

NEHA NEWS

Call for Nominations

NEHA is governed by a corporate board of directors that oversees the affairs of the association. There will be four board positions up for election in 2017:

- Region 1 vice-president (represents Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington; 3-year term);
- Region 5 vice-president (represents Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas; 3-year term);
- Region 7 vice-president (represents Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee; 3-year term);
- second vice-president (national officer; 5-year term that progresses through the national offices and will serve as NEHA president in 2020–2021).

We seek diversity on the board in terms of gender, ethnicity, and a balance between regulatory officials, academia, and industry. Most importantly, we want people who will help us develop a new strategic vision, have experience managing diverse organizations, and can open doors for NEHA in building relationships with industry, academia, federal and state agencies, foundations, and other associations.

Requirements to serve on the board include

- membership with NEHA (individual or life) for three consecutive years prior to assuming office on July 13, 2017;
- not simultaneously holding a voting position on the board of a NEHA affiliate;
- endorsement by at least five voting NEHA members (from members residing in the region for regional vice-president candidates and from members residing in at least three different regions for second vice-president candidates); and
- willingness to commit the time necessary to actively serve on the board.

If you are interested in serving on our board of directors, please visit www.neha.org/about-neha/elections for information on the nomination and election process. You can also contact NEHA Past-President Bob Custard, chairman of NEHA's Nominations Committee, at BobCustard@comcast.net. The deadline to submit a nomination is **December 1, 2016**.

NEHA Staff Profile

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. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on page 49.

**Nancy Finney**

I joined NEHA's Entrepreneurial Zone (EZ) in November 2015. After a few years in finance, I was excited to get back to my passion, which is the art of language. As EZ's technical editor, I have the unique challenge of editing learning materials for disciplines such as food science, manufacturing, law, microbiology, and public policy. I enjoy learning from scientists, authors, and

subject matter experts and creating quality trainings. One of the most meaningful moments I've had at NEHA was when I discovered that my favorite president, Abraham Lincoln, created the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

I received my master's degree in public administration from Grand Valley State University, and my bachelor's degree is in professional writing. My career experiences are diverse; I've been employed as an education analyst, activity leader for at-risk youth, and managed marketing and public relations for political campaigns. After completing a research position with the Provost's Office at my alma mater, I embarked on an adventure to the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. While living in the mountains, I mentored inner-city students on a horse, llama, and alpaca ranch. I later moved to Denver to be a fiscal administrator for nonprofit groups and political action committees.

Outside of the office I compose and record music, play piano, read poetry, ride my bicycle, and hula hoop with friends at the park. Over the years my writing has received many accolades. My master's thesis is published in an academic journal, several articles and short creative pieces have appeared in magazines, and my poetry was featured twice on the radio. In the future I plan to help NEHA's publications and courses reach larger audiences and look forward to creating additional content that meets NEHA's high standards for the profession.

Recruiting Health Department Internship Hosts

NEHA is excited to announce another year of the National Environmental Public Health Internship Program (NEPHIP) and is accepting applications from state, local, and tribal environmental health departments to host interns. Interns will complete a 10-week internship during summer 2017 and will be sponsored through a stipend from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"This is a great opportunity for small, local health departments that may not have existing resources to support qualified interns," said Dr. David Dyjack, NEHA executive director. "City, county, and tribal health departments serving rural, frontier, or underserved communities are especially encouraged to apply to this capacity building program as they often feel the impact of limited budgets more acutely."

NEHA NEWS

A major benefit of hosting an intern is the assistance they will provide to environmental health program at no cost to the health department. In addition to having students eager to gain experience in the field and contribute to the important mission of the environmental health practice, participation also contributes to the recruitment of highly trained professionals into the environmental public health workforce.

2016 Intern Activities

This summer, 19 students completed their internships at environmental health departments throughout the U.S. These interns were involved in a wide range of activities such as studying contaminant levels in surface water and groundwater; helping to build upon tracking initiatives by presenting pesticide exposures and illness information; performing food, pool, and campground inspections; and much more (see photo above). Visit www.neha.org/nephip-success-stories to read a few success stories from the 2016 interns.

To Apply

Health departments can apply to host an environmental health intern by submitting a simple, one-page application by **December 1, 2016**. Visit www.neha.org/internships to apply.



Emily Cunis, a 2016 NEPHIP intern, tests for fluoride levels in water during her internship. She completed her internship at the Tanana Chiefs Conference's Office of Environmental Health in Fairbanks, Alaska. Photo courtesy of Emily Cunis.

Did You Know?

You can share your event with the environmental health community by posting it directly on our community calendar at www.neha.org/news-events/community-calendar. Averaging 2,000 page views a month, you are sure to bring a lot of attention to your event. Make sure to check it often, and you might find a new event happening in your area!

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