

NEHA SECOND 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. NEHA elects its national officers through a ballot that goes to all active and life members prior to the annual conference. Among other things, the ballot features the election for the position of NEHA second vice-president. The person elected to this position begins a 5-year commitment to NEHA that involves advancing each year to a different national office, eventually to become NEHA's president.

Election policy specifies that candidate profiles for the second vice-president be limited to 800 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 800-word limit is exceeded. In addition, the submitted profiles have not been grammatically edited but presented as submitted and within the 800-word limitation. This year, NEHA presents two candidates for the office of second vice-president. The candidates are listed alphabetically.



D. Gary Brown, DrPH, CIH, RS, DAAS

If I am fortunate enough to be elected as the National Environmental Health Association's Second Vice President, I will work diligently to promote NEHA and more importantly our wonderful profession. We are a hidden treasure, a profession which allows us to make a good living while ensuring people have clean

air, food, water and proper waste disposal along with a healthy and safe place to live, work and play.

I am the Graduate Program Coordinator and Professor at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) in the EHS Department. I am a certified industrial hygienist, registered sanitarian and a diplomate of the American Academy of Sanitarians. I have been a member of NEHA since 2001.

I have over 25 years of professional experience with a diverse background in environmental health starting at the entry level as a laboratory technician eventually working my way into management possessing an intimate knowledge of the requirements at all job levels. In addition, I have worked for both public and private entities including owning my own business. I am originally from Buffalo, New York but have lived in New York City, Birmingham, Alabama and am now a Kentuckian. In addition, through my work with the University of West Indies at Mona and the Jamaican Association of Public Health Inspectors, I have spent over a year of my life in Jamaica. The deep range of my professional experience throughout the U.S. and in several other parts of the world will be an asset if I am fortunate to become NEHA's second Vice President.

Besides my roles as a teacher, I actively serve as a professional consultant for government and private entities. Prior serving as a professor at EKU, I had over 10 years of professional experience in the environmental health arenas.

I have been actively involved with NEHA along with leadership roles in the Kentucky affiliate. In addition, I have been involved in leadership positions with the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs and National Environmental Health Science & Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC).

My motivation for running is because I believe the REHS is the benchmark of achievement in environmental health, ensuring competence in education, knowledge and professional practice. With Your Support, I will work diligently to increase awareness of the importance and value of the REHS credential among policy makers and the general public. With Your Support, I would will also ensure the certification maintenance program is a value added process not only for the profession, but also be value added for our credential holders on an individual level.

As a Diplomate of the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS), I know the value of membership in this prestigious organization along with the benefits of belonging to the Academy. AAS is an organization that provides the benchmark for standards, improving the practice, advancing the professional proficiency and promoting the highest levels of ethical conduct among professional sanitarians. I would like to increase membership in AAS, especially among the growing number of young professionals in our field. Possibilities to increase visibility while getting younger people involved may be through the use of electronic marketing and social media.

In my opinion, one of the greatest challenges is the lack of knowledge by the public of our profession. I believe that we need to build upon our progress and do even more to educate the public about the value of our profession. Increasing communication and cooperation with other environmental/occupational health and safety organizations will enable us to not only increase visibility for all involved, but also increase our effectiveness in our ever-improving communication with elected officials.

This increased awareness of environmental health will also help to reverse the trend of fewer students pursuing a formal education in environmental health science. I believe the students are the future of environmental health. As a profession, we need to spread the word, far and wide, about this exciting, fulfilling and meaningful career. I believe an increased awareness will also lead to increased diversity in our field, an area that most definitely needs to be improved upon.

I have a passion for assisting people all over the World to have clean air, food, and water along with a healthy and safe place to live, work and play. I believe NEHA can help to increase international participation, and in turn, we will all learn from each other helping to improve environmental health and overall quality of life for humanity on a global scale. We are a cure to many of the world's ills and we all know it, we need everyone else to know it.

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We are making progress as an association and I hope to help us make even more progress. This is environmental health's time. Our communities, here and worldwide, need us, the environmental health leaders here in the U.S. to be bold.



Shelly Wallingford, MS, REHS

Shelly Wallingford is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist that has worked in the public, private, and non-Profit sectors and has over twenty years of experience. Shelly has a passion for environmental health and furthering the profession. Shelly feels it is even more important than ever that we strengthen the as-

sociation to help the profession as we continue to encounter different and challenging issues.

The work environmental health professionals do every day is so important to the safety and wellbeing of our communities and the association plays a very important role in helping all of us provide the best service we can. If I am elected, I will always do the best I can to help all of you with the important work you do every day by looking for new and better ways to provide services that you value, finding ways that members can volunteer and or get involved, providing information on best practices, etc. We are an amazing group of talented, dedicated, and passionate professionals and together we can make a difference in people's lives. Proud to be a NEHA member and I hope that you will give me the honor to serve on the board and I promise I will always go the extra mile for our members. 🙏

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- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nehagorg>
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