

Call for Nominations

By Katherine Bailey (kbailey@neha.org)

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is governed by a 14-person Board of Directors who oversee the affairs of the association. There will be three board positions up for election in 2026:

- Second vice-president (national officer; 5-year term that progresses through the national offices and will serve as NEHA president in 2029–2030)
- Region 5 vice-president (represents Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas)
- Region 7 vice-president (represents Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee)

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

Requirements to serve on the board include:

- Being a voting member of the association (Professional or Life) in good standing for at least 3 consecutive years. This status needs to be maintained throughout the elected candidate's term in office. Candidates must be qualified by February 15, 2026, prior to the annual general election period of March 1–31, 2026.
- Not simultaneously hold a voting position on the board of a NEHA affiliate.
- Endorsement by at least five voting members of NEHA (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).
- 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/election-process for information on the nomination and election process. You can also contact Katherine Bailey, NEHA board liaison, at kbailey@neha.org with questions. The deadline to submit a nomination is **December 1, 2025**.

New Policy Statement on Indoor Air Quality

Our Board of Directors approved a new policy statement on indoor air quality (IAQ) at the recent October 2025 board meeting. IAQ is a crucial environmental health issue that directly impacts the well-being of individuals and communities. People in America spend up to 90% of their time indoors, where they could be exposed to pollutants such as mold, lead dust, radon, wildfire smoke, biological contaminants, and chemical irritants. IAQ pollutants cause both acute and chronic health effects, such as exacerbating chronic conditions including asthma and chronic

obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Poor IAQ disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including children, older adults, and low-income communities.

Despite the significant health risks associated with poor IAQ in homes, schools, and many other public buildings, there is little clear guidance on acceptable levels of various IAQ contaminants. This lack of guidance leaves state, local, tribal, and territorial authorities to address challenges with varying levels of resources and expertise. The fragmented approach to IAQ management underscores the urgent need for workforce training, public awareness, and resource allocation.

Our association will continue to develop its capacity to address IAQ through the following activities:

- Develop comprehensive training programs for environmental health professionals on IAQ topics such as mold remediation, lead dust mitigation, wildfire smoke assessment, radon testing, biological contaminants, and chemical exposure management
- Provide certifications and continuing education opportunities to promote best practices
- Partner with agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to ensure training materials are evidence-based and responsive to emerging IAQ threats

We also recommend the following for improving IAQ in our nation:

- Advocate for increased funding to support IAQ programs at federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial levels, focusing on workforce development and the adoption of technological resources
- Encourage the creation of interim guidelines for IAQ to assist local, tribal, and territorial jurisdictions
- Launch public awareness campaigns to educate communities about IAQ risks and mitigation strategies, including the use of HEPA filters, UV light, radon testing, and integrated pest management
- Promote research on the health impacts of IAQ pollutants with a focus on high-risk communities
- Support the establishment of exposure monitoring systems and the leveraging existing networks
- Advocate for the application of green building standards that prioritize low-emission materials, moisture-resistant designs, and improved ventilation systems

The complete policy statement can be found at www.neha.org/policies-positions. You can also find our other active policy statements that cover a broad range of environmental public health topics, including:

- Body art
- Climate change
- Data modernization
- Food safety
- Indoor air quality
- Preparedness

NEHA NEWS

- Rural and frontier environmental public health
- Vector control
- Water quality
- Workforce development

View the Recording of Our Mega Webinar on De-escalation

Conflict is an unavoidable part of public health work—especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, which brought a surge in harassment and threats toward public health officials. These challenges have led to staff turnover and weakened public health systems across the U.S.

In September 2025, we hosted a webinar with guest speaker Alicia Love, chief of the Meat, Milk, and Egg Inspection Bureau

at the Montana Department of Livestock, for a special training designed to equip environmental public health professionals with the tools they need to manage conflict effectively and safely. The webinar—De-escalation and Conflict Resolution for Environmental and Public Health Professionals: Building Skills for Safe and Effective Community Engagement—provided attendees with the tools to:

- Recognize and respond to escalating conflict
- Apply self-regulation techniques such as breathing and reframing
- Use situational awareness to detect early signs of hostility
- Communicate in ways that defuse tension and build trust
- Understand when personal safety must take priority

You can view this webinar and other previous national webinars at www.neha.org/National-Webinar-Calendar. 🌸

Did You Know?

You can stay in the loop every day with our social media. Find us at:

- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/national-environmental-health-association
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/neha.org
- X: <https://x.com/nehaorg>

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