



**NEHA REGION V  
July 2013 Report**



**Thank you New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Missouri and Kansas, it great to have such outstanding representation from region five!**

## **NEHA 2012-13 Highlights**

I would like to take this time to provide a summary of the events of this past year and how NEHA continues to find a way to be successful.

Here are some of the activities that NEHA has been engaged in and highlight where the organization is heading.

NEHA has kept expanding its involvement in the policy making arena as it has both built and expanded particularly special relationships with key federal partners involved in environmental health, protection and food safety.

NEHA has continued to build relationships with many of the drivers and influencers behind public policies that touch upon the field of environmental health. Various board members, the executive director and several staff are all sitting on a host of bodies and consortiums that in some way address environmental health concerns and issues.

NEHA has also greatly expanded its outreach into the international arena. This past May, our executive director, Nelson Fabien, and immediate past president, Mel Knight, had the opportunity to participate in the International Federation of Environmental Health's (IFEH) annual governing council meeting. Our involvement with IFEH is opening up ways in which NEHA can more meaningfully engage the international environmental health community.

We are involved into the planning for a joint NEHA – IFEH conference to be held next year in Las Vegas. In transforming our annual conference into this special event, NEHA members will be given the opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world.

NEHA has also created a new category of membership – the international member. We have also crafted a new kind of an affiliation through an International Partner Organization or IPO.

The structure of an IPO is such that it should make becoming involved with NEHA much easier for environmental health practitioners in third world nations.

Now that we have developed the capability to produce an e-journal, we anticipate that we will be able to draw many more international members into NEHA for the benefit of our members and the international cause of environmental health.

Thanks to efforts by our second vice-president, Bob Custard, we have been able to provide educational and IT resources to our environmental health colleagues in Uganda.

As we move into the production of an e-journal, we will be able to reduce student dues to only \$15 a year. We also offer this rate through the first year of a student's employment after graduation. With the help of members from the American Academy of Sanitarians, we again set up a student-mentoring program at the AEC.

NEHA has expanded its healthy housing credentialing program and are in the process of launching two new credentials: one for food auditors and the other for comprehensive comprehension of food safety extending from manufacturing to retail.

NEHA has reconstructed its section chair program to allow us to take advantage of the expertise that exists within the membership on a wide array of different environmental health topics. We've also pushed the further development of our virtual conference.

Our grant program has NEHA involved in issues ranging from food safe schools to indoor air quality to health tracking and climate change to the training of FDA's rapid response teams to healthy housing to even the future leadership of the profession.

We've expanded our strategic directions this year to take careful aim on drawing younger professionals into NEHA.

We are now moving forward with our first co-branding initiative – which aims to increase the IT sophistication of our profession. Our new co-branding program with Decade Software gets NEHA involved in encouraging the profession to become more adept in data base management and system interoperability with other agencies.

Our position taking activity has touched on issues such as, meth homes, global climate change, federal funding, food safety, healthy housing and a more contemporary definition for environmental health.

To encourage innovation in our profession, we've introduced two new awards – one for innovation and the other for education.

As our profession experiences shrinkage in its size, our membership is actually growing. We experienced a three percent gain in membership over this past year and a membership of nearly 5,000. We also have over 7,000 professionals carrying one or more NEHA credentials.

Our auditors this spring gave us a glowing report on our finances. We are solid financially, our reputation is excellent, and our membership is growing.