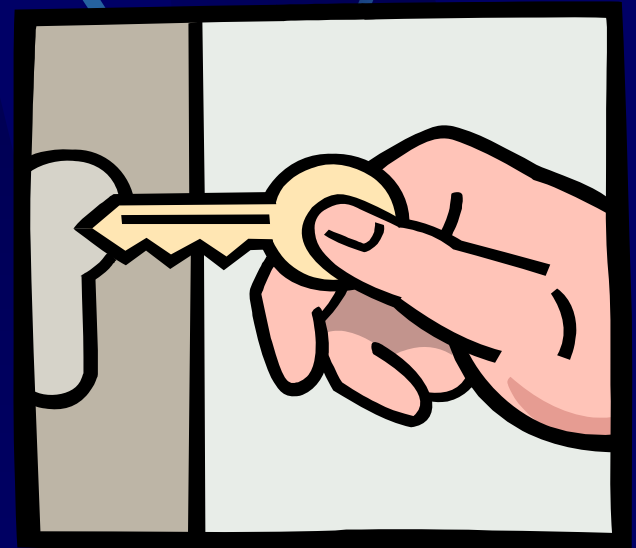




# The Benefits of Professional Registration



*Presented by:*

*Charles E. Luther, REHP*



# What Does “Registered” Mean?

Registered means that a person has fulfilled all the educational and examination requirements of the Florida Environmental Health Association and is entitled to use the Environmental Health Professional credential.



# Environmental Health Professional

A person with a Bachelor's degree whose education and experience in the biological, physical and sanitary sciences qualifies him/her to engage in the promotion and protection of the public's health.



He/she is a professional who applies technical knowledge to solve problems of the environment and develops methods and carries out procedures for the control of those factors in our environment which affect our health, safety, and well being.



# NEHA Philosophy

Individuals holding the REHS/RS credential show competency in environmental health issues, direct and train personnel to respond to routine or emergency environmental situations, and frequently provide education to their communities on environmental health concerns.



# Benefits of Registration

- Enhances individual skills and demonstrates initiative
- Adds value to the organization
- Offers customers better quality service
- Consistent with recent attempts  
to Broadband
- Enhances credibility with other  
professionals
- Nationally recognized





# Broadbanding

**State of Florida Broadbanding Report** "...a system that collapses many narrow classifications and pay grades into a relative few broad classifications and wide pay "bands" that form the foundation for managing personnel and administering pay. Broadbanding supports the transition to flatter organization structures and utilization of a higher-talent workforce. Instead of emphasizing titles, pay grades, and job descriptions, the focus of broadbanding is to utilize a system that provides incentives for employees to increase their job-related value by developing new skills and contributing to improve agency service. Broadbanding encourages workers to acquire additional knowledge so they may adapt to new roles and make lateral moves in response to organizational needs..."



# Qualifications for Registration

To be eligible for registration by the Board as an Environmental Health Professional, applicants must be at least 18 years of age and meet one of the following criteria in order to sit for the exam:





# Qualification 1

Possess a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Health from a college or university accredited by the National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council and show a minimum of one year of on-the-job experience in environmental health practice.





## Qualification 2

Graduate from an accredited four-year college or university with major course work in public health, environmental health, sanitary science or a physical or biological science and show a minimum of two years of on-the-job experience in environmental health practice.

Experience may be met prior to or after obtaining the Bachelor's degree in science.



## Qualification 3

Possess a Master's degree from an accredited college or university with a curricula approved by the National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council, or a doctoral degree in environmental health.

In this case, an application and transcripts may be submitted without experience.



# Application for Registration

A person desiring to be registered as an Environmental Health Professional shall apply to the Registration Board in writing, on a form furnished by the Board and include the following:

- Evidence under oath of their qualifications



- College transcripts



- Registration fee of \$130.00 (not refundable)





# The Exam

Once the Board is satisfied that all the required materials have been submitted and verified, the applicant is notified of their eligibility to sit for the exam.



The Exam is given at the Annual Education Meeting and at other times as circumstances warrant.



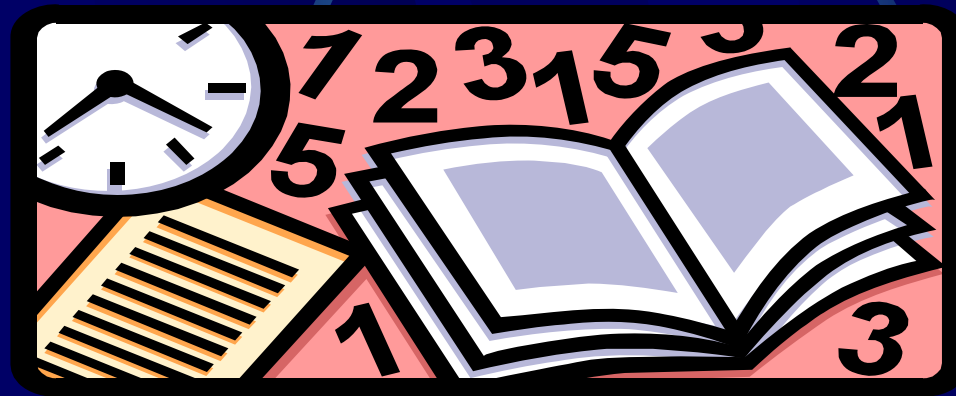
# Renewal of Registration and Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

- Registration certificates are renewed every two years (biennially).
- A renewal certificate will not be issued until the applicant submits proof satisfactory to the Board that during this biennial period preceding his/her application for renewal, he/she participated in at least thirty (30) contact hours of approved courses of continuing education.



## More on CEUs

Continuing education courses include postgraduate studies, short courses, seminars, lectures, conferences, workshops, extension studies, correspondence courses, or other forms of continuing professional education approved by the Registration Board.





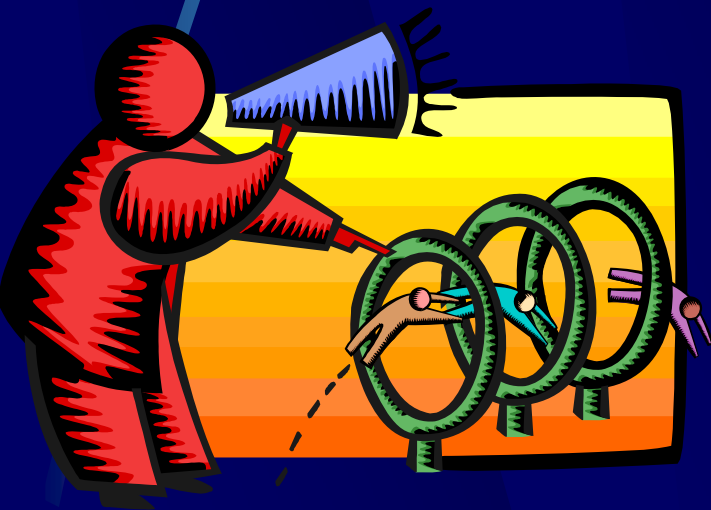
## Even More on CEUs

Specific subject matter can include: public health administration, environmental health administration, communicable diseases, microbiology, virology, parasitology, sanitary chemistry, radiological health, industrial hygiene, water supply, food technology, milk and food sanitation, health planning, insect and pest control.



# Last Word on CEUs

Courses other than those specifically mentioned can be approved in advance by the Registration Board. Generally, continuing education units can be approved for most of the following topics:



- Preventive medicine and public health
- Epidemiology
- Environmental health and sanitary practices
- Public health and environmental law
- Disaster preparedness and response
- Bioterrorism





# FEHA Reciprocity

The Board may allow reciprocity with the National Environmental Health Association and with states having registration requirements. Applicants from a state must submit documents that show that they meet the reciprocity requirements of NEHA.

Applicants desiring registration by reciprocity must submit an application, proof of their current registration and the appropriate application fee. Applicants from a state must submit, in addition to the above, documentation that verifies they meet the NEHA reciprocity requirements



# NEHA Reciprocity

If you passed the Professional Examination Service (PES) exam before December 31, 1997; and you have a Bachelor's Degree with 30 semester or 45 quarter hours in science from a four-year college or university; and you have a valid current state registration, you can obtain the National REHS/RS credential without having to take NEHA's exam.

You must have scored a 70% or better on the PES exam. A score report, completed professional credential application, and official college transcripts should be submitted to NEHA.



# Registration Board Members

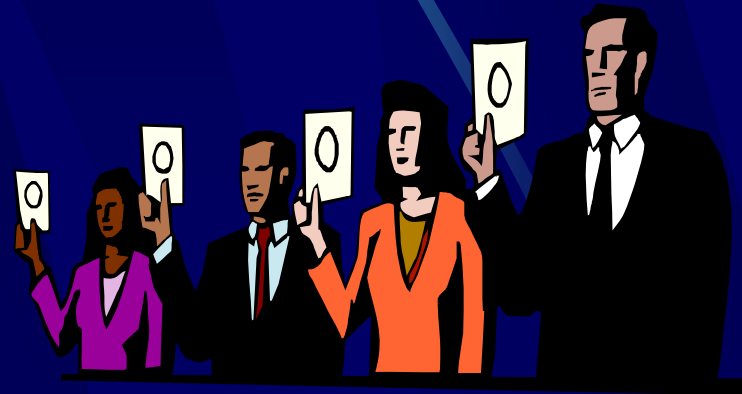
Ray Collins, RS, MPH, Chairman

Bob Vincent, RS, MPA, Secretary

Bob Washam, RS, MPH

Howard Rosen, RS, MPH

Charles E. Luther, REHP





# Recent Board Initiatives

- Allow CEUs from reading/writing FEHA articles
- Market registration as a desirable competency
- Extol the virtues of registration by:
  - recognizing personal achievement,
  - emphasizing the value of the credential,
  - encouraging others to apply, and
  - justifying future pay increases, promotions or assignments.
- Working with NEHA to modernize titles



FLORIDA ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INC.

An affiliate of the  
National Environmental  
Health Association



Organized  
October 12, 1947

A non-profit association serving the environmental health profession in the State of Florida

October 30, 2002

Dr. Elbert Sutton  
Santa Rosa County Health Department  
P. O. Box 929  
Milton, Florida 32572-0929

SUBJECT: William H. Sirmans

Dear Dr. Sutton:

On behalf of the Registration Board of the Florida Environmental Health Association, I'm pleased to inform you that Bill Sirmans has successfully completed the requirements for registration in Florida and is now entitled to use the Registered Sanitarian (RS) designation. This credential reflects the highest level of expertise and competence in the environmental health profession. Through a reciprocity agreement with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), registration in Florida is recognized by most other states.

To be eligible for registration, applicants must meet the education and experience requirements established in our by-laws then successfully pass a national exam covering all aspects of environmental health, including bioterrorism and disaster preparedness. Once registered, individuals must complete and submit continuing education units to the Board and adhere to a professional code of ethics. They're also active in professional and community-based activities.

Registration is voluntary in Florida so those awarded the credential demonstrate a high degree of personal initiative and a long-term commitment to public health. They're more likely to be up-to-date on the latest advancements in environmental health and are better equipped to direct the activities of others. Registration enhances credibility in communicating risks, serving as an expert witness or in discussions with other professionals about environmental health issues.

As organizations strive for a more talented workforce, registration provides an incentive for employees to increase their job-related value by developing and maintaining new skills. Employers and customers benefit from the enhanced quality of services that registration can impart.

Congratulations to Mr. Sirmans and the Santa Rosa County Health Department for this achievement!

Sincerely,

Raymond E. Collins, RS, MPH  
Chairman, Registration Board

Copy to: Jennifer Williams, Executive Director

Official Publication "Florida Journal of Environmental Health"



# Presentation Links

Florida Environmental Health Association

<http://www.feha.org/>

National Environmental Health Association

<http://www.neha.org/>

National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation  
Council

<http://www.ehacoffice.org/>

Department of Management Services, Division of Human Resource  
Management

<http://www.state.fl.us/dms/hrm/>



Thanks and have a great day!