

## ▶ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Adam London,  
MPA, RS, DAAS

## All Generations Need Apply

I am very honored to serve you as NEHA's president during this coming year. I think you will find that I am going to be a very different sort of president than my predecessors. To be clear, we have been blessed with a series of incredible presidents over the past handful of years. I have had the privilege of serving with these tremendous men and women on the NEHA board of directors since 2010. They have taught me a great deal and I pray that I can carry their legacy forward. Their work, and sometimes it was painfully difficult work, has led our association to a place of unprecedented strength and influence. I am grateful for their leadership and I hope I can match their enthusiastic embrace of our beloved association, but I want you to know that I am going to be very different sort of president.

Many of my predecessors were either retired or in the third act of their professional careers. These situations were a blessing to our association in many ways because they were empowered to give generous amounts of time to NEHA's business. They were also able to personally travel to an astounding number of meetings and events. Their service and travel was important for the growth of the association during those periods of time. I believe, however, that the leadership of our association should not be limited exclusively to individuals from one generation or at one stage of professional life. I will do my very best to follow in their footsteps and to represent the association in as many places as possible. To this end, I will use technology and other tools to demonstrate that people with

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careers and young families can be involved with NEHA's leadership.

I believe in the value of diversity—the variety of generations that is currently working in our profession provides us with great strength. Generational perspectives inform how we see the world and the values that we hold dear. Our association needs to reflect this truth and engage all generations in the work of leading us forward. NEHA will not reach its potential without all of you, regardless of generation, being actively engaged in the collective work of professional development and advancing our causes.

I was born in the 1970s and grew up in the 1980s and 1990s, making me the first NEHA president to represent Generation X. The first movie I can remember seeing at the theater was *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*. Arcade video games consumed far too many of the quarters

that I earned delivering newspapers on my bicycle. I watched families like the Cunninghams, Waltons, Cosbys, and Keatons. None of them looked much like my family with divorced parents, stepparents, and half siblings. I listened to hair metal bands followed by grunge music during my college years at Ferris State University in my beloved hometown of Big Rapids, Michigan. I saw Halley's Comet and wondered if I would live long enough to see it again. As a matter of fact, I still wonder about that! I will never forget watching the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster on television in Mr. Seaver's fifth grade classroom. My environmental health sensitivities were formed as a child, in part, by ozone holes, the Exxon Valdez, and the Chernobyl nuclear reactor meltdown. If some of these things resonate with you, I am calling on you to get more involved—it's time!

In addition to having a full-time job as the health officer of a local health department in Michigan, I am also married with six wonderful children. Our children range in age from seven to 20 years. I suspect that you will be hearing about at least a few of them in the stories that I will tell in upcoming columns or during conferences. I believe that it is important for busy people with families and full-time employment to be willing and able to lead NEHA. An association that can only be led by one certain type of person is probably an unhealthy association.

A few years ago, when I decided to run for NEHA president, I told the attendees of our Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition a true story about two young boys I encountered while collecting water samples

at a Lake Michigan beach. Those little boys exclaimed, “Mom, he’s like a superhero who protects us from germs!” As silly as that might sound, those boys understood something that we often struggle to communicate—our true cause and calling. I believe that you truly are superheroes called to protect your communities from preventable illnesses and injuries. Environmental health is a noble profession and you truly are heroic. As we all know, however, all superheroes have weaknesses and they all need allies and supporters. My promise to you is that this association will

strive to provide you with the tools and support you need to grow as a professional and to serve your community. As a NEHA member, you belong to a club of extraordinary people and more important, you belong to a cause that is changing the world for the better.

Lastly, I hope to see you in Grand Rapids for NEHA’s 81st AEC taking place July 10–13. You may have heard that this city has made lots of top 10 lists for best places to visit. I have lived in Grand Rapids for the past 16 years and based upon my personal experience, **you will have a great time in**

**Grand Rapids!** The conference site is in one of the most walkable downtowns in the U.S. There are scores of museums, microbreweries, music venues, theaters, restaurants, and more within an easy walk from the host hotel. I look forward to seeing you in Grand Rapids and working with you during my presidency. 🐾



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# 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 one 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/donate](http://www.neha.org/donate).

*Thank you.*

## DELEGATE CLUB (\$25–\$99)

*Name in the Journal for one year and endowment pin.*

**Freda W. Bredy**  
Alexandria, VA

## HONORARY MEMBERS CLUB

(\$100–\$499)

*Letter from the NEHA president, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.*

**Tim Hatch, MPA, REHS**  
Montgomery, AL

**Lynne Madison, RS**  
Hancock, MI

**Paschal Nwako, MPH, PhD, REHS, CHES, DAAS**  
Blackwood, NJ

**Larry Ramdin, REHS, CP-FS, HHS**  
Salem, MA

**Ned Therien, MPH**  
Olympia, WA

## 21st CENTURY CLUB

(\$500–\$999)

*Name submitted in drawing for a free one-year NEHA membership, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.*

**Peter M. Schmitt**  
Shakopee, MN

**LCDR James Speckhart, MS**  
Silver Spring, MD

**Leon Vinci, DHA, RS**  
Roanoke, VA

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS CLUB

(\$1,000–\$2,499)

*Name submitted in drawing for a free two-year NEHA membership, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.*

**James J. Balsamo, Jr., MS, MPH, MHA, RS, CP-FS**  
Metairie, LA

**Gavin F. Burdge**  
Lemoyne, PA

**Bob Custard, REHS, CP-FS**  
Lovettsville, VA

**David T. Dyjack, DrPH, CIH**  
Denver, CO

**George A. Morris, RS**  
Dousman, WI

## AFFILIATES CLUB

(\$2,500–\$4,999)

*Name submitted in drawing for a free AEC registration, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.*

**Vince Radke, MPH, REHS, CP-FS, DAAS, CPH**  
Atlanta, GA

## EXECUTIVE CLUB AND ABOVE

(\$5,000–\$100,000)

*Special invitation to the AEC President’s Reception, name in the Journal for one year, and endowment pin.*