

Robert W. Powitz – General Biographical Sketch

at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, a high-containment laboratory and diagnostic facility. Bob's expertise led to rescinding restrictions of entry unto the island; removing all hazardous waste from containment; remediating all island landfills; initiating self-certification of biological safety cabinets using the latest NSF protocols; updating the Island's biological safety manual and overseeing the decontamination of containment facilities to allow for essential reconstruction.

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The year 2017 marks 50 years since Dr. Robert W. Powitz received his first license as a Sanitarian. He is still working and remains very active in this profession, in public health as a Health Officer, with his private consulting company, authoring articles on environmental health, presenting at state and national conferences, advising and mentoring any professional that will listen (and some that don't!) and volunteering his subject matter expertise in a variety of environmental health related associations

program lasted approximately eight years; with approximately 4 students per year working part time in his department.

For the past 20 consecutive years, he presented an overview of being a sanitarian to local high school students during professional development day.

For several years, Dr. Powitz prevailed on the National Environmental Health Association and American Academy of Sanitarians, to host a student colloquium on job opportunities and options at its Annual Educational Conference. He invited participation by environmental health professionals employed by state, county and municipalities, the Uniformed Services, industry and academia.

These individuals presented their scope of practice and outlined the job opportunities in their respective agencies. This has resulted in several students finding employment in both traditional and non-traditional public health roles.

Establishing "Sanitarian" as a Recognized Profession

In 1985, Dr. Powitz, now a Forensic Sanitarian, tried to incorporate as a "Professional Corporation" (PC) with the Michigan Department of Commerce. The petition was rejected based because the Department of Commerce did not recognize the profession. He countered by threatening a lawsuit on behalf of all Registered Sanitarians in the State of Michigan since the state required this profession to sit for a state examination to renew the Sanitarian license annually. The State capitulated with an apology and Bob was granted PC status. He subsequently went through the same exercise in Connecticut and thereby establishing professional name recognition in that state as well.

At the annual education conference in Orlando, Florida in 1993, there was attempt by some NEHA officers to drop any reference to the term "Registered Sanitarian" from its credentialing program. Bob was one of two Diplomates who drafted, at that conference, a position paper for the Academy strongly opposing this action. The paper was presented to the NEHA Council of Delegates and the proposal was postponed and ultimately defeated.

Support of Professional Credentialing

Dr. Powitz has always supported professional credentialing. During his tenure at Wayne State University, he encouraged his staff to sit for as many professional credentialing examinations as possible, and in so doing, led by example. Therefore, whenever he works in a different political jurisdiction or in areas of environmental health and safety where a specialization credential is available, he pursues that certification, license or registration. (Details on Dr. Powitz' certifications, licenses and registrations can be found in Appendix III.)

Criteria for Sanitarian Status

As a post-doctoral research associate with the National Environmental Health Association, Dr. Powitz helped research and author the criteria for the Sanitarian profession. He was instrumental in redefining the profession in 1978; this was the first revision of the Sanitarian professional practice criteria since its formal recognition in 1936. By developing a series of questionnaires and sampling over 2,000 NEHA members, he was able to outline the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary for an individual to establish the Sanitarian profession as a career. His work resulted in several states ultimately reclassifying the position.

Memorializing the History of the Sanitarian

Bob developed a PowerPoint presentation on the History of the Sanitarian Profession in which he traced the rise of the profession from the 1840's to the present day. Together with a fellow Diplomate Laureate, he created a PowerPoint presentation on the history of Quarantine and Isolation; which also includes recommendations on sanitarian-initiated programs for health departments. As a result of these two programs, he curated a traveling exhibition of historic artifacts, ephemera and tools used by the Sanitarian profession. This includes a cased Babcock kit from 1870 (with provenance), an inspector's badge and thermometer from the 1920s, water purification devices spanning over a century and a half, early soap and disinfectant dispensers and several turn of the century whiskey adulteration monitoring devices (which Bob found quite interesting, and potentially useful!), for display at affiliate and other group meetings.

Individual Achievements

Throughout his career, Robert W. Powitz has been steadfast in working to improve environmental health for the communities he represented. As a result, he has accomplished much, and has been recognized for his efforts and accomplishments. Below is an overview of some of his notable achievements:

As the first licensed Health Officer for the Borough of Ringwood, New Jersey, Dr. Powitz established a full-time health department including environmental health, public health nursing and social work service com

During his tenure at Wayne State, he established the first integrated pest management program for a university, including chemical-free control in housing, selected research facilities and throughout all vivaria. He also orchestrated a comprehensive campus-side rat and pigeon elimination program without the use of persistent pesticides. He regularly conducted training sessions, tutorials and conferences for the Michigan pest control industry.

He designed and installed the first pyrogen-free water purification system used in a multiple-station, hospital hemodialysis unit. The design

Certified Healthcare Safety Professional, # 0017
National Registry of Environmental Professionals: Registered Environmental Laboratory Analyst, # 8371 (expired); Certified Environmental Auditor, # 623; Registered Environmental Property Assessor, # 1504
Environmental Assessment Association: Certified Environmental Inspector, CEI 9235 (expired)
Association of Construction Inspectors: Certified Construction Inspector, # 40951
Housing Inspection Foundation: Registered Home Inspector, #2580
Water Quality Association: Certified Water Specialist- V

During his career in public health, Dr. Powitz has received the following professional honors:

Diplomate: American Academy of Sanitarians, Certificate# 336
Diplomate Laureate: American Academy of Sanitarians, Certificate # 001
Davis Calvin Wagner Award, 1996, American Academy of Sanitarians
Harry Bliss Journal Technical Editor's Award, 1999, National Environmental Health Association
Harry R.H. Nicholas Award, New Jersey Environmental Health Association
President's Award, 1990, Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers
Phi Beta Kappa
Who's Who in Science

Dr. Powitz is an active member in the following organizations:

Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers
American Academy of Sanitarians
American Biological Safety Association
American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
American Correctional Association
American Jail Association
American Society for Quality
Association for Practitioners in Infection Control and Epidemiology
Association of Food and Drug Officials
Association of Professional Industrial Hygienists
Claims Providers of America
Connecticut Environmental Health Association
Housing Inspection Foundation
International Association for Food Protection
Mid - Atlantic Biological Safety Association
Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association
National Environmental Health Association
National Recreation and Park Association
National Safety Council
Water Quality Association

In addition to all the above, Dr. Powitz was profiled in the January-February Journal of Environmental Health, Profiles in Leadership: The 15 Faces of Environmental Health Leadership.

Contributions to the Betterment of Environmental Health

Hazardous Waste Management

While working at Wayne State University, Dr. Powitz was appointed by the Wayne County Commissioners to serve on the Hazardous Waste Facility Site Review Board. The activities of this board were the first in the State of Michigan to address the concerns of the public in

modifications and procedural changes were adapted by all hospitals in the chain.

Bob eliminated Ascariasis in a population of children among the Ramapo Mountain People, and for the first time, ensured 100% participation in a childhood disease immunization program. He also coordinated health education activities to target early intervention of an unusually high rate of diabetes mellitus among the Ramapo people (approximately 40% of the population are effected). Consequently, many of the devastating effects of this disease were prevented. Although the actual impact on the population longevity had not been established, direct medical cost savings were demonstrated.

Dr. Powitz was one of the original contributors to the 1976 American Public Health Association's *Standards for Health Services in Correctional Institutions*. He has since authored numerous papers to provide guidance in assessing these standards to meet with current public health practice. He has referenced these standards on numerous occasions in court to improve the public health within several larger correctional systems. Most notably he was instrumental in improving conditions in the following correctional systems: New York City; Madison County, Alabama; City of Philadelphia, and, in the states of Rhode Island, Vermont, South Dakota and Michigan.

Contamination Control

Dr. Powitz was the first sanitarian to work with clean rooms and the semiconductor industry; specifically in developing cleaning techniques and ultra-pure water reclamation.

He developed a statistically accurate ATP sampling protocol for the Integrated Control and Measurement program that is now used in professional housekeeping. Together with three professional sanitarians, he developed a program that defines levels of cleanliness using qualitative observations on a matrix; resulting in a quantitative measurement that can be used for QA/QC/QI. The sampling is based upon MIL-STD-105E that yields repeatable data.

Voluntary Standards

In 1967, as a District Sanitarian with the New Jersey State Health Department, Dr. Powitz was assigned the task of developing a plan review program for new restaurants and food processing faci-5(ell)13(te /P)3(l)13(an)4(C B

standards and used them to justify equipment selection and placement. Consequently, he was responsible for assisting local health departments to incorporate these new crafted guidelines into their food service inspection program. Subsequently, as local Health Officer, he incorporated the mandate for equipment listed under these voluntary standards into his local restaurant ordinance.

Professional Publications

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Dr. Powitz was the first to co-edit and publish a quarterly magazine for campus and school safety professionals. *Current Topics*, published by the campus Safety Association addressed timely topics in environmental health, safety and security. This quarterly magazine was the first of its kind to collect relevant articles on school safety and health issues for distribution throughout the United States and Canada.

He also initiated, and is the co-author of "Tools for Environmental Health", a regular and

prevention techniques. In addition, he also serves on the Editorial Board of this magazine.

Since establishing his practice as a Forensic Sanitarian, Dr. Powitz has given numerous talks to lawyer and insurance groups where he introduces the art of forensic environmental health and safety to their profession. In doing so, he raised the awareness of using a Sanitarian in public health litigation support activities and established a new title and function for fellow professionals who serve as expert witnesses.

Joining with many other leaders in the public health field, Dr. Powitz served on the Subject Matter Expert Panel, which led to the publication of the pivotal Environmental Health Competency Project in 2001.

Active Involvement and Contributions to NEHA and Affiliate Association Activities

Dr. Robert Powitz began his active involvement and decades-long h and

Bob is a valuable and well-received speaker, who has shared his expertise and mentored many professionals during NEHA Annual Education Conference. He has given of his time to present "Instrumentation Workshop for Environmental Health Professionals at three NEHA Annual Education Conferences. He was invited to give a two day workshop entitled "Instrumentation for Environmental Assessment" for the Navy Environmental Health Conference. Bob also presented a one day workshop

legal profession; the water purification, semiconductor, pharmaceutical, food and healthcare industries, in addition to his public service. His strengths are in the technical aspects of public and environmental health, versus that of administration and finance. Consequently, he is often summoned to participate on various committees and panels as an expert in his field, and brings to the table an ability to translate technical issues into layman's terminology.

Panels, Committees, and Commissions

Several years ago, he prevailed on Dr. Nina McClellan, who was the President of NSF, to establish

He has served as an expert witness on correctional public health on behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and in the following jurisdictions: First, Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth and eleventh Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals; the states of Alabama, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota and Vermont; and the cities of Baltimore, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia and Washington DC.

Employment History

Reference Letters

Many professionals provided letters of reference, in support of Dr. Powitz' Walter S. Mangold nomination. Ten of these letters are in Appendix IX. These include:

Nationally recognized leaders in the field:

1. Larry Gordon, Mangold Award Recipient, MS, MPH, DHL
2. James J. Balsamo, Jr., MS, MPH, MHA, RS, CP-FS, CHMM, Past-President NEHA
3. Stan Hazan, NSF

Additional reference letters:

4. Ron Grimes, RS, MPH, DAAS, Past-President NEHA
5. Jim Hunter, Senior Project Engineer Labconco
6. CAPT John Leffel, REHS, MPH, Senior Advisor NPS, Office of Public Health
7. Gary P. Noonan, RS, MPA, DLAAS, American Academy of Sanitarians
8. John P. Shanahan, Vice President/Co-Founder, GenEon Technologies
9. Stephen R. Tackitt, RS, MPH, DAAS, Past-President NEHA
10. Barbara VanRenterghem, Ph.D., Editorial Director, Food Safety Magazine

Some highlights from these letters of recommendation:

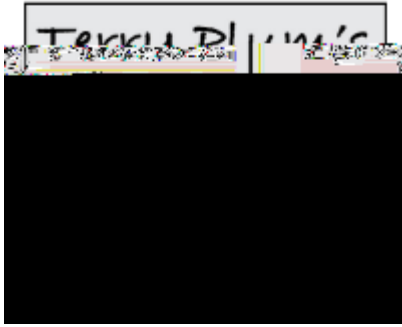
Dr. Powitz is all about the sanitarian as a professional within the field of Environmental Health. He desires and seeks the highest standards, improved practices and utilization of the most advanced equipment by sanitarians. His support of the highest ethical conduct by the sanitarian is unequalled. To that end, he has been a leader in the support of the students within Environmental Health curriculums.

The curriculum vita of Dr. Powitz is both extensive and broad. Many might be satisfied with half of his accomplishments but not Bob. He is like the Duracell battery bunny – he just keeps going and going. Dr. Powitz also gives back to the profession in unseen ways.

Not only has [Bob] served as a mentor for others seeking input about sanitation issues through his writing and suggestions for article topics to cover in the magazine, but he has always delivered cutting-edge content on sanitation to the food industry as a whole.

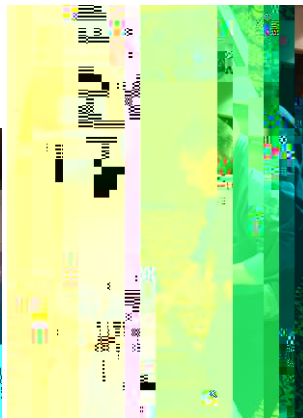
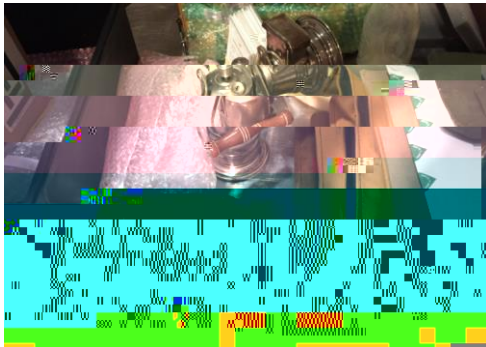
I met Dr. Powitz (Bob) in the early 1980's as a graduate student, where he became my advisor.

Miscellaneous



Terry Plum's also has active involvement with political affairs, youth shooting sports activities including safety instruction as well as conservation land acquisition.

As part of Dr. Powitz' activities in antiques, he managed to amass a sizeable collection of Public Health materials of historic significance including books (many are first-edition), prints, engravings, letter and quarantine placards, as well as historical journals including vol 1, No 1 of The Sanitarian and the APHA Sanitarian dating to 1870; Health inspector and sanitarian badges; antique and vintage field equipment used by sanitarians; antique water purification devices and various unique items and ephemera including a Crumbine brick, etc. The collection is available to any environmental health related organization (NEHA, AFDO) for display at their conferences at no charge. All items are thoroughly researched and he serves as docent.



He regularly give talks to high school, Rotary, parent/teacher and literary groups on various environmental health topics including awareness of disease prevention, the professional sanitarian and role of health departments and industry in maintaining a healthy environment.

Finally, he is a partner in the Essex Automobile Club, LLC, an organization of antique, classic and special interest automobile owners.