

SHA UPDATE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Annual Meeting Update	2
SHA Award Update	3
Candidate Bios	4-8
Candidate List	8
Alabama News	9
Tennessee News	11
Arkansas News	12
North Carolina News	13-14
Kentucky News	15
South Carolina News	16-17
Address Change	18
Florida News	20-21
Upcoming Meetings	22
Membership App	23

President's Message

Becky Barnes

Let me begin by congratulating the Kentucky Public Health Association on an outstanding annual conference. I enjoyed getting to meet their President Shawn Crabtree and many other Kentuckians as well as spending time with our SHA members. I know Dudley Conner must have been pleased with the outcome. He had the Governor present to open the meeting. By the way, the Governor of Kentucky is a physician. I should admit that I was excited to be honored as a Kentucky Colonel, by the Governor. It was really great to hear that the City of Louisville had passed a Smoke Free Ordinance and statistics are showing a 32% decrease in smoking. That is a huge public health victory. I know the public health department in Kentucky and Louisville had major roles, but it took the whole community working together, partnering and communicating.



Communication with the public is key to education and awareness of any public health issue. As public health workers we see so many issues which we must respond to. It seems we must always be prepared for the unknown. Preparedness has become one of the highest priorities for all of us. Certainly Pandemic Flu Preparedness has taken much of our time in recent months. I'm looking forward to the panel discussion on Pandemic Flu SHA will be sponsoring at the meeting with the Georgia Public Health Association and hearing of the efforts from several of our SHA states. Much of the planning we discuss is directed at the many different elements of the community, e.g., businesses, schools, daycare centers, etc. This is extremely important and a must do. I would like to emphasize the importance of people, individual families, also doing their own planning. As public health workers it is important that we motivate and empower people to create a plan for home. That includes all of us too!! We need to be good examples for the community. I think it important to have a type of "tool kit" including educational materials pertaining to flu and flu prevention. Families need to know the importance of the basics such as hand washing techniques, and how to care for others who might get infected. I encourage all of us to be working on initiatives to promote the significance of home preparedness. Health departments are constantly being asked to participate in events such as health fairs. This would be a good opportunity to discuss and demonstrate how families can prepare at home for an epidemic or other catastrophe.

In closing, I am looking forward to meeting with the South Carolina Association in May and want to thank Tammy Burke and Jan Cooke for representing SHA in Arkansas and Alabama in May also. I wish all the annual conferences much success. It is difficult to attend three in one month.

Don't forget to make your reservations for the joint annual meeting with Georgia in Savannah.

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR HOME PREPAREDNESS PLAN?????

Georgia Public Health Association**Southern Health Association****Joint Annual Meeting**

By: Joe Alderman, SHA Representative

The Georgia Public Health Association (GPHA) and the Southern Health Association Joint Annual Meeting and Conference will be held at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront September 4-7, 2007 in Savannah, Georgia. The theme and logo for this year's joint meeting is "**Public Health: Prevent, Promote, Protect.**" Joint meetings provide an excellent opportunity for a beneficial exchange of expertise and networking with SHA members throughout the south. The SHA attendees are part of the joint meeting, and the SHA business meetings are open to SHA or GPHA members. Both SHA and GPHA will have Silent Auctions located near to each other. The joint meetings have been beneficial to the affiliate sponsor in terms of quality of meeting, networking, and visibility for public health in the affiliate state. For additional information see

<http://gapha.org/pages/conference.htm>

Keynote Speaker Thursday September 6th, 2007 11:00 am – 12:00 pm: **Stephanie B. Coursey Bailey, MD, MS** is the current Chief of the Office of Public Health Practice at CDC in October 2006. (<http://www.cdc.gov/od/ocphp/index.htm>) She has served as President of NACCHO and she received the prestigious 2004 Roemer Award by the American Public Health Association for the many innovative health programs that she pioneered as the former Director of Health for Nashville, TN.

Pandemic Flu Panel: Jan Cooke, SHA First Vice President, and Chairman of Committee for Affiliate Annual Meeting Support, will plan a 90-minute panel discussion on what SHA states are planning for Pandemic Flu.

Public Policy & Resolutions are shared from other affiliate states. The January mid-year meeting resolutions or position papers regarding preserving local control of public health laws, active communities with environmental design, and promoting colonrectal cancer screening were discussed, and will probably be written for SHA position papers or resolutions.

SHA Awards: An important part of the annual meeting is recognizing public health professionals from around the region for their contributions to public health. Recipients of these awards are to be individual members of SHA or an affiliate member of their state public health association. Nominations may be submitted by individual members of SHA or by an affiliate association (e.g. GPHA). Luncheon is tentatively planned 9/5/07, Wednesday 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm. as part of the Joint GPHA/SHA meeting.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Rates are single and double \$127.00 plus tax. Triple \$147.00 plus tax. Self parking is \$9.00 daily. Riverfront rooms may be available upon request at check-in for an additional \$20.00.

For reservations contact and mention GPHA:

Savannah Marriott Riverfront
100 General McIntosh Boulevard
Savannah, GA 31401
912-233-7722 Phone
912-233-3765 Fax

Hotel reservations may also be made on line by going to www.gapha.org and click on Annual meeting and conference and then Marriott Reservations. The group code for making on line reservations is gphgpha.

It is anticipated that the hotel will fill up early. You are, therefore, encouraged to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible.

SOUTHERN HEALTH ASSOCIATION

AWARDS

Award Nomination Deadline June 30, 2007

Don't wait until the last minute to send in your nominations for the various SHA Awards as listed below. If you wait the date might just "slip you by".

This is a great opportunity to recognize your fellow public health worker for his/her contributions to public health. Any member of SHA or the state affiliate may submit nominations. Award nominees must be members of SHA or their state public health association.

The Award Nomination Form may be found by going to the SHA website at www.southernhealth.net or contact the SHA Executive Office at 615-754-0779 or Sandra.whittle@comcast.net.

Following is a brief description of the individual awards. Additional information may also be found on the website. If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Office as noted above.

- ◆ **Special Meritorious Service to SHA** - This award is to be presented to an individual, a group of individuals or organization to honor outstanding and continuous service to, involvement with, and support of the Association.
- ◆ **Howell Special Meritorious Service to Public Health Award** - This award is to be presented to an individual, a group of individuals or organization to honor outstanding and continuous service to, involvement with, and support of public health particularly in the field of prevention.
- ◆ **The Charles G. Jordan Memorial Award** - This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated a potential for achievement in the field of public health above and beyond the usual requirements or voluntary activities, and must have been employed in a public health capacity for not more than ten years.
- ◆ **The Ficquett-Holley Award** - To be eligible for this award, the nominee must be a nurse and have made outstanding contributions in the field of public health.
- ◆ **Outstanding Legislator Award** - The nominee must be an elected local, state, or federal public servant from the southern region and must have a proven record of sponsorship and support of beneficial health policies, regulations, legislation or statutes.

2007-2008 Nominees for SHA Offices

President-Elect



Jan is currently the First Vice President and Chair of the Program Committee planning the joint annual meeting with the Georgia Public Health Association. Previously, she served as Treasurer and on several SHA Committees. Prior to retirement in 2005, Jan was a mid-level manager for various SC government agencies serving and promoting public health issues. She continues to be very active in both SHA and SCPHA.

Jan Cooke (SC)



Suzie Hamm (KY)

Suzie began her career in Public Health working part-time in a WIC Clinic in a small health department in Bracken County, Kentucky. In 1983 when they became part of the Buffalo Trace District Health Department, she moved to the district office and coordinated the WIC program for the district and worked in the TB and Prenatal programs as well. She currently serves as the Finance Administrator for the District Health Department.

Suzie has been an active member of the Kentucky Public Health Association for a number of years serving on several committees including section chair and silent auction and for the past several years she has served as exhibit chair and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2004. She is an active member of SHA, serving as Secretary in 2006 and is currently as Editor of the Update and as chair of the Hospitality Committee, and the Kentucky Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians.

First Vice President



Carey Woods (AR)

Carey received her Bachelors degree from Arkansas Tech University. She has worked in public health for more than 29 years at the Arkansas Department of Health. She started as an Environmental Specialist, then moved on to a Local Health Unit Administrator and is currently a Health District Manager.

Carey is active in the Arkansas Public Health Association, Arkansas Society of Professional Sanitarians, Arkansas State Employee Association, Southern Health Association, and the American Public Health Association. She has served as President of the Arkansas Public Health Association, President of the Arkansas Society of Professional Sanitarians, and as President of Area VIII Arkansas State Employee Association. She is married with two children.

2007-2008 Nominees for SHA Offices

First Vice President (cont)



Sheri Erwin (KY)

Sheri Erwin has been an avid support of public health and public health issues since 1992. She began her career in Public Health in 1992 with the Purchase District Health Department, located in Western Kentucky. She transferred in 1999, and continues to work with, the Marshall County Health Department.

Sheri holds a B.S. degree in Organizational Leadership and has also done post graduate work towards a Masters Degree in Business Administration which she plans to complete in the near future. She is a 2003 graduate of the Kentucky School of Public Health/Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute which has allowed Sheri to advance her career in Public Health.

Sheri has been a member of Kentucky Public Health Association since 1999 and a member of SHA for four years. Her work as chairman of the Silent Auction committee for the past eight years has generated thousands of dollars for the Health Professional Scholarship Program. Sheri is currently serving as chair of the Silent Auction for KPHA and SHA. She would appreciate your vote for First Vice President.

Secretary



Susan K. Bland, M.S. (AL)

Susan Bland received her Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan and her Master's in Science from Troy State University in Montgomery, Alabama. She worked five years for the Immunization Division of the Alabama Department of Public Health conducting Vaccine for Children assessments and site reviews. Prior to working with the Immunization Division, Ms. Bland was employed by the Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease and the Bureau of Communicable Disease for 20 years working on various initiatives such as the Injury Prevention Campaign, Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, and quality assurance reviews for the Hypertension Program.

Susan also completed levels one through three of the Certified Public Manager Program to be certified as an Associate Certified Public Manager. Ms. Bland also received the Guy M. Tate Award in 1988, for outstanding service to the people of Alabama through promotion and protection of the public's health presented by the Alabama Public Health Association.

Currently Susan is working in the Marketing Division of the Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease. She is in the process of developing a campaign to distribute emergency preparedness guides, pandemic influenza prevention materials and medical needs shelter information. Susan is also serving on numerous committees such as the Special Population Task Force, and MNS Medical Station Coalition. Ms. Bland is also serving on the Planning Committee for the Alabama Public Health Association's joint meeting with the Alabama Environmental Health Association to be held May 17-18, 2007, in Mobile, Alabama. She is also serving as the Alabama Delegate to the Southern Health Association. This is her second year to serve of a three-year term.

2007-2008 Nominees for SHA Offices

Secretary (cont.)



Richard Funderburk (SC)

Richard began his Public Health Career in 1979 as the Administrator for the Catawba Public Health District in Lancaster, South Carolina. He is currently the Regional Administrator for Region 3 Public Health within the SC Department of Health and Environmental Health. On two separate occasions he has served as the Interim District Health Director for the Catawba Public Health District: 1998-1999 and 2001- 2005

Prior to joining the health department, he was employed in the private sector. He received his undergraduate degree in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina in 1969 and his Master in Business Administration from Winthrop University in 1991.

He has been a member of the South Carolina Public Health Association for more than 25 years. During those years he has served the association in numerous capacities: President 1990, Treasurer 1987 and 1994, Parliamentarian 1994-2000, Chairman Health Administration Section 1988, Awards Chairman 1989, Chairman Public Health Scholarship 1989, Chairman Futures Committee 1989, Co-Chair Annual Meeting 1991, Annual Meeting Co-Coordinator 1992 thru 2000, 2002 thru 2007 and Representative to Southern Health 1996 to present. He has received the James A. Hayne Award from the South Carolina Public Association on two separate occasions, 1995 and 2006. He also was recognized for Outstanding Service to the South Carolina Public Health Association in 1993.

He has been a member of the Southern Health Association for over 18 years. He is a two time Past-President of that Association. He has held the following offices within Southern Health: Vice-President and Treasurer. He has worked on several committees during his 18-year membership in the Southern Health Association.

Treasurer



Nettie Gerstle (TN)

Nettie Gerstle has been a public health nurse at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department for 11 years. She initially served as Quality Management Coordinator, and then became the Support Services Program Manager in 2000. As Support Services Program Manager she has oversight of the following programs: protocols/manuals development and update, Quality Management, Tennessee Breast and Cervical Screening, PRN Pool, Immigration/Refugee Services, Clinical Nutrition and pre-employment physicals. Nettie has been a facilitator for the Continuous Quality Improvement program for 9 years, and in 2003-2005 served as leader of the Quality Leadership Team.

Nettie has been a registered nurse since 1977. In 2003 and 2004 she obtained her Master's of Science in Nursing and Master's in Business Administration degrees at Southern Adventist University.

Nettie became a Southern Health member in February 2005. Nettie has been a member of TPHA since 1996, and is currently serving as the Nursing Section's Vice Chair Elect.

2007-2008 Nominees for SHA Offices

Treasurer (cont.)



Dennis Thompson (SC)

Dennis has been with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control as a Public Health Administrator since 1996, currently serving as Region Administrator for Public Health Region 7 which consists of Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties. Job responsibilities include Budgets, Finance, Human Resources, Business Management, Procurement, Information Resources, Disaster Preparedness, Vital Records, Planning, and Policy Development. Prior to his employment with the Agency, he owned a retail business for twelve years, worked as a Branch Manager for a large bank for seven years, and was in the U.S. Army.

Dennis graduated from West Georgia College, University of Georgia, with a Master of Business Administration Degree and a Bachelor of Arts in History. He and his wife reside in Mount Pleasant, SC and have two sons, 27 and 25, both who are law enforcement officers. His hobbies include boating, golfing, and spending time with family.

Member-at-Large



Ted Hanekamp (KY)

Ted obtained his Bachelor's degree from Brescia University in Owensboro, KY and a MPH from the University of NC at Chapel Hill. He began his career in public health with the Kentucky Department of Health in 1965. He accepted a series of administrative positions in the Division of Epidemiology, Office of Local Health, and the Division of Maternal and Child Health. He retired in 1992 as Manager of the Maternal Services Branch, having spent 21 of his 27 years in various capacities in maternal and child health services.

He has been a member of SHA since 1988 and has held many offices including that of President on two different occasions. He has twice been President of the Kentucky Public Health Association of which he has been an active member since 1966. He is the KPHA Representative on the American Public Health Association Governing Council and has served on several committees, including the Action Board, the Nominating Committee, the Joint Policy Committee and Chair of the Committee on Affiliates. He is the SHA liaison to APHA and has been a member of APHA since 1967.

2007-2008 Nominees for SHA Offices

Member-at-Large (cont)



Diana Kreider (TN)

Diana has been with the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department since 1986 and is currently Maternal-Child Health Program Manager. Prior to coming to the Health Department, she held various positions with the Parkridge Medical Center from staff nurse to unit coordinator.

Diana has been active with both the Tennessee Public Health Association and SHA. She has chaired the SHA Silent Auction Committee and has just completed a three-year term as Member-at-Large on the SHA Governing Council. Diana loves to travel and is also involved in multiple community and church activities.

2007-2008 Nominees for SHA Offices

Following is a complete listing of all Nominees for Southern Health Association Offices. Ballots will be mailed out at a later date. Make sure to return your ballot promptly, every vote counts!

President Elect

Jan Cooke (SC)
Suzie Hamm (KY)

Treasurer

Nettie Gerstle (TN)
Dennis Thompson (SC)

First Vice President

Carey Woods (AR)
Sheri Erwin (KY)

Member-at-Large

Ted Hanekamp (KY)
Diana Kreider (TN)

Secretary

Susan K. Bland (AL)
Richard Funderburk (SC)



Alabama Public Health Association News

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Public Health Association, (AIPHA) will be held in conjunction with the Alabama Environmental Health Association at the River-view Plaza Hotel, Mobile, Alabama, from Wednesday, May 16 through Friday, May 18. All SHA members are invited to attend this meeting. The theme of the conference is "Together We Build Healthy Communities." Some of the topics to be presented at the educational conference include Plan First-Alternative Medical Care, Spanish for Health Professionals, Public Health and Pharmacy, and the MCH Objectives for 2010.

The association initiated the *AIPHA Hall of Fame* which is intended to recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to AIPHA through membership growth, advancement of AIPHA and public health, and improvement of the organization. In the inaugural year of the *AIPHA Hall of Fame* up to ten people will be inducted. Thereafter a maximum of two people will be selected each year for induction into the *AIPHA Hall of fame*. The nominees may be living or deceased, and each year the inductees will be announced at the annual education conference during the awards ceremony.

The Legislative Committee reported that the legislators are discussing a plan to have no smoking campuses at all ADPH facilities. Employees would be given an opportunity to attend smoking cessation classes.

A request was made to put additional information on the AIPHA website. It was discussed to place the AIPHA link on the ADPH web page in the A-Z section. A motion was made and passed to add the history of AIPHA on the website.

The Association developed a proclamation for National Public Health week which was signed by the Governor.

Alabama Department of Public Health News

The department joined in partnership with several other organizations to celebrate *Go Red For Women Day*, a national campaign to improve women's heart health by raising awareness about women and heart disease. Dr Crawford, cardiologist discussed her personal experiences and urged women to assess their

Alabama News

The State Committee of Public Health approved a rule change to remove any exemptions on butalbital compounds from the Alabama Controlled Substance List. This change is a part of an ongoing effort of the health department to control illegal diversion of controlled substances in Alabama. Final adoption of the rule change was effective March 28.

Alabama hospitals and physicians joined the Alabama Department of Public Health and state legislators in calling for the establishment of a statewide trauma system. The system will ensure that seriously injured people in any part of the state will be promptly transported to and treated at facilities with resources to care for their injuries. Dr. Williamson and other speakers stressed the importance of getting severely injured patients the care they need within one hour of the injury in order to save lives and ensure the best long-term quality of life for the patient.

The Alabama Department of Public Health joined many other partner organizations in encouraging Alabamians to prepare effectively for public health threats, from bioterrorism and natural disasters to disease outbreaks, during National Public Health Week. Activities conducted include the following:

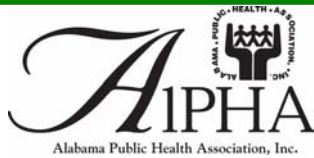
- ◆ On April 2, partners including the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Partnership for Children, Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Department of Human Resources, KPI Latino and many work units within the health department focused on preparedness activities for mothers with children at home.
- ◆ Pediatric offices, childcare centers, and offices of the Departments of Human Resources and Public Health displayed posters, distributed educational materials and held workshops. Preparedness materials were included in parenting kits distributed by hospitals to new families at birth through the Alabama Partnership for Children. Pediatricians appeared on television talk shows and pediatric offices distributed copies of booklets titled "Are You Ready?" and "How You Can Prepare for a Flu Pandemic" for their patients. Faith-

for a Flu Pandemic" for their patients. Faith-based organizations were sent fliers for inclusion in church bulletins.

- ◆ The State Department of Education conducted a satellite conference/webcast on pandemic influenza April 2. The State Board of Education passed a resolution in support of National Public Health Week.
- ◆ The Alabama Department of Public Health chronic disease programs presented diabetes pamphlets to health centers in Alabama communities. The Diabetes Branch and the Cooperative Extension System sponsored the Sixth Annual Alabama Diabetes and Obesity Conference April 4-5 at the Taylor Center of Auburn University Montgomery.
- ◆ The department's Comprehensive Cancer Program encouraged persons with cancer or who have had cancer to order a copy of the Lance Armstrong "LiveStrong" notebook to record their course of care. This convenient notebook includes a place for survivors to keep track of their medications and treatments received. In case they have to leave their home in an emergency, they can transport a record of their entire cancer history.

Gov. Bob Riley officially proclaimed National Public Health Week in Alabama. Other public education efforts included television talk show appearances, the distribution of public service announcements, web site postings, and encouragement of faith-based organizations to emphasize preparedness through church bulletins. A statewide emergency preparedness billboard campaign was extended during the first week of April.

Also, numerous Public Health Week activities were held in many counties throughout the state.



Alabama News Cont.

State News

Alabama schools are on the verge of a crisis. There are not enough teachers in the classroom. There are more than 450 vacancies in schools around the state and the number is expected to rise. Nationwide, there will be a need for 2.5 million more teachers by 2008. The Alabama Education Association, (AEA) is joining forces with the state to put a dent in the problem. In an attempt to alleviate the problem the State Department of Education and the AEA are establishing more Future Teacher Clubs in high schools. Second, the Teach Alabama program gives high school students school credit for internships. The Governor has appointed a commission on quality teaching to come up with its own recommendations.

After several years of steadily rising numbers, new child foster care cases dropped by about nine percent in Alabama in fiscal year 2006. The decrease is the result of stepped-up services and improved training so problems can be identified and remedied earlier. The Alabama Department of Human Resources has put a greater emphasis on providing intensive in-home services to families in crisis.

A Bi-partisan Task Force on Autism in Alabama was announced. The task force will evaluate the strength and weakness of the current situation in Alabama, make recommendations, and identify funding streams.

Legislative News

State Head Start officials have asked the Alabama Legislature for one million dollars to help offset federal funding cuts. Federal budget cuts have reduced funding to the 31 Head Start programs in Alabama by more than one million dollars. Approximately 18,000 Alabama children participate in programs that are designed to get children ready to attend school. The money would be appropriated from the education budget.

Governor Bob Riley signed into law a bill that appropriates \$32,000,000 to rebuild Enterprise schools destroyed by tornadoes. A March tornado destroyed two schools and killed eight students huddled in a hallway at the high school. The legislation allows Enterprise school officials to also use any insurance money or federal disaster relief it receives for rebuilding efforts.

The House and the Senate approved the much discussed increase in legislative expense monies. This raise is around 62 percent and includes an annual cost of living increase tied to the consumer price increase that will not have to be voted on. The legislators overrode the Governor's veto of the legislation.

The influx of Hispanic immigrants into Alabama communities is a major issue in this session of the legislature. Republicans and Democrats both made the issue a priority during last year's election campaigns. Immigrant law specialists have voiced caution on the issue and Hispanic advocates say proposals have been unfair or misplaced. The bills being proposed by the Governor and the legislators would send to jail employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, prevent illegal immigrants from receiving many state services, and make it a crime for them to give false information to register to vote.

A bill has been pre-filed that would allow law enforcement agencies in Alabama to set up cameras at traffic lights and then write tickets that will be sent to the owners of vehicles caught on film running under the red signals. Many lawmakers are split on the proposal with some saying it would save lives and others fearing it would infringe on the privacy of citizens and



Tennessee News

Raising Awareness about Public Health Threats: Public Health Week in TN

Public health threats, from bioterrorism and natural disasters to disease outbreaks, can happen quickly and without warning. During National Public Health Week, April 2-8, 2007, the Tennessee Department of Health (TDOH) urged Tennesseans to talk with their families about preparing a disaster plan.

Joining the Tennessee Public Health Association and partners with the National Public Health Association, the TDOH celebrated the theme: *“Take the First Step! Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation’s Vulnerable Populations.”* The observance focused on specific population groups each day, including: families, persons with chronic health care needs, hourly wage workers and employers, and schools serving children K-12.

As part of this weeklong observance, the TDOH emphasized its role in emergency preparedness. TDOH is the designated lead agency for public health preparedness in the state, and would be responsible for receiving, managing and dispensing life-saving drugs, vaccines, antidotes, medical supplies and other equipment to communities impacted by any public health emergency.

The Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department celebrated Public Health Week with the theme *“Take the First Step: Individual Preparedness for Public Health Threats”*. The Health Department’s Emergency Response Coordinator, Dawn Ford, was featured on radio and television media to raise awareness about public health threats and ways individuals can be prepared.

During Public Health Week, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department also launched a weeklong campaign to raise awareness among Health Department employees. Employees were encouraged to fill out emergency contact cards, assemble home disaster kits, and create family emergency plans. On Friday March 30th, Health Department employees, community partners and leaders joined for an assembly that featured a panel of experts to discuss how individuals can take that first step towards preparedness. The panel featured Barbara Alexander of American Red Cross, Bruce Garner of Chattanooga Fire Department, and Dawn Ford of the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department.

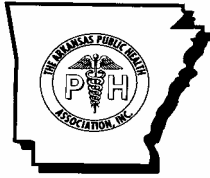
“Take the First Step” during National Public Health Week by creating a family disaster plan, and stocking items for an emergency kit for your home. Your family should talk about plans for staying home in an emergency and for evacuation. Stock essential emergency supplies, such as food, water and first aid items. For more information on family disaster plans and emergency kits, visit the TDOH Web site at <http://www2.state.tn.us/health/CEDS/bioterrorism.htm>, or go to the American Red Cross Web site at http://www.redcross.org/services/prepare/0,1082,0_77_00.html

Gov. Bredesen Appoints Susan R. Cooper, MSN, RN, Commissioner of Health

Governor Phil Bredesen has named Susan R. Cooper, MSN, RN, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health. The Department of Health works closely with local governments and nonprofit agencies to monitor and improve community health – including a campaign created by Governor Bredesen to improve infant mortality and birth outcomes in Tennessee. Commissioner Cooper states that her goal is to continue fostering partnerships statewide that will improve the health of Tennesseans especially among young people.

She made history as the first nurse to serve as Commissioner of Health when she took the oath of office during Gov. Bredesen's second inauguration on January 20, 2007. Commissioner Cooper joined state government in September 2005 as a health advisor and was instrumental in developing Tennessee’s Health Care Safety Net. She later assumed leadership of Project Diabetes, a program Bredesen created to curb the Type II Diabetes threat facing young Tennesseans. She also helped facilitate GetFitTN, the public awareness portion of Bredesen’s campaign to promote healthier lifestyles and habits among Tennesseans.

Before joining state government, Commissioner Cooper was a faculty member and assistant dean at Vanderbilt University’s School of Nursing, where she received both her bachelor and master of nursing degrees. Currently pursuing a Doctor of Nursing Practice from the University of Kentucky, she has an extensive background in vulnerable populations, program planning and evaluation, health policy, healthcare regulation, and evidence-based practice. In addition to serving as a public health nurse, her



Arkansas News

State News

The good news – bad news from the Legislative Session is the Governor now has the authority to demerge the Department of Health and Human Services and Health will once again become a cabinet level agency. The bad news is that legislation to fund a statewide trauma center and primary seat belt law did not pass.

The session focused on adequate funding for education; tax relief, including a cut in the state sales tax on groceries; highway funding. The Governor has said that health will be a focus of the next legislative session.

Career recognition for state employees was increased during this session; the drop program for retirement was not increased from 7 to 10 years as proposed; and state employees will receive a 2% increase for each year of the biennium.

Agency News

DHHS, Division of Health celebrated the opening of its new emergency operations center (EOC) along with Governor Mike Beebe, national dignitaries and other invited guests. The new state-of-the-art facility is now operational at DOH and provides the most up-to-date technology for connectivity with state and federal partners. It is also designed as an alternative EOC for the Department of Emergency Management.

The DOH is now working on a request for proposal for an electronic medical record for the clinic. IHS has just completed their first year of implementation of electronic medical records, which has been very successful.

Association News

The annual conference of the Arkansas Public Health Association will be held May 9-11, 2007 at the Hot Springs Convention Center and Austin Hotel in Hot Springs, AR. The theme for the conference is *“Unlocking the Science of Public Health”*.

Dr. James Raczynski, Dean of the College of Public Health, will be the keynote speaker at the opening session of the Arkansas Public Health Association. Dr. Georges Benjamin, Executive Director of American Public Health, will be the keynote speaker.



North Carolina News

North Carolina News



*Get on Board ... with the **Pride Ride** with **NCPHA!***

Traditionally, Public Health Month is celebrated during the entire month of April in North Carolina and nationally, during the first week in April.

The **North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA)** Pride in Public Health Committee is encouraging all public health agencies and organizations to show their spirit and pride in participating in Public Health Month activities and celebrating healthier and safer communities in North Carolina

To help you get started, Pride in Public Health has planned your first event...selecting and recommending NC Public Health All-Stars Team members. We are asking each public health agency and organization to look through their ranks and identify that special, spirited someone that epitomizes "Public Health". All professions and positions are open for nomination to the All-Stars Team! All you have to do is complete a brief nomination form and submit it by the May 18th deadline.

All-Stars will be recognized at NCPHA's Annual meeting September 26-28 2007.

Suggested Public Health Month (April) Activities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Celebrate 'your' All-Star nominees locally | Bookmark at public libraries |
| Displays in lobby | Posters and banners |
| Open house for the community and elected officials | Public Health Month Proclamation |
| Staff picnic, luncheon or breakfast | Design a PHM word search puzzle |
| Design a PHM word search puzzle | Webpage banner-your organization's website |
| Public Health Month buttons for staff | Activities based on the national theme |
| Outgoing mail 'stamped' or labeled with Public Health Month notice | |
| Staff contests: door decoration, hat contest, best phone message, etc. | |
| In-coming voicemail messages/hold patterns that announces Public Health Month | |
| Press release, newspaper ads, 'Day in the Life' article submitted to newspaper | |



North Carolina News (cont)

2007 National Public Health Week:

“Preparedness and Public Health Threats:

Addressing the unique needs of the Nation’s Vulnerable Population”

<http://www.nphw.org/2007/home.htm>

More information and materials on Public Health Month are available on the NC Division of Public Health website
<http://www.ncpublichealth.com/publicHealthMonth/phm.htm>

Note: Take digital pictures and submit your Public Health Month photo CD to NCPHA for our slide show at the annual meeting. Mail CD to: NCPHA, 7424 Chapel Hill Rd., Suite 201, Raleigh NC 27607

Instructions for Nomination Form

The nomination form was created in MS Word with insert fields. You may type directly on this form and save it. The gray shaded fields will expand as needed with what is typed in these fields.

These nomination forms may be submitted in one of three ways:

By fax:

~OR~

~OR~

NCPHA Executive Office (919) 233-7336

By mail:
NCPHA

email to Christine
Rodriguez at

7424 Chapel Hill Rd., Ste 201,
Raleigh, NC 27607

crodriguez@co.cumberland.nc.us

~OR~

****To email this, you must first save the information entered
then attach to a new email.**

All forms must be submitted by May 18, 2007

If you have questions about this form or activity, please contact

Christine Rodriguez at (910) 433-3813 or email: crodriguez@co.cumberland.nc.us

NC Public Health All-Stars Team Nomination Form

Public Health Agency or Organization Name:

Contact Person:

Email:

Phone #:

Name of All-Star:

Position/Profession:

Nomination narrative: Include the nominee’s years of public health service and describe why they deserve the All-Star designation. Please limit

Supporting Signature: Minimum of 3

Name:

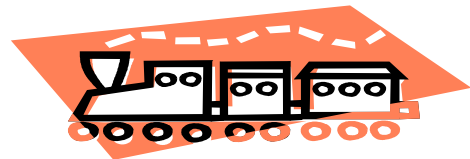
Agency/Organization:

Name:

Agency/Organization:

Name:

Agency/Organization:





Kentucky News

The Kentucky Public Health Association held its 59 Annual Conference March 26-29, 2007 at the Executive West Hotel, Louisville, Kentucky. Theme for this year's conference was "Public Health-Today's Investment in Tomorrow. The Conference was well attended with some 100 speakers numerous exhibitors and a host of others, some 800 people total. Governor Ernie Fletcher opened the General Session along with Commissioner Dr. William Hacker, Becky Barnes, President of Southern Health Association and Deborah Klein Walker, President of the American Public Health Association. Governor Fletcher presented President Shawn Crabtree a Proclamation declaring Public Health Week in Kentucky. The Governor also presented to Becky Barnes and Deborah Klein Walker a Kentucky Colonel Commission. Dr. John Steber, Professor of Communications, Kutztown, University delivered keynote address. His topic "Maintaining a Clear Focus in an Ever Changing World. The field of Public Health is Facing Many Changes. (For those of you who may be looking for a dynamic speaker he comes highly recommended)

KPHA had a special day set aside for the candidates for Governor to speak. Since this is an election year and we have 3 Republicans and 7 Democrats running we invited all of them to participate. Eight of the 10 showed up. Quite an interesting session.

KPHA has adopted seven position papers and one resolution. They are as follows:

- ◆ Active Communities by Environmental Design
- ◆ Preserving Control of Public Health Laws
- ◆ National Public Health Performance Standards
- ◆ Electronic Reporting Infectious Disease Surveillance
- ◆ Cervical Cancer Prevention: The HPV Vaccine
- ◆ Pasteurization of Raw Milk and
- ◆ Colorectal Cancer Screening Promotion and

The Resolution-Physical Activity for Children and Adults.

All of these papers and the Resolution were published in a bound copy and provided to each member of the Legislature.

KPHA is in the process of asking membership what areas to consider position papers for 2007 to be presented to the 2008 General Assembly.

KPHA has elected new Officers and Board Members. With the turnover of Officers and Directors a Retreat for the Board is scheduled for June 26-27, 2007 in Bardstown to review responsibilities and to set the agenda for the following year.

KPHA set a goal last June of 1,000 members by the March 2007 Convention. I am happy to report that we exceeded that goal. Now the challenge is maintaining that level and further increasing the membership.



South Carolina News

State News

SC GOES PAPERLESS FOR FOOD SURVEILLANCE & TRACKING

Submitted by Ruth A. Rackley

For years the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), Division of Food Protection has been recording results and details of food borne illness complaints, investigations and restaurant inspections on paper. These tasks require many hours of paging through the paper files to collect the necessary data and information creating tons of paper files stored in each county. Therefore, only giving food staff a narrow county-by-county view of the state.

That's all changing now with the introduction of the South Carolina Surveillance Tracking And Reporting System (SC STARS). The first stage of SC STARS has just recently been implemented statewide. All environmental field staff members who are responsible for food inspections has been equipped with a tablet PC, printer and the SC STARS system. SC STARS will have additional reporting and surveillance components added by early summer to complete the system.

Efficiency and accuracy are key in performing food surveillance and identifying trends. The SC STARS system a web based application is the first statewide system of it's kind in the United States. It will enable SC to view the entire state at a glance. While there are other states performing food inspections on tablets, none until SC STARS has created a system with food illness complaint surveillance, as it's top priority.

The web-based application SC STARS, created by Steton a Utah based company, will allow county office staff to record food illness complaint information instantly so it can be tracked in real time at the state level. The increased speed and reporting of complaints will allow for a quicker reaction to deviations and food borne trends throughout the state.

The SC DHEC has equipped 130 environmental health staff across the state with tablet PCs, which are operated using a stylus to point and click to enter data as well as hand-write notes. When staff return to the office, surveillance and inspection data can be downloaded to an agency database and tablets are updated with the latest information.

SC STARS will help improve uniformity and consistency across the state and insure a more effective response to food service concerns.

For more information regarding this new venture, Ms. Rackley can be reached at 803-896-0640 or Racklera@dhec.sc.gov.

Association News

This year's theme, **"Where in the World is Public Health?"** will take you on an international journey at the annual meeting. The SCPHA annual meeting will be held at the Springmaid Beach Resort and Conference Center May 22-25, 2007. It promises to be one of the most interesting and learning experiences you will ever have.

New member orientation will be held Wednesday morning offering new members the opportunity to learn more about the Association and attend their respective section meetings on Thursday afternoon. Poster sessions will be conducted a bit differently by being presented during various breaks in the Exhibit Hall on Wednesday.

Starting with the Early Bird Reception, Exhibits and Silent Auction will be open for business. Be sure to get bids in early for items you can't live without. Meet the many vendors that help support the annual meeting and learn about their products and services. The President's Reception will be a part of this Tuesday afternoon event, with a very special "surprise" international presentation.

Again this year, we will recognize volunteers and professionals for their dedicated service to Public Health with an Awards Banquet Wednesday evening, followed by DJ Kyle Gore who promises to get everyone on the dance floor for some fun! You are encouraged to come in the dress of a foreign country or to honor your heritage.



South Carolina News Cont.

The Turtles have been in training and they are ready to race! Again this year, we'll have the turtle race fundraiser by the Palmetto's lazy river on Thursday afternoon. The ATOD Section will sponsor the Alternative Celebration at this event. It always promises to be a good time for everyone and lots of good prizes too!

Sections are still actively seeking support to their community projects. So bring coats, blankets, fans, children's books, toiletries and old cell phones. Collection boxes will be located near Registration in the Exhibit Hall.

You don't want to miss this conference! It will be filled with information and experiences useful to any citizen and public health worker. It will also offer a great opportunity to network with others interested in improving Public Health today in South Carolina and the world! On behalf of President Fechtel, Governing Council, the Convention Coordinators, and Chairs and Members of the Contributed Papers, Early Bird, Exhibits, Marshals and Pages, Program, Properties, and Registration Committees, we look forward to taking this journey with you through the "World of Public Health!"

REGISTRATION: Fill out the Registration Form **TODAY** and mail it to SCPHA, PO Box 11061, Columbia SC 29211. Early Bird registration rates **cut off May 4th**. It is suggested you fax a copy of your registration request to Michael Stalnaker @#803-254-3773 and bring a copy with you to the meeting to ensure easy on-site registration. Contact Michael @#803-779-0343 with questions. (Registration Form included in *The Bulletin*)

PAYMENT: Checks and money orders should be made payable to: SC Public Health Association. A check/money order or copy of PO/DEI must be attached to the Registration Form. Registration will be accepted on-site at a higher rate. If paying by personal or company check, a receipt will be placed in your registration packet.

REFUND POLICY: Written notice of cancellation of advanced registration must be received no later than Tuesday, May 8th. Refund checks will be mailed after the conference. There will be no refunds for "no-shows." Substitutions will be accepted.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: Call Springmaid Resort today and make your hotel reservations. In order to receive the conference rate, **reservations must be made no later than Sunday, April 23rd**. After that date, rates and rooms will depend on availability. Contact Springmaid @#1-800-770-6895 or 1-843-315-7100. Be sure to mention the Association by name in order to get the correct rate. Lodging choices are available at these rates Friday, May 18th- Thursday, May 24th. More information about Springmaid is available @ www.springmaidbeach.com.

*Live Oak Building (single/double): \$72++ /night

- 1 Bedroom Suite: \$86++/night

- 2 Bedroom Suite: \$94++/night

4 Room Suite: \$\$154++/night

* ++ = 16% taxes

For individuals interesting in staying through the Memorial Day weekend, rooms will be available in the Palmetto Building beginning Friday, May 25th at the rate of \$115+16% taxes per night. There is a two-night minimum stay (Friday and Saturday).

Address Change

Please make a note of the following address change for the Southern Health Association. The telephone number (615-754-0779) and email address (sha@southernhealth.net) remain the same.

Southern Health Association

1590 North Bass Drive

Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Just Call Her Colonel!!!



SHA President Becky Barnes receiving her Kentucky Colonel from Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher at Kentucky's recent annual KPHA Convention in Louisville, KY.



"Mr. and Mrs. Too Busy and Family", a skit created by Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department employee Lolita Bryson, was presented at the General Assembly to encourage employees to create their family emergency plans



Florida News

Public Health has been at the forefront this year and, like many other states, Florida has been challenged to provide services to the communities we serve. Those of us in Epidemiology and Environmental Health have always desired to have the notoriety of other high-profile public health programs. It is safe to say that after the spinach, lettuce, peanut butter, dog food and mouthwash problems, we have had just about all the attention we need! This attention resulted in Florida developing numerous pieces of legislative bills and resulting in an active legislative watch.

The following bills are some of the more important ones evaluated by our legislative committee

- ◆ Food Service/Toilets/Inspection (which we thought we already were doing)
- ◆ Remediation of Illicit Drug Labs (could require inspection by health department)
- ◆ Florida Springs Protection Act (septic and other run off)
- ◆ Janelle's Law/Smoke Detectors (smoke and carbon monoxide detectors)
- ◆ Regulation of Building Inspection Professionals (possible affect on EH professionals)
- ◆ HPV virus immunization initial legislation for school entry was amended to only require education on the vaccine.
- ◆ Pharmacist immunization was amended to apply only to flu shots.
- ◆ A bill providing for a statewide Surgeon General charged with promoting public health initiatives is now on the Florida House floor
- ◆ A bill marking April, 2007 as Cancer Awareness Month, was passed.

The following is a status report on several bills, which are not moving quickly.

- ◆ Tobacco/Minimum Age - No action yet on SB 132
- ◆ Employee Fitness/Tax Credit - SB 194 has passed the Health Regulation and Commerce committees and is now in the Finance and Tax Committee. The House companion (HB 325) is currently in the Jobs and Entrepreneurial Council.
- ◆ One School, One Nurse Act SB 418 has passed the Health Regulation Committee but appears stalled in the Education Committee.
- ◆ Child Passenger Safety HB 443 passed the Economic Expansion Council this week, and the Senate companion will be heard in Transportation on April 9.
- ◆ Kidcare - Several bills have been heard but none yet has emerged as a consensus.

FPHA expanded its legislative advocacy program this year by contracting with Voter Voice, a company that helps manage your grassroots campaign. Through Voter Voice, FPHA initiated a system where members can be contacted easily and be updated on legislative issues. The system matches members to their own elected officials by their addresses at home and at work. Members can enter the system via the FPHA website and can access information on specific issues, their legislative representative, specific committees, etc. Also, members can send emails directly to a legislator.



Florida News Cont.

The system allows FPHA to send its legislative announcements as often as needed to all members.

If there is a need for members in a specific area of the state to respond to a bill, the system can select members needing the information. The Association felt this was a quicker way to communicate with the membership and keep them updated. This year will be a trial run to determine if we will continue with Voter Voice.

State News

The Department of Health has experienced changes in the executive management and assistant secretary positions. The new Secretary for the Department of Health recruited her own staff to numerous positions and FPHA is working with these individuals to inform them of Florida's public health system. The local county health departments are still in a "wait and see" mode as the new administration becomes involved in local activities.

ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

FPHA is looking forward to the upcoming annual education conference for 2007:

2007 Florida Public Health Association

Annual Educational Conference

July 29- August 3, 2007

"Under the Big Top: Florida Public Health – The Greatest Show on Earth"

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay

Tampa, Florida

The program will be set up like a three-ring circus using circus terminology to describe public health programs. For example the first day's activities as written in the program:

General Session

Keynote: *Public Health Role in Creating An Exercise Friendly Environment*

"SideShows"

From Nursery School to Nursing Homes – Sexual Health Across the Ages

Educational Tracks

Track A – "Behind the Scenes"

National Accreditation/Nation Standards for State and Local Health Departments – An Update

"SideShows"

The Role of the Florida State Public Health Laboratories

Track B – "Center Stage or Center Ring"

Harmful Algae

"SideShows"

Partnering in a New Way – The New Normal



Florida News Cont.

Track C – “Walking a Tightrope”

The Use of GIS to Improve Disaster Response for the Elderly

“SideShows

Bring It Home or Take It to Work – How To Talk About Sexual Health

Track D – “Juggling Act – Balancing Priorities

Balancing Your Work Environment and Physical Exercise

SideShows”

“Oceans and Human Health”

Sideshows are 15 minute exhibits or posters that can be visited during breaks, lunch or other networking opportunities.

We will be hosting the president-elect of the Southern Health Association and are looking forward to her visit. All of you as public health enthusiasts are invited to join us for this celebration of public health knowledge!

Public Health in Tennessee



Dawn Ford, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department's Emergency Response Coordinator presents the various public health threats that could occur in Chattanooga during the

DONATIONS

Memorial Donations in Memory of Dick Jones

Woody Dunn

Sheri Erwin

Other Donations

Ed Cecil

Becky Barnes

Ted Hanekamp

Carol Ballard

Southern Health Association Calendar

SHA Governing Council Meetings

September 4, 2007Savannah, GA

SHA Annual Meeting September 4-7, 2007 Savannah, GA

State Association Meetings

Alabama.....Mobile.....May 16-18, 2007

Theme: Together We Build Healthy Communities

Arkansas.....Hot Springs.....May 9-11, 2007

Theme: Unlocking the Science of Public Health: Evidence-based Decisions; Prepared Workforce; Amplified Customer Service

Florida.....Tampa BayJuly 31—Aug 3, 2007

Theme: Under the Big Top: Florida Public Health—the Greatest Show on Earth

Georgia.....Savannah.....September 4-7, 2007

Theme: Public Health : Prevent, Promote, Protect

Kentucky.....Louisville.....April 22-24, 2008

North Carolina.....Research Triangle Park.....Sept 26-28, 2007

Theme: Taking the Lead with Changes, Challenges, and Great Expectations

South Carolina.....Myrtle Beach.....May 23-25, 2007

Theme: "Where In the World Is Public Health:"

Tennessee.....Franklin.....Oct 31—Nov 2, 2007

Other Meetings

APHA.....Washington, D.C.....Nov. 3-7, 2007

Theme: Politics, Policy and Public Health

Southern Health Association

1590 North Bass Drive,
Mt. Juliet TN 37122

Phone & Fax 615-754-0779

Email -
sha@shouthernhealth.net
or
Sandra.whittle@comcast.net

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 _____ Office Phone _____

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) _____

Southern Health Association

1590 North Bass Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

Phone & Fax: 615-754-0779

Email: sha@southernhealth.net or Sandra.whittle@comcast.net