

## NEHA REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PROFILES

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is governed by a corporate board of directors who oversee the affairs of the association. The board is made up of two groups: national officers and regional vice-presidents (RVPs). NEHA has nine different regions. See page 40 for a listing of the regions and the states/groups each region represents. RVPs are elected by NEHA active and life members in their respective regions. RVPs serve 3-year terms.

Election policy specifies that candidate profiles for RVPs be limited to 400 words in total length. If a candidate's profile exceeds that limit, the policy requires that the profile is terminated at the last sentence before the 400-word limit is exceeded. In addition, the submitted profiles have not been grammatically edited, but presented as submitted and within the 400-word limitation. Three regions are up for election this year—Region 1, Region 5, and Region 7. There are no candidates running for Region 1 and that position will be filled per board policy. The candidates for Regions 5 and 7 are listed alphabetically by region.



### Region 5

#### Traci (Slowinski) Michelson, MS, REHS, CP-FS

Traci Slowinski is a Food Safety & Quality Assurance professional with over 20 years of experience in the food industry. She gained her breadth of skills and knowledge while working in food manufacturing, food service, regulatory and technology positions. She has a M.S. in Food Science & Nutrition and a B.A. in Dietetics. Her professional aspiration (and passion) is ensuring all consumers have a safe food supply.

Traci currently works for Brinker International as their Sr. QA & Food Safety Manager where she ensures that guests have safe, delicious, enjoyable visits. Her other food service positions included time at Darden Restaurants and Red Robin Gourmet Burgers. She tried her hand at QA manufacturing positions at Smuckers, Deli Express and Pepperidge Farm. She was also a food and meat inspector for the MN Department of Agriculture. She even had a stint as a subject matter expert at a technology company, EtQ.

Traci holds REHS and CP-FS credentials along with numerous continuing education certificates related to environmental health topics. She is a recent past President (2017-2019) of the NEHA Business & Industry Affiliate. She also held the office of Treasurer/Secretary (2015-2017) in the BIA. She is a member of the Conference for Food Protection and participates on at least 2 committees per biennial. And she was recently appointed to the Partners with a Common Purpose Steering Committee.

As an environmental health professional, she is hard working to promote collaboration and greater partnership between the private and public sectors. She also wants to ensure industry has a strong voice within the environmental health arena. Her goal as a NEHA RVP would be to promote inclusion and increased participation of industry/business within NEHA and its affiliates. Her networking skills and contacts in both sectors can help open lines of communication and help find common ground for the profession to work together on shared environmental health initiatives. Her involvement in various professional organizations can help drive changes that are identified by our NEHA groups.

Please consider Traci for the Region 5 NEHA RVP position. She will work hard to make a difference in the environmental health world.



### Region 7

#### Tim Hatch, MPA, REHS

- 23.5 years with the Alabama Department of Public Health
- 5 years with the Montgomery County Health Department
- 1 year with Public Health Area 8
- 7 years with the Bureau of Environmental Services
- 10.5 years with the Center for Emergency Preparedness
- Graduate of Auburn University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology.
- Graduate of Auburn University Montgomery where he earned a Master of Public Administration.
- CDC's Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute Fellow: 2008-2009, Mentor – 2011-2012
- Scholar of the South Central Public Health Leadership Institute – 2006-2007
- Current Peer Reviewer for the National Environmental Health's Journal of Environmental Health
- Adjunct Instructor for FEMA's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, AL (2009-2014) as a subject matter expert for the Environmental Health Training for Emergency Response course and the Healthcare Leadership course. He has trained over 1,000 in these courses combined.
- President of the Alabama Environmental Health Association from 2006-2007 & 2014-2015 and a Board of Directors member for 8 years.
- President of the Alabama Public Health Association 2014-2015 and a Board of Directors for 5 years.
- Committee member on Disaster Risk Reduction with the International Federation of Environmental Health since 2013. International lecturer on environmental health and disaster management (Indonesia, Australia, Croatia, New Zealand, Portugal, and the USA)
- Environmental Health Workgroup appointee for the National Health Security Preparedness Index 2014. – NEHA Region 7 Vice-president 2014 – present (AL, SC, NC, GA, MS, TN, FL)

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### Professional Recognition and Achievements

- Howell Special Meritorious Service Award to Public Health from the Southern Health Association (2013)
- Alabama Public Health Association – Frederick S. Wolf Award (2012); D.G Gill Award (2018)
- Ansel C. Mullins Award Recipient (1999)
- Registered Environmental Health Specialist (2007 – present)
- Advanced Crisis Leadership Institute – Tulane University (2008)
- Environmentalist of the Year Award Recipient (2009)
- National Environmental Health Association – Past Presidents' Award (2014)

- Hall of Fame Inductee (2018) – Alabama Public Health Association

Disaster response includes: Hurricane Ivan (2004), Hurricane Katrina (2005), Kentucky Ice Storm (2009), wide-spread water outage in rural Alabama (2009), Gulf Oil Spill (2010), Hurricane Florence (2018), Hurricane Michael (2018) and Alabama Tornadoes (2011 and 2019).

Tim is a husband, father, church deacon and Bible class teacher, and lifelong resident of Montgomery, Alabama who enjoys hunting, travel and following the Auburn Tigers! 🐾

## Did You Know?

NEHA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through its Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, are pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the 2020 HUD Secretary's Awards for Healthy Homes. These awards recognize excellence in making indoor environments healthier through healthy homes research, education, and program delivery. The awards will be presented on July 15 at the NEHA 2020 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition. Deadline to apply is March 10. Learn more at [www.neha.org/about-neha/awards/hud-award-healthy-homes](http://www.neha.org/about-neha/awards/hud-award-healthy-homes).



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