I have just returned from NEHA’s 78th Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition in Las Vegas, Nevada. This was one of our most successful AECs with over 1,000 attendees. The AEC’s President’s Banquet was attended by one of the largest crowds in recent memory. Additional tables were needed to seat everyone. The excitement of the crowd was amplified by members of NEHA and the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) talking with old friends and meeting new ones. The week of the AEC was full of new attendees, great technical presentations, students doing posters or presentations, mentoring of new members, and welcoming our NEHA members, guests, and joint attendees from around the world.

The 2014 AEC was held in conjunction with IFEH and the International Faculty Forum. The IFEH attendees were from many countries including England, Denmark, Ireland, Scotland, Uganda, Australia, Jamaica, Malawi, Portugal, Canada, and New Zealand. It was truly an international meeting with our NEHA President Alicia Enriquez attending the IFEH Congress on Saturday and Sunday and IFEH President Peter Davey attending our meetings on Monday and Tuesday. NEHA and IFEH had technical presentations throughout the week. It was interesting to observe the attendees talking about many of the same things. We really are one world of environmental health. I believe having a joint conference with IFEH gave our AEC a new dimension and an excitement that was evident throughout the week. A flag exchange ceremony occurred at the end of the President’s Banquet between the countries of the current IFEH Congress meeting and the next Congress meeting in 2016. IFEH has ceremonial traditions that we found interesting and educational.

I think a good time was had by all who attended our joint AEC/IFEH conference. Many new friendships were forged and old ones renewed. I was fortunate to be a part of welcoming both old and new friends in attendance. We anticipate the NEHA 2015 AEC being held in Orlando, Florida, to be even better.

As you are aware our executive director has resigned and has left NEHA effective July 31, 2014. Effective August 1, 2014, NEHA will operate with an interim management team of seasoned managers. The interim management team, which is comprised of Rance Baker, Jill Cruickshank, and Larry Marcum, has been in place for several months and has assumed the duties of the executive director for continued continuity of the organization. Each of these managers has been with NEHA for many years and each is familiar with the principal areas of entrepreneurial zone projects, operations, and government affairs. They will continue with their current duties and have begun to integrate the executive director duties associated with their areas of expertise. Rance Baker has been chosen as the point person to work with the board to relay information and answer any questions raised by the board. We know they will all do a great job until our new executive director is on board.

At the spring 2014 NEHA board of director’s meeting, a selection committee of five people composed of one NEHA staff member, three board members, and one outside industrial member were appointed. Their mission is to 1) determine characteristics needed in a new executive director, 2) select a search firm to seek qualified candidates, 3) define job tasks for the new executive director, 4) present three to five candidates to the board for selection, and 5) hire a new executive director.

Our first meeting via conference call was to draft a request for proposal (RFP) to send to a selection of executive search firms. We established a projected budget (voted on by the board at the July 2014 meeting) for the entire process and developed a timeline for completion of our tasks. Before the next meeting we added two new members to the selection committee: one additional board member and one environmental health science practitioner. At our next meeting we reviewed and revised the RFP, inserting dates congruent with our timeline. A list of search firms was identified and researched and five
of those were chosen to receive the revised RFP. Each of the five members of the committee called one of the firms and inquired if they had an interest in receiving our RFP. Three of the firms responded and were sent an RFP. The firms were to respond by August 1, 2014, with their proposals. We scheduled a meeting to review the proposals and select a firm by late August or early September. I will continue to report to you as we progress through the process in further issues of the Journal.

I would like to invite the NEHA membership to e-mail or call me with ideas, comments, or suggestions, as this is an open and transparent search. This is your opportunity to have a voice and be heard in the selection of the new NEHA executive director. I will also post information on the Web site under the byline of the president. We encourage all of our members and colleagues in NEHA to be involved in some way. Many of you are more knowledgeable and better qualified for administering this process and we welcome your expertise. I need your support and input to ensure we make the best choice for NEHA. This is an assignment for you. I encourage you to be involved in helping select a new executive director for NEHA.

carolyn.harvey@eku.edu

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**Did You Know?**

A wrap-up summary of the NEHA 2014 AEC will be printed in the October Journal. You can read about the amazing events, phenomenal education offered, and all the other happenings that took place in Las Vegas. And, if you attended, you might even see a photo of yourself.

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**STUDENTS**

Don’t Miss This Opportunity!

**Applications for the 2015 National Environmental Health Association/American Academy of Sanitarians (NEHA/AAS) Scholarship Program are now available.** Last year, $4,000 was awarded to two students who demonstrated the highest levels of achievement in their respective environmental public health degree programs. If you would like an application or information about the NEHA/AAS Scholarship, do one of the following before the deadline:

![Visit](www.neha.org/scholarship/scholarship.html)

**Application and qualification information is available to download from NEHA’s scholarship Web page.**

**Deadline: February 1, 2015**

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**Contact**

Cindy Dimmitt with a request for an application and information.

**E-mail:** cdimmitt@neha.org

**Phone:** 303.756.9090, ext. 300

**Write:** NEHA/AAS Scholarship

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