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State of Nevada



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Kinley Goodman, REHS, Member
Karen Dorsey, FMP, Member
Teresa Long, REHS, Member

Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists

REHS Board Update

February 25, 2004

Subject: REHS Board Activity

Fellow Registrants and Environmentalists:

Much has been happening with respect to our board in the past eight months, all of it good news for all of us in the environmental health profession.

The first, of course, is the governor's appointment of Teresa Long as the Washoe County District Health Department representative on the Board. Teresa has wasted no time in lending her energy and expertise, having already attended two important meetings in a span of one week. The Board is certainly pleased to have her as our newest member.

We are also happy to report that, for the first time in several years, we have experienced a net increase in the number of Nevada-registered environmentalists. The Board had set a goal of increasing its rolls by 25% in 2003. With an increase in seven (7) registrants, that ambitious goal came very close to having been met. The positive numbers indicate to us that professionalism is alive and well in the State of Nevada!

The following is a synopsis of recent Board activity:

1. **NAC 625A revision** – the update to this regulation has been finalized by the Board, and sent back to the Legislative Counsel Bureau. Although most of the changes relate to bringing the Board and Registration name (Registered Environmental Health Specialist vs. Registered Sanitarian), additional sections have been added outlining a procedure for reinstatement of registrations, as well as an exemption for "retired" registrants from the continuing education requirement. This regulation will become effective when it is filed with the Secretary of State of March 29, 2004. And now that that bit of business is out of the way, we can turn our full energies to the issue of ...
2. **MANDATORY REGISTRATION** – As most of you know, we conducted two meetings on February 4th (Reno) and 11th (Las Vegas), during which the Board enlisted comment

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on the issue of mandatory registration and the mechanics of the grandfathering of currently-employed environmentalists. We as a board are encouraged by the number of people attending each meeting, as well as the number testifying. Most of you are aware of the options before the Board, and understand that we are in excellent position to enact mandatory registration during the 2005 legislative session. We have the backing of the major environmental health entities, as well as the Nevada Restaurant Association. On April 15th, the Board will be meeting to draft language for the necessary changes to NRS 625A. We have just been informed that our bill draft has to be submitted to the Department of Administration on or before May 1, 2004, so it has to come out of our meeting in a form suitable for submission. This means that the decision must be made on the path which we will pursue with respect to the grandfathering of currently-unregistered environmentalists. We have received comment on this subject at both meetings, via e-mail, as well as in consultation with registration personnel in the states of Oregon and California. The Board will be making a final decision shortly, and will act in the best interests of environmentalists statewide, while ensuring passage of a strong mandatory registration act. As has been our custom during the past two years, we will keep you informed of our progress on this most important issue.

Meanwhile, we encourage you to check in on a regular basis to our website at www.nvrehs.org. Jim Pierce is doing an excellent job of posting Board activities as they occur (along with some great photos of recent Board meetings). Note also the new online training links, as well as a link to the checkout form for REHS Exam study materials. Libraries for these materials are located both in both Reno and Las Vegas, and are available to environmentalists who have submitted an application to take the REHS exam.

Best regards,



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