



Perspectives

a publication of

Louisiana Environmental Health Association, Inc.

October, 2002

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Do Environmental Health Concerns Matter to People?

By Ed Flynn

Should environmental health concerns matter to people? Should the public take notice or care about what environmental professionals do? Does environmental health affect people in meaningful ways? The answers to all three questions, I believe, are yes.

Public health concerns and their related environmental factors are on the minds of many people in south Louisiana these days. The state has battled a serious outbreak of West Nile virus (WNV) over the past several months; terrorism (whether biological or chemical) remains a national concern following the tragic events of September 11th 2001; and with hurricane season upon us, there are additional concerns in many Louisiana communities about flooding and flood waters. Tropical storms and hurricanes both can cause these and other type problems; exposures to waters that may be contaminated with raw sewage or septic tank backup can lead to a whole host of bacterial gastrointestinal diseases.

In fact, in the immediate aftermath of flooding conditions created in south Louisiana by Tropical Storm Isidore last month, DHH ordered a precautionary closure of all oyster harvest areas located from the Louisiana-Mississippi state line to the Atchafalaya River. This public health action was based on the state health officer's fundamental concern that Isidore might have caused natural contaminates to be washed into rivers, bayous and streams where they could then easily flow into oyster growing areas. The temporary closure allowed for water testing that could assure oyster harvesters and the oyster-eating public that only fresh, clean oysters were being harvested. DHH used its authority under LSA-R.S.40:5,3 to take this action and close these waters.

Another current example of environmental health and public actions is WNV. This mosquito-borne disease can cause encephalitis (a brain infection). As most people know, mosquitoes acquire the virus from birds and can pass it on to other birds, animals, and people. In Louisiana, as elsewhere, the majority of people who get infected with the virus have no serious illness. However, older people do have a higher risk of becoming ill simply because as people get older, they have a more difficult time fighting off disease.

In fact, at least 11 people in Louisiana have died from WNV this year. Environmental health professionals (many of who are LEHA members) are employed in the Office of Public Health (OPH) where they support an aggressive infectious disease epidemiology program. LEHA members and other environmental health professionals are on the front lines working to reduce or eliminate this disease and help the public better protect themselves from this and other viruses.

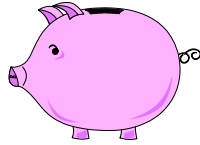
At DEQ, home to many LEHA members, Secretary Dale Givens, a LEHA friend and supporter, has recently retired and been succeeded by L. Hol Bohlinger, a 31-year state employee. Dr. Bohlinger has a strong environmental health background with an undergraduate degree from Southeastern University and a masters and Doctor of Science in environmental science (nuclear specialty) from Tulane University. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I offer LEHA's congratulations to Dr. Bohlinger on this appointment. Even a change in Secretary however, doesn't stop the important environmental work done at the Department. Water quality management plans are moving ahead; in air quality, revisions to the state implementation plan (SIP) are being proposed; and many other important matters are progressing as well : underground storage tanks (UST); radiation protection measures; lead-based paint; standards for sewage sludge; procedures for inactive or uncontrolled sites to name just a few.

I hope you agree with me: environmental health matters do matter! They are important and they affect us in our day-to-day lives. Topics such as the ones I've mentioned here will be on the agenda for our upcoming annual education conference in January 2003 in Lafayette. Our Professional Development Committee, chaired by board member Walter Pichon, has been hard at work organizing the conference. Please visit LEHA @ www.leha.net for more information about the conference and other LEHA-related information. The Internet site is there to serve all the membership.

Thank you for your participation in LEHA. Please feel free to contact me (ed@lca.org) if you have any comments or information you wish to share with the Board of Directors. I look forward to seeing you all in Lafayette in January.

MONEY MATTERS FROM THE TREASURER –

By James D. Miller



The following are totals of funds available as of September 20, 2002:

LEHA Checking Balance	\$14,960
Frank L. Dautriol Scholarship Fund	\$31,865

LEHA 2003 ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE HOLIDOME LAFAYETTE, LA JANUARY 28-30, 2003

By: Walter G. Pichon, III

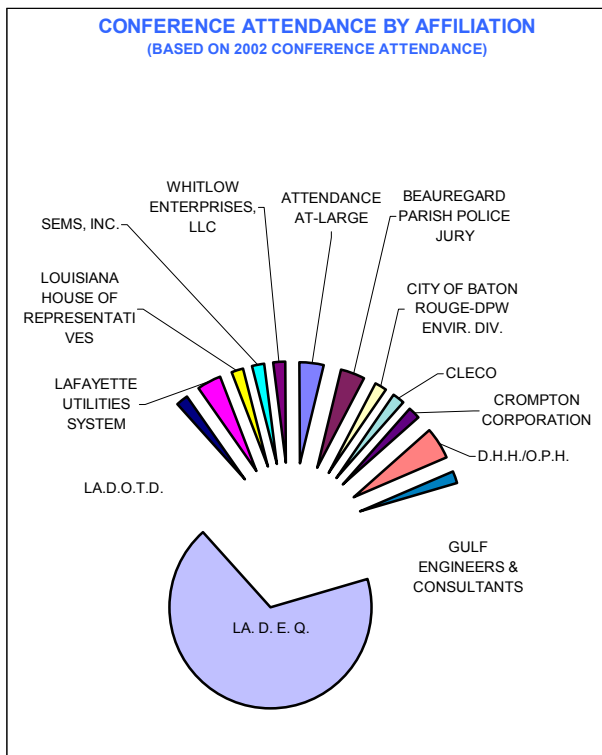
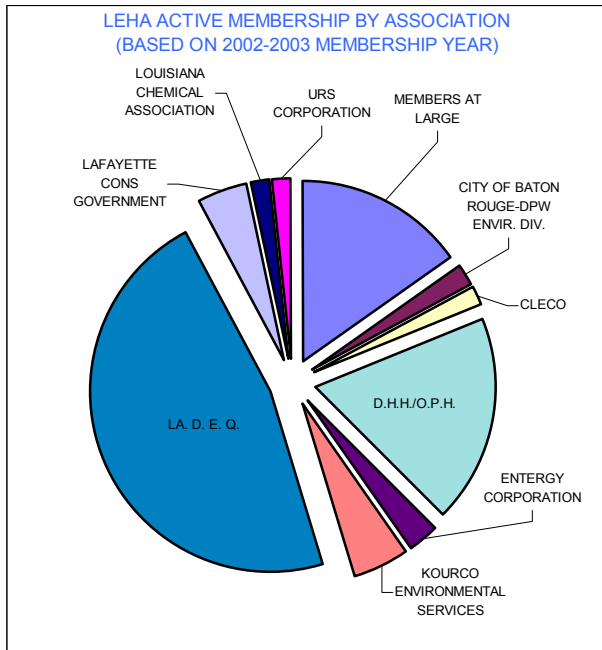
Make plans to attend the upcoming Annual LEHA Conference this January at the Lafayette Holidome! We've got an exciting conference planned, highlighting *hot topics* of interest for environmental professionals!!!

The conference theme “**Sailing the Uncertainties of Our Environmental Future**” highlights some of the environmental concerns of today that will impact our future. In the recent past, the events of 9-11 have raised our awareness of terrorism, both home and abroad. The LEHA Pre-conference Workshop will bring in an expert in the area of “Bioterrorism Preparedness” to enlighten participants on various precautionary measures against bioterrorism.

The conference speakers will discuss various other environmental topics including, mosquito control and the West Nile virus, food allergens and additives, public health issues surrounding the Gulf of Mexico, saving Lake Ponchartrain, and updates from the legislature.

Surf the LEHA website at www.leha.net !!! Registration information on the upcoming conference is available on the website. Check out this group of environmental professionals and fill out a membership form!

It's a great opportunity to network with other environmental professionals and officials and benefit from the educational information presented! Join us for the January 2003 Annual Conference!!!



IN APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Environmental Health Association supports and promotes the education of sanitarians and environmental health professionals charged with the amelioration of public health and environmental problems affecting the citizens of the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John Dale Givens has devoted his career of 38 years in Service to the State of Louisiana to the protection of the environment of the State of Louisiana culminating in the leadership of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John Dale Givens has been a recognized authority and leader in establishing rules and regulations to protect the environment of the State of Louisiana.

WHEREAS, Mr. John Dale Givens has consistently and without fail supported the efforts of the Louisiana Environmental Health Association through his membership and his encouragement of others; and

WHEREAS, Mr. John Dale Givens has consistently and graciously accepted invitations to speak at the Louisiana Environmental Health Association Annual Conferences to promote a better understanding of the priorities and activities of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Officers and Board of Directors of the Louisiana Environmental Health Association, on behalf of the membership of the Louisiana Environmental Health Association, do hereby express our sincere appreciation to

John Dale Givens, Honorary Member

and do hereby convey our gratitude for his many years of support and service to this association.

DONE AND DATED this _____ day of _____, in the year _____.

EDWARD J. FLYNN, President

JOAN ADAMS, Past President

MARIAN U. AGUILLARD, President-Elect

WALTER G. PICHON, III, Vice President

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PETER ROMANOWSKY, Director

PAUL MILLER, Alternate Director

MARY MILLER, Alternate Director

LEHA 2003 CONFERENCE



JANUARY 28-30, 2003, HOLIDAY INN
HOLIDOME LAFAYETTE, LA

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____
Affiliation: _____
Mailing Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

The Bioterrorism Preparedness Workshop will be held from 8:00 AM until 1:15 PM on January 28th. A box lunch is included with registration.

The field trip to Avery Island and the McIlhenny Plant (weather permitting) will depart the Hotel at 1:30 PM on January 28th. Those not attending the workshop may purchase a box lunch to eat with the workshop participants from noon to 1:15 PM for \$12. There is no other charge for the field trip.

Will you attend the field trip? yes no
(Please circle correct response)

Early Bird Registration Fee for those applicants whose registration forms are received **by December 20, 2002:**

Member: \$80 _____
Nonmember: \$100 _____
Workshop: \$30 _____
Field Trip Box lunch: \$12 _____
(optional)

Registration Fee for those applicants whose registration forms are received **after December 20, 2002:**

Member: \$90 _____
Nonmember: \$110 _____
Workshop: \$30 _____
Field Trip Box lunch: \$12 _____
(optional)

TOTAL FEE ENCLOSED: _____

Substitutions Allowed. No Refunds After Jan 15, 2003. Payment Must Accompany Registration Form. Workshop is not included in Conference Registration fee.

PLEASE REMIT TO:
Louisiana Environmental Health Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 2661
Baton Rouge LA 70821-2661

Is this your first LEHA AEC? ___ Yes ___ No
For additional conference registration forms or information concerning membership please write us at the address above or contact us at our web site www.LEHA.net.

**LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 2661
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70821**

NOMINATION FORM

TO: Jodi G. Miller, Chair
LEHA Awards Committee
Louisiana Environmental Health Association
P. O. Box 2661
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-2661

CHECK ONE:

_____ **LEHA OUTSTANDING REGISTERED SANITARIAN AWARD**

_____ **LEHA OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL AWARD**

I, _____, a LEHA Member in good standing, hereby
nominate _____, a LEHA Member in good standing,
for above named award for the following reasons:

1. The nominee has demonstrated interest and accomplishment in the field of environmental health in his/her field as evidenced by the following (attach additional documentation as necessary; curriculum vitae is desirable):

2. The nominee represents an exemplary level of professionalism as evidenced by the following (attach additional documentation as necessary):

3. The nominee is a member of the following organizations:

4. Other comments:

Submitted by:

Recommended to the Board of Directors:

Environmental Professional or Current
Registered Sanitarian
License No. _____

Awards Committee Chairman

On _____, 199__.

On _____, 200__.

Confirmed by the Board of Directors for Award by:

_____, on _____, 200__.

Member of the Board of Directors

**2003 Annual
Outstanding Professional Awards**

Each year, the Louisiana Environmental Health Association awards an Outstanding Environmental Professional Award and an Outstanding Registered Sanitarian Award in recognition of professional excellence and commitment to the protection and enhancement of the environment, and the health and welfare of the people of Louisiana.

Nominees for either award must:

1. Demonstrate interest and accomplishment in the field of environmental health protection, management, or regulation
2. Be an LEHA member in good standing
3. Represent an exemplary level of professionalism
4. Be a person whose primary source of income is derived from the practice of environmental protection

Nominees for the Outstanding Registered Sanitarian Award must be a Registered Sanitarian and for the Outstanding Environmental Professional Award must be employed within the field of environmental health, protection, management or regulation.

Each award shall be issued only once per individual. Please use the nomination form provided in this newsletter to be submitted prior to the last Board of Directors meeting of the year. Awards are to be presented at the Annual Educational Conference.



**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!!
IF YOU MISSED THE 2002
CONFERENCE, WE HAVE A
PHOTO ALBUM AND
PROCEEDINGS NOW POSTED!!!**

www.lehaneet

LEHA APPRECIATES ITS 2002 SPONSORS!

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Baton Rouge, LA 70821**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2003 LEHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
**SAILING THE UNCERTAINTIES OF
OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE**
HOLIDOME – LAFAYETTE, LA

JANUARY 28-30, 2003