

NEHA REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PROFILES

NEHA is governed by a corporate board of directors that oversees 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 42 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 three-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. The candidates are listed alphabetically by region.

Region 2

**Jacqueline L. Reszetar**

Major (Ret.) Jacqueline L. Reszetar is the Director of Environmental Health for the Southern Nevada Health District. Her responsibilities include leadership of 160 Environmental Health staff, who sustain basic core functions of Public Health; promoting the health and well-being of over 2 million residents and visitors working and living in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Jacqueline's leadership style and industry-friendly problem-solving skills empowers her staff to teach, coach and mentor a diverse population of stakeholders, business owners, and community members. This much needed, innovative approach was introduced merely four years ago, but already the community is gaining a better understanding how to implement and comply with federal, state and local regulations without fear of unfair or excessive punitive consequences.

In 2013, Jacqueline retired from the United States Army Medical Department with 22 years of service. Her leadership and knowledge of public health is credited to a dynamic career as an Environmental Science Officer Engineer (ESEO).

Region 3

**Rachelle Blackham, MPH, LEHS**

Deputy Director, Environmental Health Services Division
Davis County Health Department

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.

Recently appointed Deputy 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 pro-

gram. 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 the NEHA Region 3 Vice-President.

**Thomas (Tom) J. Butts, MSc, REHS**

I have been a NEHA member since 1985. I have always valued the support and systems NEHA worked to provide its membership. I believe that need today is greater than ever and would be humbled to represent the western/mountain perspective.

Key areas I would focus on are:

- Support for Environmental Health (EH) practitioners
- Articulate a clear role for EH as a policy advocate
- Increase recognition of EH practice as foundational in every community

I have a long history of serving EH in Colorado via the Colorado Directors of Environmental Health and Colorado Environmental Health Association. I worked diligently in each of these roles to represent the challenges and opportunities both urban and rural/frontier organizations face in various forums. I have presented at numerous local, state and national conferences, and to elected official's meetings and the state legislature.

I worked for Tri-County Health Department for 32 years in a wide range of roles from general EH practitioner and hazardous waste specialist to Deputy Director until retiring in February 2017. I now serve the organization as a Senior Environmental Health Consultant (part time).

Additionally, I regularly spend time in Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho as a hiker, fisherman and hunter.

Work History

- Deputy Director (June 2012–February 2017): Oversee Human Resources, Administration & Finance, Environmental Health, and Emergency Preparedness and Response. Work closely with the Executive Director to address overarching agency issues as well as specific programmatic needs. Managed the agency strategic planning process and supported agency accreditation effort (Accredited November 2017).
- Director of Environmental Health (September 2008–June 2012).

NEHA REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PROFILES

- Coordinator/Director of Emergency Preparedness (October 2002–2008).

Organizational Affiliations/Leadership

- National Environmental Health Association: Member since 1985; Terrorism and All-Hazard Preparedness Technical Section Co-chair 2003–2005.
- Colorado Directors of Environmental Health (CDEH): Vice-President, President and the CDEH representative to the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials, respectively (2008–2013).
- Colorado Environmental Health Association: Member since 1984; Regional Board Member 2007–2009; Treasurer 2009–2011; President Elect, President, Past President 2016–2018.
- Colorado Public Health Association: Member; NACCHO EH Committee July 2014 to present.
- Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership: Fellow 2003. (This program included Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico representatives and provided a great opportunity to get to know how those state/local EH and public health systems worked.)

Education

- Colorado State University: B.S. in Environmental Health, Minor in Chemistry
- Colorado School of Mines: MSc in Environmental Science & Engineering

Region 8



LCDR James Speckhart, MS

LCDR James Speckhart has served since 2008 as an Environmental Health Officer with the U.S. Public Health Service, first within the U.S. Coast Guard and currently at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Silver Spring, MD. He conducts regulatory inspections at the federal research labs to ensure bio-safety compliance and ensuring annual lab safety training.

LCDR Speckhart has been a NEHA member since 2004 when he was a graduate student. He has been privileged to serve since 2012 on the Board of Directors (BOD) as NEHA Region 8 Vice President. He leads the BOD Global Engagement Committee to develop partnerships with related public health organizations, participating in the Affiliate Engagement and AEC Planning Committees. He has actively participated in chapter meetings in VA, WV, National Capital, and the Uniformed Services (USEHA) section. He is a member of the NCAEHA and USEHA. During these meetings, he has provided updates about NEHA's website resources and the annual education conference.

LCDR Speckhart is an active alumnus of the Old Dominion University Environmental Health program in Norfolk, VA. In addition to mentoring current students, he is frequently invited to campus as a guest speaker for the program. In 2016, ODU's College of Health Sciences recognized him as a Distinguished Alumnus.

LCDR Speckhart presented on the topic of innovation, invention, and the patent seeking process during the AEC 2017. It is recognized that our profession rightly emphasizes inspection and regulation duties to protect the public and prevent disease outbreaks. He believes providing an understanding about the invention seeking process will further this goal via technological application and be a creative outlet for our members. Their creativity would enhance our public health vocation. His goal is to share invention related resources in appropriate ways using the NEHA media platforms.

LCDR Speckhart welcomes to serve another three-year term (2018–2020) to enhance outreach efforts to include: inspiring younger members entering the profession; encouraging veteran NEHA members to mentor; re-emphasizing member involvement with inactive state chapters in PA, DE and MD; fostering environmental sustainability concepts; strengthening communication with the U.S. Defense Department's Global Health Engagement; partnering with allied public health associations; cultivating global relationships in the Americas; and creatively engaging the public utilizing citizen science education methods. We should harness every reasonable and valid pathway to advocate for and advance the profoundly vital environmental health profession. 🐼

Did You Know?

Understanding hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) principles can mean the difference between safe and unsafe facilities. NEHA's HACCP courses provide a roadmap for writing and implementing a food safety management system. We offer HACCP courses for those at the retail and processing/manufacturing levels, as well as for food handlers, bottled water processors, and the fresh and fresh-cut produce industry. Learn more about NEHA's online HACCP courses at <http://nehahaccp.org>.