

# The ReSET Report

November 2007 • Volume 24

## A Passing of the Torch as ReSET Enters its Third Decade

As ReSET begins its 20th year of service to the D.C. community, it faces an important milestone . . . founder Harold Sharlin is turning over operational control of the organization to former Environmental Protection Agency executive, John Meagher.



Executive Director, John Meagher, on a recent trip to Madrid.

Sharlin feels this is the right time for ReSET to make this change: "I have been intent on establishing a succession of leadership because I want my lasting contribution to be a viable organization. For years I have searched for the right person to assume control, and I know I've found that person in John Meagher."

Mr. Meagher, who has been serving on ReSET's Board since January, has directed his efforts toward

strengthening ReSET's relationship with federal agencies. He will also volunteer in a classroom this fall, working in the area of environmental science. Mr. Meagher's background includes more than 30 years with the EPA, 15 of which were at the Senior Executive Service level, the federal government's top leadership corps. He managed EPA's wetlands protection program, supervising 35 employees in Washington, D.C., leading more than 200 employees across the U.S. and managing a budget of \$30 million annually.

John has embraced his new job with enthusiasm, but recognizes that his most immediate concern is to effect a smooth transition as Harold Sharlin reduces his involvement with ReSET. "I met Dr. Sharlin in the spring of 2005," says Meagher, "and found him and ReSET's mission to be inspirational. I think of him as the centripetal force that has held the organization together for two decades. He has been instrumental to ReSET's success and the change in his role presents us with significant challenges. Fortunately, he has committed to help see us through this transitional time. I also want to buttress and document ReSET's organizational infrastructure so we have a solid foundation upon which to expand in the D.C. area and to replicate the program in other U.S. cities."

In the next year John hopes to expand the number of schools ReSET reaches and to collect ideas for future directions from volunteers, principals, teachers, ReSET staff, and the funding community. Says John: "I expect that this wealth of knowledge and commitment will point to the longer-term directions we need to take to succeed in this ever-changing educational environment."

Sharlin speaks highly of John's strong management background—in people, organizational, and leadership skills. John describes himself as having a "strong sense of determination," and is eager to try new ideas as he builds partnerships and communicates ReSET's vision.

Since taking on the Executive Director's position in August, John has been visiting schools, meeting with volunteers and staff, expanding his network of federal agency contacts, and familiarizing himself with nonprofit management. "It's been a busy time," says John. "And I'm enjoying it very much."

*"ReSET's strength comes from its core belief that today's youth, regardless of their socioeconomic background, can uncover the secrets of science and technology with the same sense of wonder and purpose that 'reset' the life journeys of our volunteers so many years ago."—John Meagher*

John and his wife Joan live in northern Virginia, where they moved from New York in 1975. They have two children, Lauren and David, and are looking forward to becoming first-time grandparents early next year. As might be expected, John loves the outdoors, particularly hiking, boating, and gardening. He and Joan just bought a log vacation home on the Delmarva peninsula. In addition to his work with ReSET, John volunteers at a food bank in northern Virginia.



Founder Harold Sharlin and John Meagher make plans for the new school year.

Sharlin will continue to serve in an advisory capacity for ReSET. Anyone who is acquainted with Harold knows it is unlikely he will take a rest. He's already working on several new projects. "I hope to see a national network of ReSET chapters with headquarters here in Washington," said Sharlin. "I know ReSET is an idea that can work in other cities and I want to make that happen. I also want to contribute to raising the level of discourse about nuclear power. I have an idea to organize a group of retired scientists and engineers who can educate the public on the pros and cons of nuclear power, and provide a clear and accurate understanding of the scientific facts behind nuclear power."

### \* Next Volunteer Meeting \*

Wednesday, November 7th, 2007 • 1:00 pm  
3401 38th Street, NW • Apt. 318  
Washington, DC

Have an idea or concern? Give John a call:  
703-250-0236 or email: johnmeagher@cox.net

Executive Director: John Meagher, johnmeagher@cox.net  
Writing & Layout: Lyndi Schrecengost, lyndi@lyndiwrites.com  
Distribution: Roberta Goren, rsgoren@verizon.net

