

## ► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Priscilla Oliver, PhD

As I reflect over my work with health and the environment, I have thought about how I want to be remembered? The one word that radiates over me is partnerships. Each day, I awaken to put on commitment and then quickly move to thinking partnerships. Sure, we make individual contributions but there is so much more that we can accomplish by partnering with others. Remember, two heads are better than one. If you want to go further, go with others. Higher education is partly accomplished individually but another important component is working in teams, study groups, and partnerships to get the degree and the dream position. I thank the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) board members, leaders, staff, and members for continually working as a team and supporting NEHA over the years. I feel the precious moments and feel blessed to be able to enjoy the special moments when we make strides as a team.

Part of the success of NEHA is due to partnerships that have existed down through the years. NEHA needs partners at all levels: federal, state, corporate, nonprofit, and local. Current federal partners include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This year I have visited and spoken at affiliate annual conferences in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Jamaica, Massachusetts, New York, and Texas. Much of the mission of NEHA is completed in the affiliates, so they are our strong partners. It has been a pleasure to travel to annual affiliate meetings, speak,

## NEHA Is Open to Strategic Partnerships

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and assist with thanking and motivating our professionals. There have been so many accomplishments noted. If invited to come, our NEHA leaders and board members will participate in annual affiliate and partner meetings. We also participated in an exciting corporate partner celebration, the NSF International 75th anniversary. NEHA is in the process of planning the 84th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition in New York City in July 2020. Our partners will be visible and recognized. The many years of service in partnership to environmental health are astronomical and continue. Certainly, there are other state affiliates that we want to join or rejoin us such as Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Hawaii, North Carolina, Delaware, etc.

Partnerships allow NEHA to expand our reach to additional areas and reach more professionals. We want to also expand to more communities, increase diversity, and expand the reach of the association to rural, urban, regional, and global settings. The demands on environmental health and the areas of concern are expanding. Climate change, disaster

relief, preparedness, food security, expanding hazards, disease outbreaks, expanded travel capabilities, environmental justice, sustainability, etc. give more challenges to the profession. The list of environmental health issues and challenges are growing with time. It takes more and varied people with different backgrounds, diverse funding streams, additional training and credentials, research, and varied resources to maintain our effectiveness in the new and old areas to protect human health and the environment. Therefore, we need to expand and grow to add strategic partnerships to the team. Just imagine in the last few years, we have added some additional challenges and expertise to environmental health. Partnerships can increase our strength and allow us to better market the profession.

First, let me say thank you to the partners, affiliates, and sponsors that we currently have. Your dedication through the years is so very much appreciated. The teamwork has fueled our fire and kept us floating and on target. We must, however, get ready for the increasing future demands, issues, and needs. As membership has grown over the years, so should our reach. It is expected that membership will continue to grow and become more diverse. New strategic partners can bring greater insight, additional solutions, and broaden our reach as needed. An example:

“NEHA and ecoAmerica work closely together to build awareness and support for climate solutions in the environmental health profession. Environmental health professionals are often the first line of defense and are in the trenches working on climate solutions that improve

the health of people in the communities they serve. Through our partnership, we have been able to distribute tools and resources for environmental health professionals across the country,” Rebecca Rehr, MPH, senior program manager, Climate for Health at ecoAmerica.

There is a demand for strategic partnerships with additional federal, state, corpo-

rate, academic, and local levels. Additional expertise, expanded perspectives, creativity, innovation, and diversity are needed in these partnerships to embrace the future of NEHA. Increased collaboration, coordination, and communication of outcomes should be a part of this future. None of us can rely on the same partners to do the same work when the work and the population are expanding. Thus, let

us put on our thinking caps, expand, and reach out to obtain the strategic partnerships for the future of NEHA. If you feel you can help or you want to be a part of NEHA, please become a member and/or become a partner now. 🐼

*Priscilla* [President@neha.org](mailto:President@neha.org)

## Did You Know?

Through funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NEHA is pleased to announce the 2020 National Environmental Public Health Internship Program. The program will support 20 environmental health student internships during summer 2020. The application period is now open for students from National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council-accredited undergraduate and graduate environmental health programs. Local, state, and tribal health departments can apply to host one of the internships. Deadline to submit is January 15. Learn more at [www.neha.org/professional-development/students/internships](http://www.neha.org/professional-development/students/internships).

## SUPPORT THE NEHA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

The NEHA Endowment Foundation was established to enable NEHA to do more for the environmental health profession than its annual budget might allow. Special projects and programs supported by the foundation will be carried out for the sole purpose of advancing the profession and its practitioners.

Individuals who have contributed to the foundation are listed below by club category. These listings are based on what people have actually donated to the foundation—not what they have pledged. Names will be published under the appropriate category for 1 year; additional contributions will move individuals to a different category in the following year(s). For each of the categories, there are a number of ways NEHA recognizes and thanks contributors to the foundation. If you are interested in contributing to the Endowment Foundation, please call NEHA at (303) 756-9090. You can also donate online at [www.neha.org/about-neha/donate](http://www.neha.org/about-neha/donate).

*Thank you.*

### DELEGATE CLUB

(\$1–\$99)

*Name in the Journal for 1 year.*

Clora Aikens  
Thomas E. Arbizu  
David Banaszynski  
Dale M. Bates  
Mikayla Bell  
Freda W. Bredy  
D. Gary Brown  
William B. Burrows  
Lisa Bushnell  
Ricardo Calderon  
Angelo Campione  
William D. Compton  
Sean T. Davis  
Kimberly M. Dillion  
Catherine A. Dondanville  
Ana Ebbert  
Bruce M. Etchison  
Wendy Fanaselle  
Darryl J. Flaspaher  
Shelby Foerg  
Christopher J. Foster  
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Gerald Freeman  
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Keenan Glover  
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Eric S. Hall  
Trefa Hinds  
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James Kenny  
Soheila Khaila  
Samantha J. Kirst  
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Allan R. Levesque  
James C. Mack  
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M. Elizabeth Marder  
Jason W. Marion  
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Aruworay Memene  
Chioma Mezue  
Japheth K. Ngojoy  
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Joe Otterbein  
Earl W. Phillips  
David Piergiacomini  
Kathryn Pink  
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Labib Sarikin Samari  
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Janu Shrestha  
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Daniel Sullivan  
Jameson Thomas  
Terry M. Trembly  
Emilia A. Udofia  
Kirk Walbush  
Mohammad Zaman  
Linda L. Zaziski

### HONORARY MEMBERS CLUB

(\$100–\$499)

*Letter from the NEHA president and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

Michele R. DiMaggio  
Imran Khan  
Roy Kroeger  
Priscilla Oliver  
Matthew Reighter  
Ned Therien  
Sandra Whitehead

### 21st CENTURY CLUB

(\$500–\$999)

*Name submitted in drawing for a free 1-year NEHA membership and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

James M. Speckhart  
Leon F. Vinci

### SUSTAINING MEMBERS CLUB

(\$1,000–\$2,499)

*Name submitted in drawing for a free 2-year NEHA membership and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

James J. Balsamo, Jr.  
Brian K. Collins  
Bob Custard  
George A. Morris

### AFFILIATES CLUB

(\$2,500–\$4,999)

*Name submitted in drawing for a free AEC registration and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

### EXECUTIVE CLUB AND ABOVE

(\$5,000–\$100,000)

*Special invitation to the AEC President's Reception and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

Vince Radke