

LEHA General Membership Meeting  
February 1, 2001 2:05 pm  
LEHA Annual Conference  
Doubletree Hotel, New Orleans, LA

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by President Mike Vince

### **2. Board Member Roll Call**

Present - Michael Vince, Joan Adams, Ed Flynn, Sharon Parker, Marian Aguillard, George Gullett, Robert Freeman, Brenda Coon, Claude Lewis, Jodi Miller, Susan Welch, Henry Graham, Judy McCleary, Walter Pichon, Mary Miller, Linda Gipson, James Balsamo, Truman McDaniel, and Bette Vidrine.

Absent - Joseph Pecot

### **3. Minutes of the November 16, 2000 Meeting - Marian Aguillard**

Motion was made and seconded and motion carried to accept the minutes as distributed.

### **4. Treasurer's Report - George Gullett**

The report was distributed. A copy is attached to these minutes. No conferences expenses had been paid yet. The scholarships awarded were \$1000 each. Motion made by Claude Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Judy McCleary, and carried to accept the Treasurer's report.

### **5. Professional Development Committee Report – Ed Flynn**

The conference and workshop have been a huge success. We had 2 articles in the Times Picayune, 1 in the Advocate, coverage on WWL TV. We are expecting 2 more articles in the newspapers and an article in BIC Alliance magazine. The Board presented Ed with a small gift in appreciation of his excellent work putting on such a great conference.

### **6. Publicity Committee Report - Jay Pecot**

No report.

### **7. Awards Committee Report – Jodi Miller**

We gave out 2 scholarships at \$1000 each. Jodi encouraged everyone to nominate their deserving co-workers next year and to solicit applications from students.

### **8. WEBSITE - Mike Vince**

Three days before the conference the Web Company was changing servers so our site was down at a critical time. We will be adding any speaker's presentations we have in soft copy to the website. We

expect to move soon to a different Web server with more flexibility. Give any information or corrections directly to the Webmaster and you should see the update within a day or so.

### **9. Education Committee Report - Linda Gipson**

We held a pre-conference workshop on Risk Assessment Management. Dr. William Hartley did an excellent job. We had 35 participants. The participants received a workshop certificate for 8 contact hours.

### **10. Constitution and Bylaws Committee Report – Jim Balsamo**

We had no new updates this year. Hard copies were available at the Conference and can also be downloaded from the website.

### **11. Nominations Committee Report - Sharon Parker**

Sharon requested that the group consider nominating someone else to run for Treasurer since Mike Vince will continue to have duties as Past President. The election of officers and members of the Board of Directors were delayed until toward the end of the meeting.

### **12. Membership Committee Report – Judy McCleary**

Judy plans to make some kind of effort to get conference attendees to join the organization.

### **13. Resolution Committee Report - Walter Pichon**

No resolutions were proposed for this year.

### **14. Old Business**

None.

### **15. New Business**

**A. NEHA Update - Tony Bennett** - Several issues detrimental to the organization have been recognized at NEHA.

1. The most outstanding issue is professional development and recognition that environmental health is even a profession.
2. There are numerous professionals who are not sanitarians.
3. Many environmental health professionals are not affiliated with any organizations.

Does LEHA or the members have views on these issues?

1. Walter Pichon– There is no funding available from DHH which limits even the # of sanitarians who belong to LEHA.
2. Claude Lewis/Joan Adams - Perhaps some correspondence from NEHA would help. LEHA officers, Joan Adams and Claude Lewis are planning to meet with Dr. Guidry of DHH to discuss issues

which seem to be limiting the number of sanitarians who participate in LEHA. Joan thinks a letter detailing what NEHA is and what benefits NEHA and LEHA offer might be appropriate. Claude finds support missing even though he's willing to spend his own funds.

Tony polled the audience to see how many people had been to a NEHA Conference. He asked those who had been if it was worth it? Most said yes.

Truman McDaniel suggested that a letter to Mattie McAndrews would probably do the most good in getting support from DHH.

There is no doubt that the success of National organizations is based on the success of State affiliates. Approximately 20 % of the State affiliate members belong to NEHA, but about 70 % of NEHA members belong to State affiliates. Tony is willing to help us boost our membership. He thinks our challenges are really the same as NEHA's.

**B. Election of Officers - Sharon Parker and Mike Vince** - President-elect Ed Flynn, Vice-President Marian Aguillard, and Secretary Brenda Coon, were elected by acclamation after no nominations were received from the floor. James Miller was nominated for Treasurer and Mike Vince removed his name from consideration. James Miller was elected to the Treasurer's position by acclamation after no other nominations were received from the floor. There were 7 positions on the Board to be filled. Richard Parro's name was removed from consideration since he had declined to be nominated. The nominations were opened to the floor and Linda Brown, Austin Arabie, John King and Pete Romanowsky were nominated. Paul Miller moved, Tim Knight seconded, and the motion carried to close the nominations. The ballots were cast and counted and a runoff ballot was cast for tied votes. The following officers and new board members were elected:

### OFFICERS

President JOAN ADAMS  
Vice President MARIAN AGUILLARD  
Secretary BRENDA COON

President-Elect EDWARD J. FLYNN  
Past President MICHAEL VINCE  
Treasurer JAMES MILLER

### NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JIM BALSAMO 2/2005  
ROGER GINGLES 2/2005

TRUMAN MCDANIEL 2/2005

JOHN KING 2/2004

AUSTIN ARABIE 2/2002

### ALTERNATES

1. LINDA BROWN

2. PETE ROMANOWSKY

**C. NEHA Campaign - Jim Balsamo** - Jim is running for 2nd Vice President of NEHA. Jim encouraged everyone to join NEHA and thanked the Board for sending letters of support. Alaska is about to lose their entire health organization. California is in trouble also. Jim is gathering support in these and other states. Jim requested that we campaign for him with our friends in other states. Jim has only

missed 2 NEHA meetings since 1972. Jim wants to see credentialing, professionalism, and professional development. Jim also wants to see more student recognition. He has Chaired the NEHA Scholarship committee for 9 years. Jim also wants to see the NEHA website improved. Jim's website is jjb42vp.com. The ballots come out on 4/4/01 and are due back in 30 days. The 2<sup>nd</sup> VP position is an automatic succession to President. Jim really does want to be President.

**D. LEHA Conference 2002 - Marian Aguiard** - Marian invited everyone to come to St. Francisville for the LEHA Conference in 2002. A flyer was placed in everyone's registration package and a display was set up in the back of the meeting room with brochures to encourage attendance. There are numerous benefits to having the conference in St. Francisville: the Best Western St. Francis Hotel on Lake is in a retreat-like setting and has recently completed an extensive renovation. Magnolia Café does all of the food for the Hotel which will be a real treat. The hotel has insisted on offering us the regular state room rate for everyone of \$55.00 room rate. The hotel will be setting up the free "continental" breakfast for everyone in the back of our meeting room every morning so this will really help out on the food costs. For those who stay longer, the continental breakfast is always free to hotel guests and includes bagels, sweet rolls, toast and assorted breads, assorted fruits, assorted cereals, milk, juices, etc. We are going to try to have the evening reception at one of the Plantations, and we may even be able to get in a field trip to Riverbend. We've had several requests for a wastewater treatment equipment display. The dates are Jan 30-31, 2002. If feasible, we will have workshop on the 29th.

**E. Miscellaneous** - It was suggested that we get a gift for Mike's son for his tremendous help on setting up and maintaining our website. A small gift was presented to Mike Vince in recognition of his service as President. The new board members were announced as listed above after the ballots were counted. George Gullett and Linda Gipson held the final door prize drawing. Paul Miller won the camera and Truman McDaniel won the luggage.

#### **16. Passing of the Gavel - Mike Vince**

The gavel was passed to Joan Adams. Joan Adams would like for us to hold a one day seminar to benefit the Scholarship fund on some special project or topic that would encourage all members to attend or to hold 2 seminars at the same time— one for DEQ & one for DHH – perhaps at the end of August or September.

Motion was made, seconded and passed and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian U. Aguiard  
February 23, 2001