



SHA UPDATE

2008-2009 SHA Officers

L-R Susan Bland (AL) Secretary,

Dennis Thompson (SC) First Vice-President,

Jan Cooke (SC) President-Elect

Tom Bridges (NC) Treasurer

Suzie Hamm (KY) President



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President's Message

I feel I need to start by thanking the membership for allowing me to serve as President of such a great organization. I have had great examples set before me and I hope I can maintain the level of leadership we have been privileged to enjoy during the past several terms.

We had an absolutely wonderful meeting in Hot Springs in May. I want to thank Carey Woods, Janet McAdams and Sue Parker both personally and on behalf of SHA. Your attention to detail made every aspect of the joint meeting go very smoothly. Additional thanks go to Carladder Parham, Arkansas Program Chair and Catherine Tapp, APHA President for their hospitality and cooperation in working to make sure SHA was a vital part and included in all aspects of their meeting. SHA participated in the arrangement of two outstanding offerings. One featured Dr. Kristine Gebbie as a keynote speaker, "We've Been Here Before! I Didn't See That Coming" was the title of her presentation, followed by a panel, consisting of Warren McDougle, Dennis Thompson and Mike Miller. They each presented how they are preparing for future employment development as more folks leave for retirement or other reasons. This timely topic was part of the Arkansas theme and they really gave the audience some things to consider. Dr. Stephanie Bailey presented during the plenary session, her topic was "The Tipping Point to a New Brand of Leadership". This proved to also be right on target with the theme and gave folks more things to consider. During the other events, such as Silent Auction, Reception and exhibit hall, the SHA members were busy recruiting new members, several new members have joined our organization, Let's keep this momentum going!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Diana for the wonderful job she did in organizing the reception and arranging for everyone to help me celebrate a "special" birthday. Another huge thank you goes to Cheryl Shouse and her counterpart Sandra Whittle for the outstanding silent auction. There was certainly a great deal of excitement and interest in all the great items offered.

Since the annual meeting I have had the pleasure of attending South Carolina's annual meeting. This meeting is always a great time and this year was no exception. Their theme of "Putting a Face on Public Health - Yours" made folks think about Public Health in a more personal manner.

As many of you know I will be retiring at the end of July. My new contact information is shamm@maysvilleky.net. My mailing address will be listed in the Who's Who.

I am looking forward to visiting with each of the affiliates and learning more about each as I attend their annual meetings. I am hopeful we can encourage more folks to become a part of our organization this year and I challenge each of you to make this a personal mission for this year. Let's make this the year SHA membership grows by leaps and bounds!



Dr. Stephanie Bailey Receives Howell Award

Dr. Stephanie Bailey, Chief of the Office of Public Health Practice, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was presented the Southern Health Association's Howell Special Meritorious Award. This award recognizes an individual for outstanding and continuous service to, involvement with, and support of public health.

In 1981, Dr. Bailey joined the Nashville/Davidson County, Tennessee, Metropolitan Health Department, as a public health medical doctor. From this position, she was promoted in 1988 to Medical Director and Director of the Bureau of Health Services, and in 1995, she was appointed Director of Health for the Department. During her early career, she served as a public health medical doctor and as a physician in the Nation Health Services Corps, providing health care in rural Dickson County, Tennessee.

In the city of Nashville, she spearheaded such programs as the Bridges to Care Program, which has linked more than 26,000 uninsured residents to health care through a public/private consortium since 2000. Her community strategic effort, STDFREE, has contributed to the shift

in Nashville's ranking as the number 1 city for syphilis to number 7 in less than two years; and as of 2004, ranked 22; and was out of the top 40 cities in 2005. Her leadership, innovation, and expertise also facilitated adding a health component to the jail system, establishing a Metro-wide employee wellness program, and incorporating learning and ongoing training into her Department as well as in the community and at local universities.

She is currently responsible for assuring the U.S. Public Health System is strengthened, and that the CDC provides leadership in building and supporting public health infrastructure, and improving overall public health system performance.

Dr. Bailey's academic affiliations are many, including adjunct faculty member at Tennessee State University; Florida A & M, School of Public Health; Meharry Medical College; and the Public Health Institute/Leadership Program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has also authored or co-authored numerous publications.



David Brumley Receives Special Meritorious Award

Dr. David Brumley, Epidemiologist at the South Central Health Regional Office in Columbia, Tennessee, was presented the Southern Health Association's Special Meritorious Award at their recent annual meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas. This award honors an individual for outstanding and continuous service to, involvement with, and support of the Southern Health Association whose mission it is to serve as the regional advocate for public health and for the development and growth of its leadership.

Dr. Brumley began his public health career in 1982 as a clinical dentist at the Sevier County Health Department. Since 1986, he has served as a regional dental director for three public health regions in Tennessee and worked for several years in Nashville in the statewide dental program. He has held his current position since 2003.

Dr. Brumley has been active in both the Tennessee Public Health Association and the Southern Health Association for a number of years. He has served in numerous capacities with TPHA including President in 2007. He has been a strong supporter of SHA for several years including serving as Treasurer in 2003-2004 and as Member-at-Large on the Governing Council in 2005 and 2006. For the past three years, he has been the principal author of grants to CDC requesting funds for SHA to support education conferences for the affiliate states.

Dr. Brumley has been honored several times for his work in public health. In 2004, he was named Public Health Worker of the Year in Tennessee. In 2003 he received the Above and Beyond Award from the Tennessee Department of Health and the Distinguished Service Award from TPHA.



Janet McAdams Receives Ficquett- Holley Award

Janet McAdams, RN, who is currently the Southwest Regional Hometown Health Improvement Manager for the Arkansas Department of Health, Prescott, Arkansas, was presented the Southern Health Association's Ficquett-Holley Award at their recent annual meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas. This award is named in memory of two nurses and past Presidents of SHA and recognizes a nurse who has made outstanding contributions to public health.

Janet's accomplishments are numerous including Project Pink Link, which reaches ladies over forty regarding the importance and availability of pap smears and mammograms. She worked extremely hard with the director of the Inter-faith Clinic in 2005 to get legislation sponsored and passed that allowed donated prescription medication to be dispensed to patients at charitable clinics. She was instrumental in getting a paved and lighted walking trail in Prescott, Arkansas. She is very active with the local schools in presenting programs on

smoking to students, and the list goes on and on.

Janet goes far beyond her nursing duties to help and inform the local community about improving public health. Everyone who works with or knows Janet is constantly amazed at the projects she tackles and the continued commitment she has to public health. She is devoted to keeping her hometown and State of Arkansas a healthier place to live.

Janet is active in many professional organizations. She is past President of the Arkansas Public Health Association and was awarded the Tom T. Ross Award in 2001 which is the highest honor bestowed by the Association. She is also past President of the Public Health Nurses Association of Arkansas. Currently, she is on the SHA Governing Council as Member-at-Large.

SHA is honored to recognize Janet McAdams for her numerous contributions to public health.



Teresa Porter Receives Jordan Award

Teresa Porter, RN, Surveillance Nurse, Public Health Area 9, Robertsdale, Alabama, was presented the Southern Health Association's Charles G. Jordan Award at their recent annual meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

In the seven years Teresa has been with the Alabama Department of Public Health, she has made numerous accomplishments in public health. Her positive approach and winning attitude was particularly important as Alabama faced the challenges of coastal hurricanes in 2004-2005. Teresa played an important role in overseeing the daily call between the Public Health Area 9 EOC and the hospitals. She was instrumental in working with federal partners to best utilize federal resources in the hospitals and communities. Working closely with the Baldwin County Medical Community, she organized clinics for out of state hurricane providers. She was a pioneer in helping to develop the sound public health emergency response known today in Area 9.

As a member of the emergency preparedness team, Teresa has done a wonderful job in representing the various roles of nursing in

everything from shelter duty to working with local counties to develop health committees knowledgeable of threats and for solutions to make the communities she serves safer. An example of her above and beyond approach occurred last fall. To address potential threat and need for isolation in a pandemic flu scenario, Area 9 planned and conducted "drive through" flu clinics giving shots to people in their vehicles as opposed to a fixed site in a building.

Teresa took the initiative and developed a system for patient/car flow for each county, a list of supplies needed, and how many people it would take to run a site well. She worked with county nursing supervisors to allay fears and show staff that such clinics could be done. A drive through clinic was established in every county in Area 9.

SHA is honored to recognize Teresa Porter for her contributions to public health.



Judge Mike Miller Receives Outstanding Legislator Award

County Judge Executive Mike Miller from Marshall County, Kentucky was presented the Southern Health Association's Outstanding Legislator Award recently at their annual meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas. In 1974 when Judge Miller was first elected, he was one of the youngest County Judges ever elected. Today he is the longest sitting County Judge in the state of Kentucky, having never lost even a precinct since being elected.

Judge Miller has served as Chairman for the Marshall County Board of Health since he was elected and has been instrumental in expanding the Public Health services in Marshall County from one facility in one community to several facilities, including two additional communities. Judge Miller also encouraged an increase in Public Health tax allowing for counties to add much needed additional funding for additional programs.

Judge Miller has been a long time member of Southern

Health, has served on the Board of the Kentucky Public Health Association and has been an active member for many years. Recently, Judge Miller has been instrumental in the organization of a state affiliate for the National Association of Local Boards of Health.

Judge Miller is active in many community and state organizations and has held numerous offices in these organizations. A few of these include the Bank of Benton Board of Directors, Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority Board, Purchase Area Development District Board, Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association Board Member, Marshall County Exceptional Center Board Member and the Association of Tennessee Valley Governments Board Member. Additionally Judge Miller has received the 2002 Paul Mason Memorial Award, 1999 Outstanding Citizen from Woodmen of the World and 1992 Citizen of the Year for Marshall County.

Membership Report

The following were recognized at the 2008 Annual Meeting held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, for their years of membership in SHA. Congratulations!

Richard Funderburk (SC) (20 Years)

Connie Richmond (KY) (10 Years)

Judith Alexander (SC) (5 Years)

Becky Brumley (TN) (5 Years)

We would also like to WELCOME the following new members who have joined SHA in 2008. Seven of these joined at the meeting in Arkansas.

Raymond Heaggans (AR)

Carladder Parham (AR)

Paula Alexander (KY)

Wesley Clark (KY)

Robert Stolarick, DDS (TN)

Glenrick Brathwaite (TN)

Anna Haver (AR)

Thomas Bendle (FL)

Jesus E Medina (FL)

Randy Gooch (KY)

Deborah Riley (AR)

Linda Paulovich (AR)

Barbara Hager (AR)

Christina Bischoff (FL)

Vicky Jones (AR)

Marcell Jones (AR)



South Carolina News

South Carolina Public Health Association:

1. Membership - Current membership as of April 25, 2008 is 474.
2. Our Annual Meeting was held May 20 – 23, 2008 in Myrtle Beach. Theme was “Putting a Face on Public Health - Yours”. The program featured four tracks relating to the following areas: Adolescent and Child Health, Public Health Preparedness, Environmental Health and Chronic Disease.
3. Financial Status of Association: Currently have a positive equity of \$55,622.
4. Efforts are currently under way to sponsor a SCPHA Golf Tournament September 23, 2008.
5. The Association is spending a lot of time updating Procedures Manual and Leadership Guide.

S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control

Colorectal Cancer Screenings: Efforts are under way by the American Cancer Society, working with Senate Members to secure coverage by private insurers for colorectal cancer screenings. The Senate version of the budget includes \$1 million for a pilot colorectal cancer-screening program at the Department of Health and Environment Control (DHEC). This is also a nonrecurring allocation.

As with all states, we are losing our Pandemic Pan Flu Allocations from CDC. For SC that comes to around \$2.6 million. In addition to this lose; we are planning on a reduction of up to 4.1% in our base Public Health Preparedness Funding to CDC and ASPR.

Efforts are underway within SCDHEC Health Services in Columbia, not only have our buildings smoke free; but to make the entire campus tobacco free. Since we are co-located with other agencies in some

counties, we are actively seeking their support for this ban.

As a result of ever increasing cost for hosting our mainframe operations at the State Information Center, SCDHEC is beginning the transition from a mainframe platform to an AIX platform. The current cost of our mainframe operations is around \$1.4 million per year. This move should save us about \$1 million annually in IT cost. The production box will be housed at DHEC and the disaster recovery box will be at the CIO's office.

South Carolina General Assembly

At this time a version of the budget has been passed by both the House and Senate and waiting on the work of the Conference Committee.

State Employees will receive a 1% COL with no increased cost for health insurance. State Retirees are scheduled to receive a 2% COL. In terms of base appropriations, it is proposed agencies will receive from a 1.5% to 3.6% cut in base state appropriations. The tax revenues are forecasted to be down by \$90 million in FY 09.

The Senate Finance committee passed an amendment to H. 3567, Cigarette Tax bill, which includes a 50-cent per pack increase that would be "indexed" to inflation each year. Income from the tax would go to a trust fund that would provide tax credits to expand Medicaid coverage. In addition, \$5 million a year would be allocated to the tobacco program. On Thursday, April 17, a motion was made to delay debate on the cigarette tax until May 6. The rationale for the delay was that with the May 1st deadline for bill crossover approaching, the Senate has bills originating in the Senate that need to be taken up so they can be sent to the House before the May 1 deadline.

A bill dealing with DUI has passed both the House and Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature. The essence of this bill relates to someone refusing to take a field sobriety test. If stopped and its your first DUI related offense and you refuse to take the test, your license is automatically suspended for six months. The bill goes on to increase the length of suspension each time you are stopped after that.

Information on any bills currently in the system can be viewed at: www.scstatehouse.net

SC Supreme Court

Smoke-Free: In a unanimous decision on March 31, the SC Supreme Court upheld the Greenville ordinance and ruled that SC cities and towns do have the power to enact smoke-free workplace ordinances. Since the ruling, momentum is growing in several local communities to move forward with their own smoke free efforts, including North Charleston, North Augusta and Aiken. We will continue to monitor all relevant state-level bills to keep "pre-emptive" language from being added.



Arkansas State Report

Public Health Heroes

Public Health Week theme for 2008 was "Oral Health...Something to Smile About". Several outstanding, innovative people organizations outside of ADH were honored at a press conference kicking off Arkansas Public Health Week, April 7th. Activities focused on oral health all over the state. At the beginning of the week, the ADH Office of Oral Health sponsored a "Toothbrush Exchange" giving new toothbrushes for each, old work toothbrush. Over 9000 kids enjoyed a free day at the Dickey-Stephens Park with the Traveler's baseball team where they heard about the importance of good oral health and the dangers of spit tobacco. Local dentist in the Northwest Region united for Public Health Week and donated almost 2000 toothbrushes, 1000 tubes of toothpaste and 144 packages of dental floss to serve those most in need.

WIC

The WIC Program received a signed contract with Covansys to implement a new electronic information management system called "Successful Partners in Reaching Innovative Technology (SPIRIT)". ADH has received special funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, to implement this system. SPIRIT is a state agency model system designed to reduce paperwork in clinics, improve program integrity and security, improve accuracy of the data, improve staff efficiency and productivity, and reduce system support & maintenance issues. Arkansas will be the first state agency in the country to implement the SPIRIT system. We are hoping to implement SPIRIT October 1st.

Fitness Challenge

ADH employees joined the Agency Director (Dr. Halverson) at the Statehouse Convention Center for the National kickoff of the 2008 Blue & You Fitness Challenge. The scene was much like that of a spirited election rally as representatives from some 126 companies and groups throughout Arkansas gathered together to cast their commitment to getting fit. In recognition of the Blue & You Fitness Challenge, Governor Mike Beebe declared "Fitness Challenge" day in Arkansas. Over 900 ADH employees signed up for the Nation-wide 2008 Fitness Challenge. This represents nearly 1/3 of the ADH organization.

Advanced Stroke Life Support Training

The Arkansas Department of Health's Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Section and Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Section partnered to bring the Advanced Stroke Life support training course to 30 EMS instructors. The program provided the trainers to teach the course, instructor certification, curriculum materials and follow-up technical assistance for attendees to teach other EMS personnel across the state. The purpose of the training was to teach the importance of recognizing the signs and symptoms of a stroke, neurological assessment and urgent care, documenting vital information, and providing other appropriate medical procedures and techniques to reduce death and disability due to strokes.

Flooding and Tornadoes

Several counties in Arkansas has had more than their fair share of natural events with the recent tornados and flooding. Shelters were set up for

evacuees from town along some of the lakes and communities hit by tornadoes. People were evacuated via helicopter and assisted out of danger by other means. In true collaborative form, ADH staff worked with the Red Cross and local emergency officials at the shelter sites set up in their county.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

We had a great joint conference of Southern Health Association and Arkansas Public Health Association May 7-9, 2008. Several programs within the Division of Health signed up for sponsorship. Our keynote speaker was Kristine Gebbie, DrPH whose topic was "*We've Been Here Before! I Didn't See That Coming*". This was a discussion of how Public Health is constantly renewing itself to meet persistent health needs while responding to threats not anticipated. Panel members Warren McDougal, Mike Miller, and Dennis Thompson provided information regarding what their states public health system is doing to address these concerns.

Dr. Stephanie Bailey from CDC spoke on Thursday on "*The Tipping Point to a New Brand of Leadership*." This was a discussion of new age and where we must learn to do more, better, and faster. It is imperative that we learn how to facilitate partnerships and collaboration where the whole is greater and more effective than the sum of the individual parts. Public Health is at the helm on leading change.



Kentucky State Report

The Kentucky Public Health Association is busy planning for the 2009 Annual Conference Scheduled for March 10-14-2009. Theme for the Conference "Public Health: Education, Leadership and Excellence." As the program progresses information will be posted to our web page.

KPHA has just held the 5th Annual Dudley Conner golf tournament in Bardstown at the Bardstown Country Club-Maywood. The event was very successful with some 140 registered with some 25 volunteers helping with details. Following the golf tournament KPHA held a day and half Board Meeting and Retreat for Board Members, Section Chairs and Committee Chairs.

KPHA is planning on holding four regional conferences late this fall with emphasis on tobacco and dangers of second hand smoke.

We hope to be able to educate a number of people on the dangers of tobacco and second hand smoke including legislators and local officials and increase the awareness for supporting an increase in the cigarette tax.

KPHA is very excited about receiving one of the mini grants on Affiliate Capacity Building. We plan on strategies to enhance memberships, create and awareness of KPHA and develop a strategic plan with a marketing initiative.

KPHA is also reviewing issues that members responded to and the Joint Policy Committee is getting geared up to develop Position papers on the issues when all are identified.

KPHA leadership, the Kentucky Health Departments Association leadership and Dr. William Hacker, Commissioner, Department for Public Health will be meeting soon to identify issues that will have collaborative support.

There are a number of other issues we will be working on and we should have a much further report for the mid-year meeting coming up later.



Janet is congratulated by co-workers



Sue Parker holding the "Sue Parker Award—APHA Service Award



Thanks Carladder Parham, Program Chair; AR PHA President Catherine Tapp; and Carey Woods, SHA Affiliate Representative, for an outstanding meeting!



Suzie Hamm presents outgoing President Tammy Burke a Thank You gift in recognition of her year as President



Georgia State Report

Georgia Division of Public Health

The Georgia Health Officer, Dr. Stuart Brown, has retired effective May 1st, 2008.

Sandra Elizabeth Ford was appointed as interim Director of the Georgia Division of Public Health on May 1, 2008. Prior to this position, Dr. Ford served for three years as the District Health Director for the DeKalb County Board of Health, District 3, which is part of the Division of Public Health, Georgia Department of Human Resources. Dr. Ford, a board-certified pediatrician, received a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Stanford University, a Medical Degree from Howard University College of Medicine and a Master's Degree in Business Administration with a focus in Health Services Administration from Howard University Graduate School of Business. She previously served as Florida Deputy State Health Officer and Deputy Secretary for Children's Medical Services. Her focus areas include bioterrorism, health disparities, infant mortality, asthma, obesity, and nutrition. Dr. Ford was named by the *Atlanta Tribune* as one of the 2007 Superwomen and recognized as Who's Who Among Black Atlantans. She has also received numerous awards, including a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship, Robinson/Dickens Award, and National Medical Fellowship. Dr. Ford has served as principal investigator for research on asthma management for both children and adults and has appeared in the media a number of times.

Georgia Division of Public Health Budget

The 2009 state budget included a 10% increase in Grant-in-Aid to counties, and an increase for public health nurses to 85% of market salary. Unfortunately due to revised revenue projections, the increase in Grant-in-Aid was eliminated. Two House study committees and two audits of public health have concluded that Georgia's public health agencies are in a state of crisis and are inadequately funded to protect the health of Georgians.

GPHA Advocates for an Independent Department of Public Health

The Georgia Public Health Association believes the citizens of Georgia can be better served by an

independent Department of Public Health, and is urging elected officials to create a stand-alone public health agency. Governor Sonny Perdue formed a Health and Human Resources Task Force in February to explore options for reorganizing the Department of Human Resources. "Several options are being considered," says GPHA President Dr. Doug Skelton, "and we believe an independent Department of Public Health would be in the best interest of the health of Georgians."

There are several advantages of an independent Department of Public Health, including:

- A single authority for public health policy with the ability to focus clearly on public health issues.
- With the CDC in Georgia, Public Health schools at Emory, the University of Georgia, and Georgia Southern University, and 6 other public health degree-granting programs in the state, this would be an opportunity to establish Georgia as a leader in public health and bring additional status to the state.
 - Greater visibility and increased direct access to power brokers (legislators and the Governor), enabling public health to better advocate for appropriate funding and policy.
 - Ability to prioritize available funds toward areas of greatest opportunity for impact.
 - Leadership with a medical and public health background would bring greater credibility and confidence from public and partners.
 - Opportunity to better collaborate with other agencies around public health issues.
 - Opportunity to maximize the advantages unique to the public health system (county Boards of Health, county contributions) and resolve problems also unique to this system.

GPHA Answers Proposal to Remove Restaurant Inspections from DPH

Proposals are being considered that would remove restaurant inspections from the Division of Public Health (DPH) and move them into the Department of Agriculture. GPHA believes it is critical that restaurant inspections remain a

public health responsibility as a way to prevent disease. Not only do DPH environmentalists conduct routine inspections, but they must also respond to any unusual illnesses that may be linked to a facility or an event. This response is done hand-in-hand with public health epidemiologists. Public health, by law, has an established notification and surveillance program in place (290-5-3) that alerts of unusual illnesses often requiring environmental inspection. A review of the Department of Agriculture's rules/mission (Chapter 40), does not document that a similar surveillance and monitoring system is in place.

79th GPHA Annual Meeting & Conference

The Georgia Public Health Association's 79th Annual Meeting & Conference will be held December 3-5, 2008 at the [Westin Savannah Harbor](http://www.gapha.org/). For more information see the new improved GPHA website: <http://www.gapha.org/>

Healthy People 2020

The first Regional meeting (USHHS Regions III, IV) concerning Healthy People 2020 was held in Atlanta Georgia at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention March 17th, 2008. I was fortunate to provide oral and written testimony to support oral health and Head Start inclusion in the HP 2020 deliberations. For more information concerning Healthy People 2020 and other Regional meetings (<http://www.healthypeople.gov/HP2020>)



ALABAMA NEWS

State News

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) has made health inspection scores for the more than 23,000 restaurants and food establishments statewide available to the public through the departments website. Users may search by county, city or establishment name. One purpose of posting the scores on the website is to assist Alabama residents to make informed choices about where they purchase food and the restaurants they eat in. It is hoped that this initiative will lessen the incidence of foodborne illnesses by encouraging establishments to improve their food service sanitation practices.

February is nationally observed as "Go Red" month for women. The ADPH in conjunction with the American Heart Association conducted an awareness campaign promoting cardiovascular disease prevention. Health promotion information was disseminated to an estimated 300 incarcerated women in Elmore and Montgomery counties. "Go Red" gift bags consisting of red dress stickers, health brochures and promotional souvenirs were also disseminated to the staff at both facilities. The Cardiovascular Health Branch also sponsored a reception to educate women about heart health and county health departments distributed educational materials to clients and staff.

The ADPH is in the process of launching a media campaign to educate Alabamians about the importance of being ready in the event of an emergency. Tips such as placing your emergency supply kit in water proof bags and trying to have enough supplies to last one to four weeks depending on the emergency are some of the topics discussed with the initiative. Some of the items to include in your emergency supply

kit include a can opener, medications, flashlight, radio and clothes.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognized the Alabama Radon Program as a national leader in innovative programs and activities in 2007. Alabama was recognized as one of four states being honored and was cited as a national leader in innovative programs and activities designed to increase public awareness of the radon problem and to motivate citizens to test their homes for radon and mitigate if needed. The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service provides radon test kits free of charge to Alabama citizens in several counties.

Supervisors and employees of the ADPH are participating in the Public Health Team Academy. The academy's purpose is to create an approach to developing managers that complements other departmental training activities and focuses on the critical competencies needed to be an effective manager.

The ADPH in partnership with the cystic fibrosis centers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Children's Hospital and the University of South Alabama announces further expansion of Alabama's newborn screening program which began on April 21, 2008. Alabama added cystic fibrosis to its panel of primary newborn screening tests. This new test is the eighth addition to the Alabama screening panel since April 2007. The newborn screening program targets up to 29 primary and approximately 20 secondary disorders.

Alabama Public Health Association News

Approximately 260 people attended the annual meeting held in Birmingham, AL April 7-8, 2008. "Prevent, Promote, Protect.... Partnering for Health and Preparedness" was the theme of the conference. Seventeen vendors signed up as exhibitors and three advertisements were sold for this year's annual meeting.

Currently ALPHA has 350 members which represents about 10 percent of the public health workforce statewide.

Two resolutions were passed by the Board and presented to the full membership during the business meeting which included Partnerships to Reduce the Preventable Burdens of Diabetes and Promoting Colorectal Cancer Screening.

The Strategic Planning Committee met and developed guidelines for the hiring of an executive officer. This position will receive a monthly salary of \$600 which is based on 40 hours per month at \$15 per hour. It is desired that this position will be filled by a retired individual who or was a member of ALPHA. This committee also developed criteria for the development of a conference rotation plan.

1. Information discussing the credentialing of public health workers presented by the National Board of Public Health Examiners was disseminated at our last Board meeting and a letter promoting certification of public health workers was included in each conference participant's program packet.

The ALPHA has established a student position on the Board. This position will be appointed by the School of Public Health at UAB and the designee will have voting privileges.



North Carolina News

State News:

North Carolina began a pilot phase of its new Public Health Information System (HIS) in May 2008 and complete roll out to all health departments by end of November 2008. This system replaces the aging Health Services Information System that has been operating since the early 1980s. Also, the Division of Environmental Health will be rolling out its new Environmental Health software system in July 2008 for reporting Food and Lodging, Tattoo Parlor Inspections, Swimming Pool Inspections programs. It does not include wells and wastewater systems. These two systems will be Internet driven and real time, unless some local agencies prefer to remain on their proprietary systems.

North Carolina will be implementing its new private well rules statewide in July 2008. Most local public health departments that previously im-

plemented local rules for drilling private wells are expected to sunset their local rules and begin enforcement of the new state well rules.

North Carolina is making great progress with Public Health Accreditation. For more information, go to: <http://nciph.sph.unc.edu/accred/index.htm>

NC Association of Local Health Directors:

The legislative agenda for the NICALHD includes:

- Increase "general aid to county" by \$23 million for local health departments to build necessary infrastructure and support the capacity to provide essential public health services
- Procure \$12.5 million for obesity campaign
- Increase incubator funding by \$2 million for "project innovation, replica-

tion and expansion"

Provide county boards of health the authority to set and collect local fees for food and lodging inspections with approval by county board of commissioners

NC Public Health Association:

Lynette Tolson, Executive Director, has announced website update at www.ncpha.com

This year's Annual Educational Conference titled, "*Showcasing North Carolina's Public Health: People, Pride and Professionalism*", will be Tuesday, September 23 – Friday, September 26, 2008, at the Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel, New Bern, North Carolina

Planning is already underway to celebrate NCPHA's 100th Anniversary at the September 2009 Educational Conference at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, North Carolina



Judge Mike Miller, Warren McDougale and Dennis Thompson participate on panel at opening session.



Barbara Pauly, one of the newest members from Arkansas, wins State Basket



Past SHA President Marilyn Dunavant, Sue Parker and Barbara Pauly (Marilyn, it was good to see you at the meeting.)



SHA Members wear their new SHA shirts (If you are interested in having one of these shirts, please let us know.)

SHA members gather for a group photo, all that is missing is you—join us at the next annual meeting



Who's Who in SHA for 2008-2009

Executive Committee

President – Suzie Hamm
 President-Elect – Jan Cooke
 First Vice President – Dennis Thompson
 Secretary – Susan Bland
 Treasurer – Tom Bridges
 Member-at-Large – Dr. Stephen Keener
 Member-at-Large – Ted Hanekamp
 Member-at-Large – Janet McAdams

Committee Chairmen

Awards – Tammy Burke
 Constitution and Bylaws – Carey Woods
 Finance – Tom Bridges
 Membership – Richard Funderburk
 Nominations – Hugh Barnes
 Operations/Functions/Objectives (COFO) – Jan Cooke
 Public Policy/Resolutions – Sue Parker
 2009 Annual Meeting – TBA
 Public Information – Nettie Gerstle
 Silent Auction – Janet McAdams
 Hospitality – Leah Dorman and Leanne Bailey
 Fund Raising – Hugh Barnes
 Committee for Affiliate Annual Meeting Support –
 Becky Barnes

Affiliate Representatives

Alabama – Susan Bland
 Arkansas – Carey Woods
 Florida – Warren McDougale
 Georgia – Dr. Joe Alderman
 Kentucky – Dudley Conner
 North Carolina – Tom Bridges
 South Carolina –
 Richard Funderburk
 Tennessee – Tammy Burke

Other

APHA Liaison – Ted Hanekamp

(Contact information for these individuals may be found on the SHA website at www.southernhealth.net or contact the SHA Executive Office at Sandra.whittle@comcast.net.)

Southern Health Association Calendar

SHA Governing Council Meetings

October 2008 (Exact Date to be announced Jacksonville, FL

SHA Annual Meeting

August 4-7, 2009.....Palm Beach Gardens, FL

State Association Meetings

Alabama.....May 25-26, 2009

Arkansas.....May 6-8, 2009

Florida.....Orlando.....July 29—Aug. 1, 2008

Georgia.....Savannah.....December 3-5, 2008

Kentucky.....Louisville.....March 10-13, 2009

North Carolina.....New Bern.....September 24-26, 2008

South Carolina.....Myrtle Beach.....May 19-22, 2009

Tennessee.....Franklin.....Aug 27-29, 2008

Theme: Preparing the Best Game Plan: Tackling Behaviors for Health Improvement

Other Meetings

APHA.....San Diego, CA.....October 25-29, 2008

Theme: Public Health Without Borders

**Southern Health
Association**

1590 North Bass Drive,
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Www.southernhealth.net



MISSION: To serve as
a regional advocate
for Public Health and
for the growth and
development of its
leadership

Southern Health Association Membership Application

(Mail to SHA, 1590 North Bass Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122)

Name _____ OfficePhone _____

Email _____

Organization/Agency _____

Position _____

Dues Paid

Mailing Address _____ 1-Year 2-Year

_____ New Member ___\$20 ___\$40

_____ Individual ___\$25 ___\$45

Is mailing address: (Office ___ Home ___) Fellow ___\$40

Retiree ___\$10

Student ___\$10

Donation (Please fill in amount) _____

Functional Area:

___ Administrative

___ Direct Care

___ Environmental

___ Management Support

___ Educational/Health Promotion

U.S. Congressional District Residence _____

Are you will to serve on a committee? ___ Yes ___ No

If yes, give preference _____

_____ Are you a member of your state PHA?

___ Yes ___ No

Sponsor: optional) _____

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