

NEHA NEWS

NEHA 2022 General Election Results

By Angelica Ledezma (aledezma@neha.org)

Elections are a critical part of the democratic process and one way to provide members a voice in the running of their organization. Voting members of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) 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 the NEHA Board of Directors serve a 1-year term in each officer position (second vice-president, first vice-president, president-elect, president, and immediate past-president) for a total of 5 years. Regional vice-presidents (RVPs) serve 3-year terms.

Eligible voters were encouraged to vote during the month of March and the deadline to vote was March 31, 2022. The following are results from the 2022 general election.

Second Vice-President

There were two qualified candidates for the second vice-president position: Michele DiMaggio, REHS, and Larry Ramdin, MPH, MA, REHS/RS, CP-FS, HHS, CHO. All eligible NEHA members were asked to vote for the position of second vice-president and Larry Ramdin received the majority of votes. Both candidate profiles were published in the March 2022 *Journal of Environmental Health (JEH)* and on the NEHA website at www.neha.org/node/60552. Ramdin will assume the second vice-president position at the close of the NEHA 2022 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition on July 1, 2022.

Regional Vice-Presidents

The NEHA 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 regional vice-president (RVP) positions expire in 2022—Region 4: Kim Carlton; Region 6: Nichole Lemin; and Region 9: Larry Ramdin.

Regions 4 and 6 each had one eligible candidate and did not appear on the election ballot. There were no candidates for Region 9. All candidate profiles were published in the March 2022 *JEH*. Both of these candidates will automatically assume their RVP roles at the close of the NEHA 2022 AEC on July 1, 2022, and their terms will expire in 2025:

- Region 4: Kim Carlton, MPH, REHS/RS (Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin);
- Region 6: Nichole Lemin, MEP, RS/REHS (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio); and
- Region 9: Vacant (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont)

A listing of current NEHA national officers and RVPs, along with state breakdowns for each region, can be found on page 52. More information about NEHA's governance, including its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the election processes, and associated deadlines, can be found at www.neha.org/about-neha/governance.

Thank you to all members who participated in the 2022 election!

NEHA-FDA RFFM Grant Program Awards \$7 Million in First Year to Promote Food Safety

In March 2022, more than \$7 million was awarded to 228 unique state, local, territorial, and tribal (SLTT) jurisdictions nationwide to strengthen their regulatory retail food programs and practices. The funding, provided through the National Environmental Health Association-Food and Drug Administration (NEHA-FDA) Retail Flexible Funding Model (RFFM) Grant Program, is part of a 3-year grant that provides funding to U.S. jurisdictions in charge of regulating retail food to prevent foodborne illness.

The grant program is the first of its kind and is designed to support SLTT regulatory retail food jurisdictions to align with the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards (Retail Program Standards). Ensuring that the practices of a food safety program are aligned with the Retail Program Standards is one of the most important steps a jurisdiction can take to advance retail food safety efforts across the U.S.

“NEHA is honored to lead this transformative opportunity to improve food safety practices across the country by leveraging and promoting the Retail Program Standards. Together, we can reduce foodborne illness,” said Roy Kroeger, REHS, president of NEHA.

The new RFFM model combines three previous grant programs into one to make the approaches for grantees more flexible and responsive to the capacity and ambition of a jurisdiction. In the first year of the grant program, a total of 444 grants were awarded to 228 unique jurisdictions, including:

- 228 base grants (Development and Maintenance & Advancement),
- 54 Mentorship grants,
- 129 Training/Staff Development grants,
- 9 Special Projects grants, and
- 26 Capacity Building grants.

The program also features mentorship—spearheaded by the National Association of County and City Health Officials—that provides jurisdictions with the opportunity to learn from, collaborate, and support one another as they work to achieve the Retail Program Standards.

“The program continues to invest in the health and safety of communities through public health interventions while facilitating collaboration among SLTTs,” said David Dyjack, DrPH, CIH, executive director of NEHA. “The impressive level of participation in year one shows how important retail food safety is, even amid a global pandemic.”

More information about the NEHA-FDA RFFM Grant Program can be found at www.neha.org/retailgrants. A summary of the grant awards for year 1 and an interactive map that displays the type of grant and amount awarded to each grantee is available at www.neha.org/retailgrants/awards.

NEHA Staff Profiles

As part of tradition, 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 pages 52 and 53.



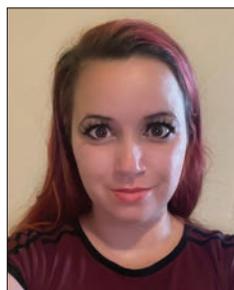
Holly Cypress

I joined the NEHA staff in June 2021 as administrative support for the Program and Partnership Development (PPD) department. I live in Maryland and work with our Washington, DC, office team. I graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor's of science in business with a marketing major. I worked at Black Entertainment Television

as a corporate marketing manager, developing industry targeted advertising and marketing campaigns. From there, I went on to work for a design firm and help create an online employee benefits reference site for the state of Maryland. I then joined a full-service marketing firm and worked with the Child and Family Services Agency in Washington, DC, to create their first resource handbook for foster and adoptive parents and legal guardians. This handbook has received many accolades from other family services agencies across the U.S.

After taking 5 years away from the workforce to care for my ailing mother, I went back into the job market for Green Seal, a global nonprofit organization that pioneered the ecolabeling movement with a mission to transform the economy for a healthier, greener world. I worked as the administrative assistant to the chief finance officer and office manager. Through my work at Green Seal, I truly found a greater level of appreciation for sustainability and the importance of a healthy environment.

I am very proud to now work as the administrative support professional for the NEHA PPD department, which works with federal partners—such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—on important and diverse projects including climate change, food safety, water quality, preparedness, and more.



Stephanie Lenhart

I am a self-proclaimed native of Colorado as I have been in the state since I was little. I grew up with a fondness for numbers and puzzles, leading me to pursue accounting and finance in school. There was something satisfying about the initial simplicity of accounting that called to me. After I graduated from the University of Colorado with a

bachelor's degree in accounting, I started my career working in mutual funds before going on active duty with the U.S. military.

I spent a few years with U.S. Air Force Space Command and found that nonprofit work was what I wanted to focus on after my time was up in the U.S. military. I wanted to work with an organization that helps others and supports continual improvement. Prior to leaving active duty, I obtained my master's degree with an emphasis in accounting and a specialized focus on nonprofit accounting. Needless to say, I really enjoy working with numbers.

I started with NEHA in June 2021 as a senior accountant within the organization's finance department. While my days are usually busy, my primary functions are cash management, accounts receivable, and the NEHA-FDA Retail Flexible Funding Model Grant Program.

In my personal life, I have a deep love for anything that is related to Marvel, anime, or puzzles. When I am not working, you can usually find my family outside with our three huskies trotting along the beautiful Colorado trails. 🐾

Did You Know?

Land reuse can be a powerful tool to transform the health of communities. Now you can learn about land reuse and brownfields redevelopment with the Environmental Health and Land Reuse Certificate. In this free, online course from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and NEHA, you can learn to identify and redevelop land reuse sites. The modules include an introduction to the program, engaging with the community, evaluating and communicating environmental and health risks, redesigning with health in mind, and measuring success. With self-paced and group learning options, you can learn—and earn continuing education contact hours—on your own schedule. Visit www.neha.org/ehlr for more information.