



# Perspectives

a publication of

**Louisiana Environmental Health Association, Inc.**

March, 2004

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## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

***By: Walter G. Pichon III***



As you know we have stepped into a profound era of new leadership in Louisiana State Government with the election of our first female governor, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco. The plan this year is to make the Louisiana Environmental Health Association (LEHA) well known throughout our State's new Administration. We would also like to reiterate to our Senators and House Representatives, who in the past years have attended our annual conferences as speakers, that our organization is a viable entity which has a solid history, a place in servicing the public needs through inspections and regulations, annual participation in voluntary projects throughout the state, and not to mention our annual scholarship awards given to undergraduate and graduate students studying a major appertaining to environmental and science oriented subjects. We have a unique situation this year, in that, we have a long time board member, Mr. James Balsamo, who is the President Elect of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). Not only is this year's plan to get our association well known with our state administration, but to get ourselves well known at the national level. The plan is to set up a number of future meetings with all these entities, hand out a number of informational packets, and giving formal invitations to attend our annual conferences to the many people that can foresee the positive aspects of LEHA. I think these are very positive steps in the right direction to make LEHA more prominently known then we have been in the past years. Your Board wishes the best to you and yours for this new year.

If ever you have any concerns, ideas, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me in making LEHA serve you better.

***Walter G. Pichon III***

***President***

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## ***LEHA 2004 Conference Was A Huge Success***

***By: Robert Freeman, President-Elect LEHA***

The Louisiana Environmental Health Association held it's annual educational conference in LaPlace, on January 27-29, 2004.

Senator Heulette "Clo" Fontenot, Vice-Chairman of the Environmental Quality Committee was our keynote speaker. He delivered an excellent presentation on current environmental issues. I want to extend a special thanks to our sponsors who enabled us to keep the registration costs down. Thanks are also extended to the talented planning committee

who made the arrangements and developed the agenda. A variety of technical sessions on current environmental and health issues were presented, including: Louisiana Black Bear, Mariculture Potential in the Gulf, Homeland Security, SARS, Ozone Problems and Make-A-Map GIS System.

Lastly, but certainly not least, I want to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this year's conference a great success.

**MONEY MATTERS  
FROM THE  
TREASURER –**

By James D. Miller



The following are totals of funds available as of March 10, 2004:

LEHA Checking Balance	<b>\$4,817</b>
Frank L. Dautriol Scholarship Fund	<b>\$35,420</b>

The LEHA values your membership. Please visit the LEHA website at <http://www.leha.net> to join or to renew your membership. Please consider attending the LEHA Annual Conference, as you will receive complimentary membership as part of your conference registration. If you haven't received a membership renewal notice, please contact James D. Miller through the LEHA website.



**National Sanitarian/Environmental  
Health Specialist Day  
Monday, April 26, 2004**

The Resolutions committee is in high gear working toward a Proclamation by Governor Blanco declaring Monday, April 26, 2004 as National Sanitarian/Environmental Health Specialist Day in Louisiana. We are also working on a Legislative Resolution declaring the same. We are scheduled to have a table in the Rotunda that day to publicize our organization. Look for updates on our progress on the website.



**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!!!**

**A MESSAGE FROM NEHA PRESIDENT-ELECT**

*By: Jim Balsamo, Jr.*

I am off to a NEHA Board of Director's Meeting, March 9-12, 2002 in Denver. We have many new exciting issues which require the Board's action before they can come to fruition. Also it is encouraging to note that hotel bookings are showing good promise for the conference attendance in Anchorage. It should be very exciting. They will be including a lot of information and presentations on environmental health in the harsh climate of the North where native customs still flourish, especially food preservation and preparation practices. How do you treat sewage with no subsurface seepage possible or cold temperatures kill the "bugs" in a normal package treatment unit? This should prove to be one of the more unique educational conferences ever put on by NEHA. Walter, our LEHA President and Robert, our President-Elect should have a very exciting and rewarding conference about which, I am sure they will report every detail to you in the next newsletter. I am glad they will be there as I take over as President of NEHA at the end of the conference.

An exciting, but busy year as President is looming for me. I hope that I am up to the challenge of running a 5000 plus membership organization with a multi-million dollar budget. All my years of working with LEHA probably will make the task of heading NEHA look like a "piece of cake!" Just kidding!

After the conference is over, I will be taking the cruise (Inside Passage) from Seward down through Vancouver, BC., and this is shaping up to be a wonderful adventure, after having spoken with a few friends who have taken this cruise. NEHA is trying to arrange for us to take an "inside tour" of the various environmental systems that operate within this ship. Hopefully we will see how they treat their sewage, water, and solid waste, how they prepare the many foods for a 24 hour operation, and how they strive to prevent disease transmission aboard this floating vacation resort. I will report on this and the conference in future newsletters.



**NEHA Region V Vice President's Report**

*By: Brian Collins*

I just returned from a National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Board of Director's (BOD) meeting in Denver, Colorado. The board spent two days reviewing and conducting the business of NEHA and its 4549 members. I had the pleasure of seeing NEHA President-Elect and Louisiana son, Jim Balsamo at work. Louisiana should be very proud to be represented by Jim!

A number of items were considered at this year's spring BOD agenda. Among them, the spring ballot for national officers, updates on research and development grants and  
(Continued on Page 3)

*(Region V Report continued)*

programs, a NEHA Training LLC update, an International Federation of Environmental Health update and various credentialing matters. The BOD also established four strategic committees in Finance, Marketing, Member Services and Workforce Development. These committees will enable NEHA to continuously monitor output and adapt to change in the future. The committees, a result of current President, Doug Ebelherr's initiative, will also assist NEHA in staying organizational momentum toward the future. Many more items will be considered at the Board of Director's meeting at the Annual Educational Conference in Anchorage, Alaska May 9-12,2004. I hope to see you there.

On a final note, I wanted to express a deep appreciation for the kind hospitality extended to me at your annual conference in LaPlace this year. Not only did I learn a lot but I was also able to network with some very enthusiastic and innovative people. I was very impressed that LEHA had the ear of local and state politicians too. That kind of networking is invaluable! I think what I will remember best though is the fantastic etouffee and jambalaya---the best I've ever had!

I look forward to seeing you next year in St. Francisville and if you would like to contact me before then, please feel free to do so at [brianc@plano.gov](mailto:brianc@plano.gov). Until then..."let the good times roll."



**LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION  
PROUDLY PRESENTS ITS  
2004 SPONSORS  
BENEFACTORS**

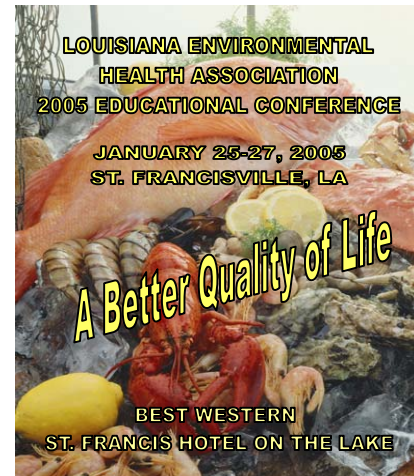
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We are once again planning for our annual educational conference. This year's theme is "A Better Quality of Life" and we will again be meeting in St. Francisville at the Best Western St. Francis Hotel on the Lake, January 25-27, 2005. The Best Western Hotel in St. Francisville is giving us a special rate of \$62 per night. Mark your calendar, this is one conference you can't afford to miss.

The planning committee has developed a tentative agenda that includes a workshop and field trip, national and Louisiana speakers, and a variety of technical sessions on current environmental health issues. We expect to have presentations concerning the food chain from field to table with presentations from Master Farmers, Nonpoint Pollution Sources, Food Processors, Permit Writers, Restaurant Inspectors, Various Food and Crop related Associations, etc. We are also developing a 3 part session on "Life Without the LEHA Professional" targeting water supply, epidemics, and pollution. Other topics are being pursued as well.

Everyone is invited to attend and sponsorship support is extremely welcome. The conference flyer, the list of our 2004 Sponsors, and a sponsorship support form are posted on the website. Mark your calendar and plan to be with us in St. Francisville. Hope to see you there!!!!!!!

*Steve Aguillard  
Vice President, LEHA*

With Great Pride and Honor the  
**LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

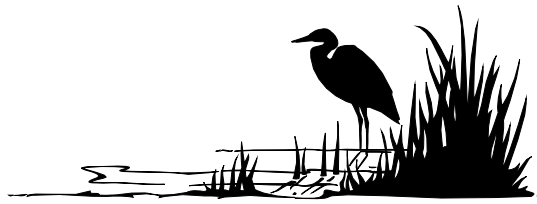
Congratulates

**JAMES J. BALSAMO, JR.**

on assuming the Presidency  
of the

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

May 2004  
Anchorage, Alaska



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