



Debra C. M. Phillips President & CEO ~ Washington DC

Dynamic, future-focused association executive with proven track record of leading world caliber Boards to meet-the-moment strategies. Exemplary advocate, consensus builder, high-performance team-creator and engaging communicator. Extensive track record of industry leadership, association elevation and member value creation across the energy and chemicals sectors. Core values: integrity, curiosity, hard work, performance excellence.

Contact

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Education

Duke University
M.S. Toxicology, 1994

ALBRIGHT COLLEGE
Albright College
B.S. Biology, 1993
Valedictorian
Varsity athlete: field hockey & softball

Key Results

- Unified NEMA Board's adoption of bold new vision; 35% increased dues investment
- Secured \$1.1T in federal funding for electroindustry within BIL, IRA and Chips Act
- Created first of its kind cross-industry coalition to drive results
- Served on Biden's NIAC Subcommittee on Transformers
- Recruited Tesla, GM Energy, Cisco, Google, BCG to NEMA
- Exceeded revenue goals by \$2MM in 2020 during COVID disruption & downturn while at API

Speaking Engagements

- 2026 Axios New Energy Equation: When Data Centers Meet the Grid
- 2026 USEA State of the Energy Industry
- 2026 Fox Business: Inside the Blueprint
- 2025 Bipartisan Policy Center Charged Up EV Infrastructure

Professional Experience

-  **President and CEO** 2021-present
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), Washington DC
Chief executive that reinvented the leading electrical manufacturers association since taking the helm in 2021. Partnered with the CEO-level Board (30) and Executive Committee (10) to develop and execute on a new strategy, association business model and dues structure. Created new GR and PR capabilities to influence policy outcomes and unify the industry's voice on policy. Launched federal and state advocacy campaigns and PAC to advance industry imperatives: supply chain; energy resiliency; and infrastructure. Drove results through bipartisan relationships. Expanded focus on new technologies (e-mobility and connected technologies) to future-orient the association and its membership. Rebranding and moving to new office in 2025, saving \$1M annually. Oversee \$35M operating budget and 85 FTEs.
-  **Senior Vice President, Global Industry Services** 2018-2021
American Petroleum Institute (API), Washington DC
Led half of the association in terms of both employees (100 FTEs) and budget (\$120M). Ran P&L for oil and gas services businesses with global offices in DC, Houston, Beijing, Dubai, Rio and Singapore. Responsible for business strategy, client relationships, global partnerships, and API membership. Led business division and organizational turnaround after troubled and turbulent leadership issues prior to my arrival. Reported to CEO Mike Sommers and engaged directly with API Board and EC.
-  **Vice President, Sustainability** 2000-2018
American Chemistry Council (ACC), Washington DC
Held a number of positions of increasing responsibility including regulatory affairs, industry standards and programs, market segment engagement, and sustainability. Led CEO Board Committees, strategy development and routinely engaged with CEOs of chemical majors including Dow, DuPont, ExxonMobil Chemical, etc. Reported to CEOs Cal Dooley, Jack Gerard.
-  **Director, Environment, Health & Safety** 1997-2000
Velsicol Chemical Corporation, Chestertown, MD
Directed EHS programs at corporate and facility levels
-  **Engineer** 1994-1997
International Paper, Georgetown, SC
Power plant engineer in combined heat and power plant within 2,000 employee, unionized paper mill. Worked shifts, shutdowns and managed hourly worker team.

Boards

- NAM CMA, Business Council for Sustainable Energy, Electrical Safety Foundation, US Chamber C100, IDEA

Personal Profile

- Married thirty years to Ralph Phillips, partner at Fish & Richardson LLP, with four children
- Former VP of Washington Field Hockey Association
- Active in local community and charities related to Alzheimer's research & animal rescue
- Free time spent with family, riding horses, traveling, and cheering on Duke basketball, Washington Capitals and Philadelphia Eagles (go birds)