

## ► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sandra Long, REHS, RS

## An Introduction to Sandra Long: Just the Facts

**H**ello from the great state of Texas! It is an honor and privilege to serve as president of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). I have been a NEHA member since 1994 and attended my first NEHA Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition in Fort Worth, Texas, that year. It was exciting. I attended the 2004 AEC in Anchorage, Alaska, and was the Texas Environmental Health Association (TEHA) president at the 2006 AEC in San Antonio, Texas. The sessions, the networking, and the feel of the AEC made me excited about being an environmental health professional and wanting to be an active part of NEHA.

Let me tell you about myself. I am the environmental health manager for the Town of Addison, Texas. Addison, immediately north of Dallas, is approximately 4 square miles with a population of 16,404 and nearly 200 full-service restaurants. Prior to working for the Town of Addison, I was an environmental health supervisor for the City of Plano Environmental Health and Sustainability Department and director of environmental health for The Colony, a suburban city of Dallas.

I am a graduate of Texas Woman's University. I hold a Professional Sanitarian license in Texas, as well as NEHA's Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian and Certified Professional—Food Safety credentials. I am also a Certified Foodservice Manager Instructor and Proctor and a Food Code Standardization Trainer through the Texas Department of State Health Services. I have been an active member of TEHA since 1994, serving on its state governing council and as president from 2005–2006. I have

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been responsible for state proclamations providing recognition for professional sanitarians and environmental health specialists.

As an active NEHA member, I have served as vice-president of NEHA's Region 5, which covers the states of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. I have also served as a practitioner on the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council and as the presiding officer of the Texas Sanitarian Advisory Committee from 2002–2010.

As you can see, I have come up through the professional leadership ranks. I have taught food safety courses, conducted inspections, implemented policy, implemented and witnessed changes in the profession, made laws, and administered programs in environmental health. I am fortunate to work in a profession I am passionate about. This passion comes from a network of professionals who have provided mentoring, guidance, collaboration, and encouragement. Some of these professionals are probably familiar: Brian Collins, Dr. Carolyn Harvey, Alicia Collins, Mel Knight, and Dr. Priscilla Oliver. Others might not be as well-known but are equally

as influential: Ruth Hendy (deceased), Steve Berry, Ginger Shaffer, and Mario Seminara, to name a few.

I value all the professionals who have knowingly or unknowingly contributed to my professional development. We all learn from each other and should continue to do so. I have found that collaboration is one of the best ways to foster growth and problem solving. In the north Texas area, environmental health professionals have cultivated a network where issues and challenges can be discussed in a safe environment. The group can offer ideas, suggestions, and pass on timely and valuable information. It makes everyone stronger and keeps everyone on top of environmental health issues. If you have the opportunity to collaborate with other environmental health professionals in your area, I encourage you to form a similar partnership. It is outstanding what one person can do but amazing when you have a team of professionals working together.

As a family-oriented person, many of my fondest memories are time spent with family during the holiday and at celebrations and gatherings. I am a single parent, extremely proud of my son, his wife, and my grandchildren. You do not have to ask twice: I do carry pictures and will show them to you. My son, an environmental health specialist for Frisco, Texas, was introduced to environmental health at an early age due to my professional involvement and volunteerism.

I have always believed in volunteerism and have volunteered for a number of organizations since I was a teenager. Being an active part of your community is important. I have been a parent volunteer with

my son's schools, involved in the Boy Scouts of America, and currently volunteer with my church. Being an active member of professional organizations is also part of my volunteerism.

As NEHA president, I have the opportunity to shine light on areas of interest and concern. Food safety and emergency preparedness are areas of interest and importance to me. There

is so much about environmental health as a field that is interesting. I want everyone to know that each of us has an important role in the field and we should all be proud of our choice of profession.

In closing, let me say that I have lived in Texas all my life. It is a state with diverse cultures, languages, people, and geography. You name it and we probably have it somewhere

in the state. Texas offers many experiences— if you have never been here, I invite you to come experience Texas. If you have, please come back and have a new experience. 🐾



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# Did You Know?

NEHA issued a position statement on COVID-19 in May that encourages state, local, and federal leaders to follow the guidance and direction of their public and environmental health professionals in efforts to reopen the country after COVID-19 quarantine measures. View the position statement at [www.neha.org/news-events/latest-news/neha-issues-position-statement-covid-19](http://www.neha.org/news-events/latest-news/neha-issues-position-statement-covid-19).

## 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 1 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/about-neha/donate](http://www.neha.org/about-neha/donate).

*Thank you.*

### DELEGATE CLUB

(\$1–\$99)

*Name in the Journal for 1 year.*

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Nora K. Birch  
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### HONORARY MEMBERS CLUB

(\$100–\$499)

*Letter from the NEHA president and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

Robert Bialas  
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Roy Kroeger  
Adam E. London  
John A. Marcello  
Priscilla Oliver  
Matthew Reighter  
William Scott  
Anthony Tworek  
Linda Van Houten  
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### 21st CENTURY CLUB

(\$500–\$999)

*Name submitted in drawing for a free 1-year NEHA membership and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

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Ned Therien  
Leon F. Vinci

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(\$1,000–\$2,499)

*Name submitted in drawing for a free 2-year NEHA membership and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

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### AFFILIATES CLUB

(\$2,500–\$4,999)

*Name submitted in drawing for a free AEC registration and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

Timothy N. Hatch

### EXECUTIVE CLUB AND ABOVE

(\$5,000–\$100,000)

*Special invitation to the AEC President's Reception and name in the Journal for 1 year.*

Vince Radke