

NEHA NEWS

NEHA 2026 General Election Results

Elections are a crucial part of the democratic process and one way for members to have a voice in the governance of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). We are governed by a corporate Board of Directors, consisting of national officers and regional vice-presidents (RVPs), who are responsible for overseeing association affairs. National officers are elected by a ballot distributed to all Professional and Life members prior to our Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition. This year's ballot included the election for second vice-president, a position that begins a 5-year progressive leadership commitment within the association.

Eligible voters were encouraged to vote in March and the deadline to vote was March 31, 2026. The following are the results from the 2026 general election.

Second Vice-President

There were two qualified candidates for the second vice-president position: LTC Sean P. Beeman, MPH, PhD, CPH, REHS, DAAS, and Kim Carlton, MPH, REHS. Carlton was the winner of the election, and she will assume the second vice-president position at the close of the NEHA 2026 AEC & Exhibition in Kansas City, Missouri, in early August. As a national officer, Carlton will serve a 5-year term

that progresses through the national officer positions and will serve as NEHA president in 2029–2030.

Regional Vice-Presidents

Our membership is broken down into nine regions that represent U.S. geographic areas, as well as members in the U.S. uniformed services and abroad. The terms of two RVP positions expire in 2026—Region 5 and Region 7. Both regional positions were uncontested. The following individuals will assume their RVP roles at the close of the 2026 AEC. Their terms will expire in 2029:

- Region 5: Lori Lynn Murphy, MAS, CPH, REHS/RS (representing Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas)
- Region 7: Benjamin Ryan, MPH, PhD, REHS, FRRHHed (representing Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee)

These leaders will play an important role in shaping our strategic direction, strengthening collaboration, and ensuring the field of environmental public health continues to meet the evolving needs of communities nationwide. A listing of current NEHA national officers and RVPs, along with state breakdowns for each region, can be found on page 52. More information about our governance—including our Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, the election processes, and associated deadlines—is available at www.neha.org/election-process.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all candidates who stepped forward to serve, and to our members for their participation in this important process. Your engagement reflects the strength of our community and a shared commitment to advancing environmental public health.

Applications Open on May 15 for Our Program Committees

NEHA program committees are a cornerstone of the environmental public health workforce—bringing together expert practitioners from government, academia, and private industry to strengthen capacity, improve environmental conditions, and advance environmental public health outcomes nationwide.

Our program committees are dedicated to achieving the following goals:

- Increasing awareness, knowledge, and understanding.
- Identifying opportunities for workforce training and addressing them by delivering essential resources, programs, and tools.
- Advancing evidence-based practices through promotion and outreach.
- Fostering an all-inclusive and equitable approach in our actions aimed at improving environmental public health outcomes for all.
- Collaborating with other partners, including governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and industry partners, to leverage diverse expertise, to increase access to available resources, and to develop innovative solutions for identified opportunities.

The application period for our program committees opens on May 15. We invite you to apply for membership on any one of our many committees:

- Tribal
- Informatics
- Preparedness
- Vector
- Food safety
- Rural and frontier
- Climate and health
- Private water and decentralized wastewater

Before applying, please review the following details about committee membership:

- Committee members must maintain their NEHA memberships in good standing for the duration of the term.
- Committee member service is a 2-year term. The term begins August 1, 2026, for most committees. Committee members serve on a volunteer basis.
- Monthly meetings with regular attendance and active participation are expected.

The application period ends on June 15. To apply, visit <https://forms.office.com/r/1vvQX7Bj1W>. If you have any questions, please contact us at programs@neha.org. 🌸