2. Darrell Rasner, P.E., R.S., was appointed to the Board of Registered Sanitarians on June 4, 1991 by Dr. Donald S. Kwalick, State Health Officer. Darrell replaces Bill Schneider, who served in an exemplary manner since the board's inception. The Board thanks Bill for his commitment to public health.

Currently the number of registrants is 33. The Board would like to welcome the following new registrants:

Rose Henderson #132, Employed by the Clark County Health District

Daniel Maxson #133, Employed by Clark County District Health

Bob Tankersley #134, Employed by Washoe County Health District

3. What's in a name?

The National Environmental Health Association currently allows the registrants to choose the title Registered Sanitarian (RS), or Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), which are equivalent titles. However, Nevada Revised Statute (NRS), Chapter 625A, addresses licensing for "RS" and makes no reference to REHS. Legal counsel to the Board has stated that persons registered by the National Environmental Health Association as REHS may indeed use that designation in the state without penalty, however, the use of R.S. may only be used by Nevada registrants.

The Board would like your comments on this issue.

4. The next meeting of the board will be on February 11, 1992 in Las Vegas at the Clark County District Health Department, at 9:30 a.m. Persons having business before the board must write to Jim Begbie, Board Secretary, at least 21 days prior to the meeting, for consideration.

5. Attached for registrants is a summary of the August 20, 1991 meeting of the board, as summarized in the NEHA newsletter. (editor: James E. Pierce, R.S.)

6. The Board will be gearing up to address any concerns Governor Miller's "to be appointed" review board may have with the work being performed by the board. (see attached news clipping from the Reno Gazette Journal, 8/19/91). The Board was eliminated in 1977 after a similar review process and it took many years to gain it back. Registrants should be prepared to support the Board for Registration of Public Health Sanitarians whenever necessary. Remember, it is **YOUR** board and **YOUR** profession.

7. The Board would like to thank Jim Pierce for his help with this first newsletter.

RS BOARD MEETING

The Nevada State Board for Registration of Public Health Sanitarians met in Reno, on August 21, 1991. There were three board members present, they were: Clare Schmutz, Jim Begbie and Darrell Rasner. Clare was elected chairman for the next year. Congratulations to Clare.

In summary, the Board meeting activities were:

A biennial Financial Audit will be done soon as required by State law. Kafoury Armstrong will do the audit again.

There were three new Registered Sanitarians one of who was Bob Tankersley who is our newest Registered Sanitarian. Congratulations Bob!

The Board will consider fee regulations in the near future. The Board will also consider a refund for those who took the RS exam more than once because the costs for subsequent exams is not as high as the first. The renewal fee will probably go up to cover the costs to maintain records for continuing education and other items.

Starting this year you must have at least 10 contact hours for renewal of your R.S. credentials. Ten means 10.0 or more contact hours. The deadline is December 31, 1991.

The Board has adopted the National's CEU application form for use by members.

Dave Minedew was recognized by the Board for his contributions to the Board as Chairman and to public health in Nevada. Dave has done a lot for the Board and for public health, he deserves the recognition. Congratulations to Dave!

The Board decided to establish a short

newsletter to be sent out to registrants one month after each regular meeting. The newsletter will have a synopsis of the agenda, explaining what action the Board took.

The Board and the audience discussed the possibility that the R.S. Board could be dissolved in the future. A State Boards Commission has been created to look at all 170+ boards in Nevada. It is very likely many boards won't survive the review process. It was felt that the Board needed to be proactive and get the word out about how it works and the benefits to Nevada. Some issues which favor the R.S. Board are: it is self supporting, pays no salaries and it has a good attitude toward those wishing to register.

The Board will consider telling the Washoe County Personnel Department about the Board and the benefits of registration. Washoe District Health will require registration for those in the Environmentalist II and Environmentalist Supervisor positions.

In the future, all boards in Nevada must allow any and all public comment and there must be an item on the agenda which permits this. The R.S. Board already allows it and is already in compliance before the October 1, 1991 deadline.

If you can, please attend R.S. Board meetings when they are held in your city or nearby. The Board is fast paced, well run, interesting and affects all Registered Sanitarians. The Board always wants your input.

Miller wants to cut number of boards

CARSON CITY (AP) — Nevada has 173 boards and commissions regulating just about every type of occupation and industry, including 11 new panels set up by the 1991 legislature.

There's a Sheep Commission, a Beef Council, an Advisory Board on Automotive Affairs and even an Alfalfa Seed Commission. The boards, made up of some 1,200 members, also oversee well drillers, geographic names and even anatomical dissection.

"Some of them may sound frivolous, but they are not frivolous to the people who serve on them," says Senate Majority Leader John Vergiels, D-Las Vegas.

But there have been problems, including claims that the little-known Board of Dispensing Opticians tried to drive an optician out of business. The state agreed to a \$200,000 settlement to Wayne Davis rather than face the prospect of heavier damages in court.

Gov. Bob Miller now plans to name yet another committee to study ways of improving government efficiency, in part by reducing the number of state boards and commissions.

Miller's chief of staff, Scott Craigie, said there simply are too many panels, especially during tough economic times.

"Clearly, one of the main focuses of the review will be to see whether they are still needed," Craigie said. "We will look for ways to merge some of them and evaluate the work they have been doing."

Attorney General Frankie Sue Del Papa applauds Miller's plan and says she would like to serve on the review board.

As attorney general, Del Papa names her deputies to serve as legal advisers to the boards. But at least a dozen boards are allowed by law to hire their own attorneys.

By next month, Del Papa also hopes to distribute a policy manual that explains to new board members the laws and ethical standards they are expected to follow.

She also wants to create a training video for incoming board members.

And Craigie said that by cutting down on the number of boards, the administration may be able to set up a support network of staffers to help remaining boards.

"If there was a reasonable number, we could accommodate them," he said. "Now there are so many we can't."