

NEHA REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PROFILES

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is governed by a corporate board of directors who oversee the affairs of the association. The board is made up of two groups: national officers and regional vice-presidents (RVPs). NEHA has nine different regions. See page 50 for a listing of the regions and the states/groups each region represents. RVPs are elected by NEHA active and life members in their respective regions. RVPs serve 3-year terms.

Election policy specifies that candidate profiles for RVPs be limited to 400 words in total length. If a candidate's profile exceeds that limit, the policy requires that the profile is terminated at the last sentence before the 400-word limit is exceeded. In addition, the submitted profiles have not been grammatically edited, but presented as submitted and within the 400-word limitation. Three regions are up for election this year—Region 2, Region 3, and Region 8. The candidates for these regions are listed alphabetically by region.



Region 2

Michele DiMaggio, REHS

My name is Michele R. DiMaggio and I was recently appointed as the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Regional 2 Vice-President in December 2019.

Over the past 25 years, I have gained experience as an Agricultural Biologist, Public Health Biologist, and as a Vector

Control Technician. Since 2001, I have been a Registered Environmental Health Specialist working for Contra Costa County, Environmental Health Services. I am currently a Supervising Environmental Health Specialist managing the following programs: Retail Food, Temporary Food Facilities, Certified Farmer's Markets, New Employee Training and Standardization, and Schools. I also co-manage my division's Outbreak Response and Recall Team. Additionally, I participate as the Environmental Health liaison to the Health Services Department Emergency Management Team (EMT) where I serve on the EMT's Emergency Operations Response Plan Committee and act as Chair to the Training and Recruitment Committee. During the COVID-19 epidemic, I am now humbly serving as a Disaster Service Worker for the department's Public Health Branch.

For the past 11 years, I have been a NEHA member, functioning as a Food Safety Subject Matter Expert, Food and Emergencies Technical Adviser, and a Temporary Food Establishments and Epi-Ready Course Instructor. I diligently represent NEHA on CDC's Board of Scientific Counselors, Food Safety Modernization Act Surveillance Working Group. Recently, I had the honor and privilege of being part of NEHA's team to the U.S. Virgin Islands, training their newly hired Environmental Health Inspectors on Food Safety and Food Safety Inspections.

I am also an active member of the Partnership for Food Protection (PFP) Training & Certification Workgroup and PFP Surveillance, Response and Post-Response Workgroup. I participate as a FDA Food Safety Subject Matter Expert collaborating on the Integrated Food Safety System National Curriculum Standard Retail Framework. I contributed to the Council to Improve Food-borne Outbreak Response 3rd Edition Guidelines Chapter 3 and 7 workgroups. Locally, I am an active member of the California Retail Food Safety Coalition.

I consider myself a Food Safety Geek, I dabble in Emergency Response, but I will always be a Vector Control Nerd!

I look forward to meeting you virtually or in-person in the upcoming years.



Region 3

Rachelle Blackham, MPH, REHS

Rachelle Blackham is a trailblazer that has a passion for public health. She is regularly asked by others for her insightful input on mentorship, goal making and environmental health fieldwork. Rachelle is a proven leader that is able to think "outside the box" and isn't afraid to work hard.

Currently working as the Director for the

Davis County Environmental Health Services Division in Clearfield, Utah, Rachelle has established a new way of tackling issues and set a standard of excellence. Attending graduate school on the weekends and at night, she graduated as the valedictorian of the Public Health program. She is a team player that has successfully worked on a number of large projects and programs throughout the environmental health field. Rachelle firmly believes that environmental health can make a real difference in the lives of people and she would be honored to be reelected as the NEHA Regional 3 Vice-President.



Region 8

LCDR James Speckhart, MS, USPHS, REHS

LCDR James Speckhart (REHS) is a U.S. Public Health Service – Environmental Health Officer since 2008. He is currently assigned since 2014 as an Occupational Health and Safety Officer with the FDA - Center for Medical Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) supporting the

BSL-2 research labs in Silver Spring, MD.

His previous USPHS assignments included the U.S. Dept. Agriculture – Food Safety Inspection Service [FSIS] in PA and the U.S. Coast Guard in AK and VA.

LCDR Speckhart was honored to serve in a mission critical function during a 4-month period March to July 2020 with the

NEHA REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PROFILES

FDA COVID-19 Emergency Call Center as the only environmental health officer on a 25-member officer team directly answering 1,000+ calls of a 20,000 call volume total which was received from all 50 states and numerous international calls with questions regarding emergency use authorization for diagnostic test kits, PPE, hand sanitizer, automated ventilators, PPE decontamination methods and various aerosol sterilization or sanitation methods. He answered many basic telemedicine questions and had numerous opportunities to utilize his bi-lingual speaking skills to answer similar telehealth inquiries.

He has been a NEHA member since 2004 the same year he earned the NEHA AAS graduate student scholarship.

He has been grateful to serve on the NEHA board of directors since 2012 to present as an elected Region 8 Vice-President

encompassing the mid-Atlantic States (Wash DC, WV, VA, MD, DE, PA, and all the uniformed services).

He is an alumnus with Old Dominion University Environmental Health program and active with the ODU College of Health Sciences Advisory Board since 2018. He is an active mentor to students and young professionals.

LCDR Speckhart currently chairs a NEHA Ad Hoc committee focused on Research and Innovation. He recently co-authored a NEHA policy paper on Research and Innovation that Enhance EH Science and practice published in October 2020. He is coordinating outreach with NEHA staff to develop strategic goals to foster the association's capacity to promote and appropriately support research, development, and entrepreneurship for current field employees and aspiring student professionals. 🐼

THANK YOU for Supporting the NEHA/AAS Scholarship Fund

Erick Aguilar
Abdihakim Ahmed
Allen Alexander
Mary A. Allen
American Academy of Sanitarians
Bianca Arriaga
Jonna Ashley
Steven K. Ault
Rance Baker
James J. Balsamo, Jr.
Gina Bare
Edward Barragan
Cynthia Bartus
Sammy Berg
Chirag H. Bhatt
Corwin D. Brown
D. Gary and Deby Brown
Lisa Bushnell
Tom Butts
Kimberley Carlton
Kathy Cash
Renee Clark
Valerie Cohen
Gary E. Coleman
Paula Coleman
Brian Collins
Richard F. Collins
Jason Colson
Roz Custard
Sofia DaCosta

Lorrie J. Dacuma
Daniel de la Rosa
Casey Decker
Alan J. Dellapenna, Jr.
Kristie Denbrock
Concetta A. DiCenzo
Kimberly M. Dillion
Michele R.R. DiMaggio
Catherine A. Dondanville
Brittney Douglas
Monica Drez
Theresa Dunkley-Verhage
Praveen Durgampudi
David T. Dyjack
Diane R. Eastman
Daniel A. Ellnor
Alicia R. Enriquez Collins
Ezekiel Etukudo
Doug Farquhar
Anna Floyd
Lynn Fox
Debra Freeman
David P. Gilkey
Ashly Glenn
Cynthia L. Goldstein
Brittany Grace
Russell J. Graham
Carlynn J. Gray
Joshua Greenberg
Harry E. Grenawitzke

Carrie Gschwind
Roberta M. Hammond
Amanda Hart
F.C. Hart
Ken Hearst
Donna K. Heran
Robert E. Herr
Peter W. Hibbard
Emma Hix
William Holland
Elisha Hollon
Scott E. Holmes
Chao-Lin Hsieh
Maria Huanosta
William S. Jenkins
T. Stephen Jones
Samuel J. Jorgensen
Linda Kender
Roy Kroeger
Tom E. Kunesh
Becky Labbo
Todd W. Lam
Michael F. LaScuola
Philip Leger
Sandra M. Long
Chanelle Lopez
Patricia Mahoney
Jason W. Marion
Shannon McClenahan
Kathleen D. McElroy
Gabriel McGiveron
Aruworay Memene

Raymond P. Merry
Cary Miller
Jaclyn Miller
Graeme Mitchell
Leslie D. Mitchell
Kristy Moore
Wendell A. Moore
George A. Morris
Timothy J. Murphy
Alexus Nally
Eileen Neison
Stephen B. Nelson
Brion A. Ockenfels
Dick Pantages
Brandon Parker
Munira Peermohamed
R. Alden Pendleton
Stephen E. Pilkenton
Greg Pol
Robert W. Powitz
Laura A. Rabb
Vincent J. Radke
Larry A. Ramdin
Nicole M. Real
Matthew Reighter
Craig A. Rich
Edyins Rodriguez Millan
Kristen Ruby-Cisneros
Fernando Salcido
Lea Schneider
Ryan Schonewolf
Michele E. Seeley

Mario Seminara
Francis X. Sena
Zia Siddiqi
Aaron K. Smith
Derek Smith
Jeff Smith
James M. Speckhart
Danielle Stanek
Rebecca Stephany
Elena K. Stephens
Martin J. Stephens
John Steward
Jordan Strahle
Kelly M. Taylor
Elizabeth Tennant
Cyndi A. Tereszkiwicz
Ned Therien
Andrew Tsang
Sharon D. Unkart
Gail Vail
Linda Van Houten
Leon F. Vinci
Thomas A. Vyles
Brian S. White
Marcel White
Lisa Whitlock
Ginna Wichmann
Edward F. Wirtanen
Erika Woods
Melinda A. Young
Linda L. Zaziski

To donate, visit www.neha.org/about-neha/donate.