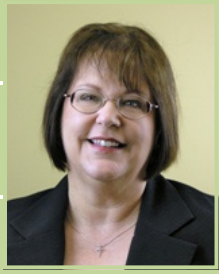
Member Spotlight: Lessie Redican

Technical Services Division Chief
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
By Stephanie Drier, Minnesota DOH



1. The name Lessie has a Scottish origin. She was named after her grandmother, and she continued the naming tradition by also naming her daughter Lessie. The name Lessie has grown in popularity since 2006.
2. Lessie has been interested in the outdoors and science her whole life. She received her first microscope when she was 10 years old. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Central Arkansas and has 30 years of experience in environmental analytical chemistry and laboratory management.
3. When Lessie was a teenager, she spent the summers in New Hampshire working with horses. She values the time and summers spent working in the stables, where she met several wonderful people. The life lessons she learned and people she met still influence her today.
4. Lessie has been the Technical Services chief for the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) since April 2013 and is enjoying her transition from the private laboratory industry into the public sector. The data produced by ADEQ's laboratory plays an integral part in the protection of the water, air and soil in Arkansas. The ambient water monitoring program dates back to the 1970s and involves over 100 sites on Arkansas rivers, streams and lakes. The laboratory provides a great service for the state of Arkansas in environmental monitoring and enforcement.
5. Lessie and the ADEQ laboratory staff use or have used several of the TNI templates, educational tools and standard interpretations and have attended TNI training sessions and conferences. She is looking forward to the conference in Washington, D.C.
6. Lessie finds the TNI trainings and templates helpful; however, she would like to see TNI have more training sessions that are specifically for labs working to implement the TNI Standard. She suggests that TNI should host several training sessions across the nation to provide labs with examples of the ideal management system, system tools and example laboratory documentation to assist labs in implementing and documenting for NELAC audits.
7. Her advice for others working within the environmental laboratory or in their chosen career is to love what you do. She believes you should surround yourself with people who are able to provide mentorship and learning opportunities. Lessie is always seeking out new things to learn and ways to improve efficiency. She attributes this attitude to a mentor who continually gave her the gift of learning opportunities.
8. Her hobbies include card making and scrapbooking. She also enjoys target shooting.
9. She has been married for almost 30 years and has lived in the same quarter-mile area for 50 years. She has three grown children and three grandchildren. She loves using FaceTime to keep up with them at their different stages in life and being part of their daily routines through the use of technology.
10. She works closely with a Christ-centered 12-step ministry to celebrate recovery and to help others. This program and the people in it have changed her perspective on almost everything that she does in her life. Lessie's mantra is *"Everyday, be a blessing to somebody."* She believes that all too often we forget that other people need our attention and that we should find someone to bless every day.