

October 2008 Newsletter

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF SANITARIAN EXAMINERS

www.rsboard.com

Board Members: **Ann (Len) C. Gilstrap – Chair, Eastern**
Terry L. Pierce – Vice-Chair, Secretary NCDENR
L.Layton Long – Sec./Treas., Health Directors
Perry Solice – Sanitarian at Large
Patricia Hawkins - Western

Malcolm Blalock –Public Spirited Citizen
Dr. Burton Ogle – Educator
Sheila Nichols – NCDENR DEH
Lynn Lathan – Central

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Currently in North Carolina there are 1210 Board Registered Sanitarians. Of that number 154 are interns. The exam has been administered twice in 2008 to 114 interns. The Board has held four (4) meetings in 2008 with one more scheduled before the end of the year.

Board members reappointed for a second term are: Malcolm Blalock, Public Spirited Citizen and Perry Solice, Environmental Health Specialist at Large. The other Board members are Chairman, Ann (Len) C. Gilstrap, Carteret County, Eastern Representative; Vice Chairman, Terry Pierce, Secretary of DENR Representative; Secretary/ Treasurer, Layton Long, Davidson County, Local Health Director Representative; Dr. Burton Ogle; Western Carolina, the educational representative: Sheila Nichols, representing DENR, Lynn Lathan, Mecklenburg County, Piedmont NC Representative and Patricia Hawkins, Transylvania County, Western NC Representative.

Malcolm Blalock is the Education Committee Chairman. Other members of the Education Committee include Burt Ogle, Patricia Hawkins, and Lynn Lathan.

The Board has received fewer complaints during 2008. Existing investigations or actions taken in the last year have been resolved due to retirement, failure to renew certification, leaving employment as an intern or completion of period of suspension. Investigations completed as a result of complaints during 2008 were not considered to be in violation of RS certification therefore no further action was required.

The Office of State Controller's requirement for Boards and Commissions for annual Self-Assessment of Internal Controls continues to make an impact on Board time. Members of the Board are still developing and updating policies to meet the requirements of the Internal Controls. Given the small size of staff and the fact that the Board is so decentralized makes progress slow.

To reduce expenses the Board has attempted to have fewer meetings. The result of fewer meetings means longer periods between approvals of interns, approvals of new registered sanitarians and approval of continuing education. Fiscal requirements by the Controllars Office are likely to increase costs. The Board is still seeking an increase in fees to allow the Board to be self-sufficient and to carry out its responsibilities properly. The Board will propose amendments to the statutes during the Long Session in 2009. The Board feels the need to improve some of the wording in the current revisions. The revisions will be posted on the website as soon as they are available.

Supervisors are reminded to follow up with interns to ensure they don't wait too long to take the exam. Some interns are waiting until the last year to take the exam for the first time. With the exam given only three times a year, some interns have run out of time before they passed the exam.

All the information needed to register as an intern, for annual renewal, to keep track of continuing education, and to update contact information can be done on www.rsboard.com. Please update your information as soon as possible. Confirmation of registration renewal will also be available therefore eliminating the need for new registration cards each year.

Renewal information will be sent out in mid October via listserv and mailed to unaffiliated and retired Registered Sanitarians. Everyone is encouraged to return completed renewals as early as possible.

All Registered Sanitarians should now have received permanent registration cards. Temporary cards, valid for up to three years, will continue to be given to Registered Sanitarian Interns. If for some reason you do not have a registration card please notify Janice Jones.