

NEHA NEWS

NEHA Staff Profiles

As part of tradition, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) features new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their 1-year anniversary. These profiles give you an opportunity to get to know the NEHA staff better and to learn more about the great programs and activities going on in your association. This month we are pleased to introduce you to two NEHA staff members. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on page 36.

**Audrey Keenan**

I joined NEHA in October 2019 as a project coordinator in the Program and Partnership Development department. I first encountered NEHA through an internship in my graduate program. I had a great experience doing my internship here and I thought to myself, “If only I can work somewhere as great as NEHA when I graduate!” I was excited

to be hired by NEHA after I graduated in 2019.

At NEHA I help to plan and conduct projects on a variety of topics that benefit the environmental health workforce. I enjoy this role because it is expanding my environmental health knowledge and it allows me to interact with different NEHA members across the country. I love hearing about the different roles members play in environmental health. My goal is to provide them with new skills and resources they can use in all of these roles. Some of the tasks in my position include hosting webinars, developing resources, setting up partnerships, and being a public health resource to others.

I love Colorado and have never lived anywhere else! I grew up in Grand Junction, which is located on the Colorado Western Slope. I received my bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Regis University in Denver and my Master of Public Health from the Colorado School of Public Health in Aurora. Prior to joining NEHA, I worked as a research assistant at the University of Colorado, where I studied chronic kidney disease. I have always been interested in health and research, and I am enjoying being in a role where these intersect.

When I'm not at work, I enjoy doing small art projects, going to concerts, and trying to become better at gardening.

**Michael Newman**

I was thrilled to join NEHA in October 2019 as the information technology (IT) manager, taking on the responsibility of managing the technology needs of NEHA and its amazing staff and board members. My goal is to enable everyone to achieve their professional success using technology and to keep it from being an obstacle in our mission to the membership.

The best description of the background that I bring to NEHA is diverse. As the son of an engineer, I have lived all around the country, ending up in Colorado for high school. After high school, my interests and passions were film and television. I tried out Los Angeles but decided New York was more to my liking. I went to several schools in New York City, including New York University, the School of Visual Arts, and the New School. After school I worked in a small television studio making commercials and infomercials for a Wall Street financial firm. I followed the other staff when they all went to work for Michael Bloomberg. As the original production director for Bloomberg's 24-hour satellite news station, I spent one year developing all the on-air and behind-the-scenes systems. That's when my interest shifted from television to technology.

Since then, I returned to Colorado and spent several years as a contractor working for many companies as a “fixer,” coming in and cleaning up all the technology problems and then moving on. I finally found a home and spent 14 years as the IT director for a design firm in Boulder.

While working in Boulder, I joined with a group of like-minded individuals to form a nonprofit dedicated to educating through pop culture, graphic novels, movies, etc. The goal was to start a large-scale event to fund the nonprofit and the event created was Denver Comic Con. I was one of the founding directors, overseeing all operations, logistics, and registration for the first years of the event. I hope to bring some of that experience to the events that NEHA produces for our members and the greater environmental health community.

When I'm not fixing a technical problem or managing vendors, I'm a single dad to my daughter who is starting fourth grade. Being dad is job number one. 🐶

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- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nehorg>
- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/national-environmental-health-association