

NEHA NEWS

Note of Thanks to Departing Board Members

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge the dedication, hard work, and efforts of three members of the NEHA board of directors on the occasion of their departure from the board: Immediate Past-President Bob Custard, Region 7 Vice-President Tim Hatch, and Region 1 Vice-President Ned Therien.



Immediate Past-President Bob Custard leaves the board after 14 years of dedicated service and leadership. Bob was a strong advocate for strengthening the relationship between NEHA and its affiliates. As NEHA president, Bob made the effort to attend and speak at more than 20 affiliate conferences. Bob also was a champion for establishing a NEHA office in Washington, DC, and was

gratified to see that vision come to fruition during his term as president. As a strong advocate for expanding NEHA's engagement internationally, Bob helped create the international membership category and the international partner organization structure. Bob was honored to represent NEHA on trips to Canada, Jamaica, Uganda, and Zambia.

Bob played a key role in helping NEHA through its recent leadership transition and helped orient NEHA's new executive director. As chairman of NEHA's finance committee, Bob worked diligently to help assure NEHA's financial stability. He also helped develop NEHA's investment policy. Bob also played an important role in revising NEHA's bylaws and developing many policies and position papers.

Going forward, Bob will continue to work in the environmental health field through Environmental Health Leadership Partners, his consulting firm that specializes in training and mentoring young environmental health professionals. Bob and his wife Roz will also continue their work to improve drinking water supplies in rural areas of foreign countries.

Reflecting on the past 14 years, Bob describes his service on the board as "the most rewarding experience of my career." He goes on to state, "It was my privilege to work closely with some of the giants of our profession. I learned so much and made so many friends as a result of the experience."

Bob is currently president of the Past Presidents affiliate and will continue to be actively involved in NEHA.



Region 7 Vice-President Tim Hatch leaves the board after three years of dedicated service and leadership. Tim is the director of Environmental Programs, Planning, and Logistics at the Alabama Department of Public Health's Center for Emergency Preparedness. He also holds a part-time faculty position at The University of Findlay. Tim has served as the president of the Alabama

Environmental Health Association and was named its Environmentalist of the Year in 2009. Along with his service to NEHA, Tim currently serves as the Americas Region director of Disaster Risk Reduction for the International Federation of Environmental Health.



Region 1 Vice-President Ned Therien leaves the board after three years of dedicated service and leadership. Ned is retired from the Washington State Department of Health after a 38-year career in public health. He began his career in 1976 at the California Public Health Laboratory and then decided to switch to environmental health. He specialized in drinking water, hazardous waste,

institutional sanitation, food safety, shellfish sanitation, and environmental health policy over the course of his career.

Ned has been active in the Washington State Environmental Health Association for many years. He received the Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award in 1998 and the Environmental Health Professional of the Year in 2003. He also served as chairperson of its conference committee in 2002 and was president from 2007–2008. While a NEHA Regional Vice-President (RVP), Ned served on the Finance Committee, Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition Committee, Affiliate Engagement Committee, and Retail Curriculum Framework Work Group.

"It has been an enlightening experience to serve a term as a NEHA RVP," states Ned. "I gained great respect for the many people who work to make NEHA function to improve our profession. I encourage younger professionals to consider volunteering for a NEHA position or support activity at some time. And if not for NEHA, they certainly should do volunteer work for their state environmental health associations." 🐼

Did You Know?

NEHA has switched to a new membership database and shopping system. Our goal is to ensure that you have a simple and efficient way to purchase and renew memberships and credentials, as well as shop for our products and educational resources. Learn more at www.neha.org.