

## NEHA NEWS

**NEHA's Third App Challenge! Innovating for Environmental Health***By Solly Poprish (spoprish@neha.org)*

In March 2016, the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), with the support of Hedgerow Software ([www.hedgerow-software.com](http://www.hedgerow-software.com)) and Esri, launched its first app challenge—Innovating for Environmental Health. Individuals competed to develop apps that would achieve one of the Healthy People 2020 environmental health objectives as identified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The mission of the competition was to create apps that could be used by environmental health professionals or the communities they protect, as well as inspire data driven solutions to public health issues.

In summer 2017, we launched the second iteration of the Innovating for Environmental Health App Challenge with continued support from Hedgerow Software. This app challenge was different for a few reasons. First, we chose to focus on a specific environmental health topic: water quality. Second, we partnered with AngelHack, a global hackathon organization that organizes a series of app challenges all around the world that are weekend-long, in-person events bringing together groups of 100–500 developers and tech savvy competitors.

We participated in three events: the first in Los Angeles, California; the second in Detroit, Michigan; and the last in Silicon Valley, California. During these events, NEHA, along with local environmental health professionals, attended to advocate for environmental health and to inspire and guide teams to create apps that can solve water quality issues by utilizing environmental health data. Los Angeles' winning team developed a reporting app that enables users to report location-based data such as water leakage from pipes and spills, which is then translated into reporting format and sent directly to relevant agencies to repair the issues faster. Detroit's winning team utilized U.S. Environmental Protection Agency publicly available water system data to create an app that instantly provides drinking water quality information based on geographic location and the corresponding municipal water system. Both teams attended NEHA's 2017 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where they presented their apps during an education session and received the Innovative App Award at the 2017 AEC Awards Ceremony.

The final winning team from Silicon Valley will attend this year's AEC in Anaheim, California. The winning team created Safe California, a platform and model that easily shares environmental health data to educate and empower residents. The 2018 Innovating for Environmental Health App Challenge is continuing to introduce developers to the environmental health community, and we are seeing the tangible impacts of bringing these two fields together. NEHA will continue its participation in the hackathon series through summer 2018.

Please visit [www.neha.org/eh-topics/health-tracking-0/innovating-eh](http://www.neha.org/eh-topics/health-tracking-0/innovating-eh) to learn more about the app challenge and see how you can get involved. If you are attending the 2018 AEC, please join us at the Innovating for Environmental Health session to hear from the innovative winners of the competition and to learn about the potential of integrating public data, technology, and environmental health.

**NEHA 2018 General Election Results***By Faye Koeltzow (fkoeltzow@neha.org)*

Elections are a critical part of the democratic process and are one way to provide members a voice in the running of their organization. NEHA voting members have an opportunity to vote for candidates of contested board of directors and regional vice-president positions, as well as cast votes regarding proposed Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws changes. National officers of NEHA's board of directors serve a one-year term in each officer position (second vice-president, first vice-president, president-elect, president, and immediate past-president) for a total of five years. Regional vice-presidents serve three-year terms.

Eligible voters were encouraged to vote during the month of March. The deadline to vote was March 31, 2018. The following are results from the 2018 general election.

**Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws Changes**

By nearly 93% of the vote, NEHA members approved an amendment to the association's bylaws to streamline membership categories from nine to five, as well as remove barriers in the membership criteria. The new categories include professional, emerging professional, retired professional, international, and life.

As an individual member, you will find that the new membership categories are straightforward and inclusive, and will allow for simplicity and ease in your yearly renewal. Students and recent graduates will continue to be recognized with their own membership category (emerging professional), but this category will also be expanded to include anyone who identifies themselves as just starting out in their career.

NEHA believes that our membership categories should reflect the needs of our constituents and today's career paths. The result of this vote demonstrates that making a change to our membership categories will increase the value of membership for many of our current and future members.

NEHA will communicate more details about the changes between now and October 2018 when implementation of the new categories will begin. If you have questions or concerns about the upcoming changes to NEHA's membership, please contact Jonna Ashley, NEHA's membership manager, at [jashley@neha.org](mailto:jashley@neha.org).

**Second Vice-President**

There was one qualified candidate for the second vice-president position: Roy Kroeger, REHS. Kroeger ran unopposed and did not

appear on the election ballot. His candidate profile was published in the March *JEH*. Kroeger will assume the second vice-president position at the close of the NEHA 2018 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Healthy Homes Conference in Anaheim, California, in June 2018.

### Regional Vice-Presidents (RVPs)

NEHA's membership is broken down into nine regions that represent U.S. geographic areas, as well as members in the U.S. military and abroad. The terms of three RVP positions expire in 2018—Region 2: Keith Allen; Region 3: Roy Kroeger; and Region 8: LCDR James Speckhart.

Regions 2 and 8 had only one eligible candidate and did not appear on the election ballot. Each of these candidates will automatically assume their RVP roles at the 2018 AEC in June 2018. There were two candidates for Region 3 and NEHA members residing in that region were able to vote for the candidates via the election ballot.

The unopposed and elected individuals will assume their positions at the close of the 2018 AEC and their terms will expire in

2021. All candidate profiles were published in the March *JEH*. The new (and returning) RVPs are as follows:

- Region 2: Jacqueline Reszetar, Nevada (Region 2 includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada);
- Region 3: Rachele Blackham, MPH, LEHS, Utah (Region 3 includes Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and members residing outside of the U.S. [except members of the U.S. armed forces]); and
- Region 8: LCDR James Speckhart, MS, Maryland (Region 8 includes Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, DC, West Virginia, and members of the U.S. armed forces residing outside of the U.S.).

A listing of current NEHA national officers and RVPs, along with state breakdowns for each region, can be found on page 50. More information about NEHA's governance, including its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the election process, and associated deadlines, can be found at [www.neha.org/about-neha/governance](http://www.neha.org/about-neha/governance).

Thank you to all members who participated in this year's election! 🍷

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