

Managing Editor's Desk

Nelson Fabian, M.S.



Isn't it interesting—the comments we remember from our past? Of the nearly infinite number of words, admonishments, lectures, and pearls of wisdom that come to us over our lifetimes, only a few actually stick. One that stuck for me was an admonishment by a college philosophy professor who once told me, “You can't have a flower without a stem.” He was explaining that you couldn't have a present without a history. History shapes the present and gives rise to it. Past and present are inseparable on a continuum.

From that lesson decades ago, I've never forgotten either the meaning or the relevance of history. I maintain that perspective across my life and especially as I think about NEHA and all that has come before this day. Over my years at the association, I have witnessed the staggering power of volunteerism. I have seen with my own eyes a combination of effort and dedication on the part of thousands of people who together have created the moment we call today.

While my list of thousands extends over existing and former employees, section chairs, committee chairs, volunteer members, peer reviewers, journal authors, AEC volunteers and speakers, friends of NEHA and on and on, for me a very special group of people has been those whom you have elected to office and who have served you on NEHA's board of directors. Year in and year out and despite the many demands on their time, these people give of themselves because more than anything else, they believe—they believe in our profession, our cause, our association, and most of all, you, the members of

In Recognition

You can't
have a flower
without
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NEHA and the practitioners of environmental health. I therefore thought it appropriate that we stop the clock for just a moment to recognize these people, or at least those that I have had the pleasure of knowing and serving (and my apologies for not also citing the many more directors who came before me and who also so selflessly gave to our organization). Without their efforts, the flower of our many successes today simply would not have been possible.

NEHA Presidents That I Have Served

	Years		Years
Dr. Trenton G. Davis	1982-83	Art Bloom	1997-98
Philip B. Kirkwood, Jr.	1983-84	Ginger Gist, Ph.D.	1998-99
Richard K. Rowe, R.E.H.S.	1984-85	Gary Coleman, R.S., D.A.A.S., CP-FS	1999-00
Joseph W. Walsh, Jr., R.S.	1985-86	Colonel Anthony C. Aiken	2000-01
George A. Morris, R.S.	1986-87	Laura Studevant, R.S.	2001-02
Diane R. Eastman	1987-88	James Dingman, R.E.H.S.	2002-03
Horace E. Jones, Jr., R.S., R.E.H.S.	1988-89	Douglas Ebelherr	2003-04
Harry Grenawitzke, M.P.H., R.S., D.A.A.S.	1989-90	Jim Balsamo, M.P.H., M.H.A., R.S., CP-FS	2004-05
George A. Kupfer, R.S.	1990-91	Ron Grimes, R.S., M.P.H., D.A.A.S.	2005-06
Leonard Rice, R.S.	1991-92	CAPT Rick Collins, M.S.E.H., R.S., D.A.A.S.	2006-07
Chris J. Wiant, Ph.D.	1992-93	Rob Blake, R.E.H.S., M.P.H.	2007-08
John Barry, Ph.D.	1993-94	Dick Pantages, R.E.H.S.	2008-09
Diane L. Evans	1994-95		
Steve R. Tackitt, R.S., M.P.H., D.A.A.S.	1995-96		
Peter Thornton, M.P.H., R.S.	1996-97		

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NEHA RVPs That I Have Served

	Years	Region		Years	Region
John Barry	1988-90	7	Toby Harris	1990-93	1
Anthony E. Bennett	1996-2001	5	Robert M. Hutchison	1989-95	4
Phyllis Boucher	1992-95	9	William Ianucci	1985-92	9
Edward L. Briggs	2007-09	9	Steve Jenkins	1988-94	3
Linda Chapman	1983-88	1	Horace E. Jones, Jr.	1978-84	8
Michael Chappell	1996-99	7	Roy Kroeger	2007-09	3
Bruce R. Chelikowsky	1992-2005	10	Sandra Long	2008-09	5
Bruce Clabaugh	1983-87	3	Stacey L. Madson	1993-96	1
Richard Clark	1998-2003	3	Patrick J. Maloney	2001-06	9
Dora May Coleman	1983-89	4	Michael Moon	1990-96	7
Brian Collins	2001-08	5	Mary Myszka	1995-2003	4
Norm Covell	1981-84	2	Bette J. Packer	2003-09	4
Bob Custard	2003-09	8	Richard A. Pantages	1991-2005	2
James D. Dingman	1994-98	3	James Michael Phillips	2000-03	6
James D. Dingman	2003-09	6	Leonard Rice	1981-87	7
Douglas J. Ebelherr	1995-2000	6	Dave Riggs	2005-09	1
Thomas L. Edmonson	1983-87	5	David J. Rogers	1995-2001	9
Alicia Enriquez	2005-09	2	Trudy Rolla	1988-90	1
Diane Evans	1985-91	2	James P. Schnackenberg	1992-95	6
Michael D. Farnsworth	1985-89	6	Richard Smith	1984-85	2
Richard Gabriel, Sr.	1999-2005	1	CAPT John A. Steward	2005-09	10
Larry Gales	1991-96	5	Stephen R. Tackitt	1989-92	6
Robert Galvan	1988-91	5	Leon F. Vinci	1980-85	9
Garland M. Gobble	1985-94	8	Thomas R. Ward	1999-2009	7
Thomas R. Gonzales	2003-06	3	Larry D. Yates	1996-2003	8
Harry Grenawitzke	1983-85	6	Mia P. Zmud	1994-96	8
Michael G. Halko	1996-99	1			

Thank you all for helping to make this day possible!

One last note. As long as I am recognizing special people, I want to single out a few others for special recognition. It recently came to my attention that we have several people who have been NEHA members for more than 50 years! That's incredible. A very special recognition goes to you; thank you for a lifetime devoted to NEHA and environmental health.

John H. Dame, R.E.H.S., September, 1956
 Ward Duel, January, 1956
 Larry Gordon, August, 1956
 Dr. Herman Koren, October, 1956
 Dr. Jerrold M. Michael, August, 1951
 John Nordine, R.S., January, 1950
 Nicholas Pohlit, R.S., January, 1947
 Curtis Shaffer, R.S., February, 1949
 Dale Treusdell, R.S., January, 1953
 Bernard S. Weintraub, February, 1950
 Douglas Wigle Jr., R.S., September, 1953
 Jack Wilson, January, 1950

If my philosophy professor were standing next to me now, I'd tell him that the NEHA stem has created not just a flower but a veritable bouquet of flowers, thanks to the countless people and efforts that make up our stem of history. 🌸

John E. Farnsworth