

## NEHA REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE PROFILES

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is governed by a corporate Board of Directors who oversee 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 50 for a listing of the regions and the states and groups each region represents. RVPs are elected by NEHA active and life members in their respective regions. RVPs serve 3-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—Region 1, Region 5, and Region 7. The candidates are listed alphabetically by region.

## Region 1

**Bill Emminger**

I have over 42 years of experience working with state and local environmental health programs in Indiana, Utah, and Oregon. I have had the honor to serve as Presidents of both the Oregon and Indiana Environmental Health Associations and as Vice-President/President Elect of the Utah Environmental

Health Association. During my career I have been a guest lecturer at various state and national environmental health conferences, colleges, and universities. I helped both the states of Oregon and Utah to adopt the FDA Food Code and in helping Utah to adopt the Food Safety Manager Certification Act and rules. After working twenty years as the Environmental Health Director in Benton County Oregon, I retired on July 1, 2022. As Region 1 Vice-President I am looking forward to using my experience to promote and advocate for the environmental health profession.

**Dr. Steve Konkel**

Dr. Steve Konkel, PhD, Candidate for NEHA Region 1 RVP serving Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho, is running on the theme "Competence, Vision, & Environmental Health Solutions." A NEHA member since 1999, he has served in various positions, such as Technical Section Head/Technical

Advisor. A frequent presenter and planner for NEHA's AECs, Dr. Konkel has presented findings and lessons learned at every AEC on EH topics such as drinking water and sanitation, hazardous waste, sustainable development, and climate and health. He is currently working with colleagues drafting NEHA's Climate Change Policy Statement. He has presented ideas on environmental health workforce development to the NEHA Board of Directors, and participated in the International Faculty Forum on Environmental Health (IFFEH) internationally at World Congresses.

Dr. Konkel has published numerous academic articles and chapters in books, dating back to his pathbreaking MIT doctoral research. Based in Anchorage, Alaska, he has consulted on scientific and technical aspects of Environmental Health (EH) policy, programs, and projects, plus regulatory matters, since 2012.

His program and policy evaluations in Alaska include the State's first inventory and economic analysis of wind generation, program

development for piped drinking water and sanitation services in rural Alaska, and policy analysis of Alaska's climate adaptation and mitigation options. He teaches courses on Arctic Policy as well as Principled Negotiation. He has worked at two Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories and in Alaska's 29th State Legislature. He served in the Office of the Governor as a Strategic Planner and Policy Analyst during Hon. Gov. Jay S. Hammond's 2nd Administration. He is a national subject matter expert on Climate and Health, focusing his efforts on the wide range of impacts affecting Alaska's biodiversity, ecosystem services and their impacts on human health and sustainability.

Dr. Konkel and Prof. Joe Beck founded the Masters in Environmental Health Science (MEHS) at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, KY. The program grew to 45 graduate students in its first 5 years. The program achieved CEPH (Council on Education in Public Health) accreditation in 2004; its status has been successfully renewed every 5 years. He also served 5 years as an Associate Professor in the University of Kentucky's College of Public Health (CPH). Subsequently he was awarded a Fulbright Professorship in Dublin, Ireland, where he created a new EH research institute. He combines innovative academic program and course development with applied environmental public health practice.

## Region 5

**Jaime Estes, MS, CP-FS, PCQI**

Jaime Estes is currently Director of Food Safety with Albertsons Companies Corporate Offices based out of Plano, Texas. Jaime has spent 20+ years in the environmental and public health fields, the last 10 years with Albertsons Companies. Jaime's current role with Albertsons focuses on driving and implementing

standardization within Division retail store food safety and sanitation programs, pest control programs, and ensuring regulatory compliance. Prior to joining Albertsons Companies, she worked for National Everclean Services in Agoura Hills, California and the Department of Defense in Fort Hood, Texas. Jaime is an active member of the Texas Environmental Health Association (TEHA), recently completing her 3-year State Governing Council Member term and continues to serve as Chair for the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Policies. She is an active member of the Conference for Food Protection and National Environmental Health Association. Jaime holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Entomology from Texas A&M University and a Master of Science degree in Food Safety from Michigan State University.

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## Region 7



### M.L. Tanner

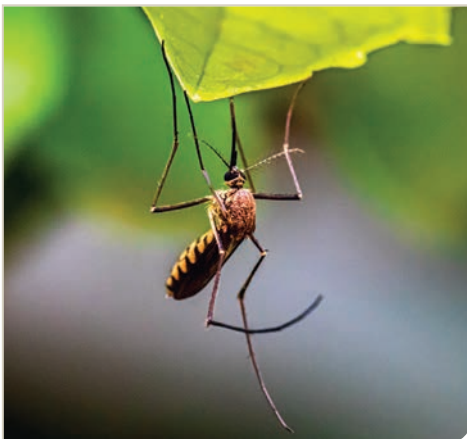
A native of Mississippi, M.L. Tanner holds a BS in biology from the University of the South, Sewanee, TN. She got her start in environmental health at the Halifax County Health Department in North Carolina, then moved to NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the Children's Environmental Health Branch. Since coming to the South

Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, she has worked in preparedness, rabies, and childhood lead poisoning prevention. She is Program Manager for the SC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

An active NEHA member since 2003, M.L. received the Sabbatical Exchange award and served as Technical Advisor for the Children's Environmental Health Section. M.L. was a member of the first cohort of NEHA's Environmental Health Leadership Academy and serves as a reviewer for the Journal of Environmental Health. M.L. is currently serving as a Technical Advisor for Healthy Communities. ❁

## Did You Know?

More than 44% of the U.S. population depends on groundwater as a primary water source. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. uses 82.3 billion gallons of fresh groundwater per day for public and private supply, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, and other purposes. National Groundwater Awareness Week, taking place on March 5–11, was established to highlight the responsible development, management, and use of groundwater. The event is also a platform to encourage yearly water well testing and well maintenance, along with the promotion of policies that impact groundwater quality and supply. Learn more at [www.ngwa.org/get-involved/groundwater-awareness-week](http://www.ngwa.org/get-involved/groundwater-awareness-week).



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