This is a very exciting time for SHA. After a productive mid-year governing council meeting in Florida in January, we are moving forward toward our annual meeting in August. The plans are being made, speakers are being contacted, workshops are being planned and travel arrangements are in the works. If you have not already made plans to be in West Palm Gardens in August 4-7, 2009, don’t hesitate make those plans today. We are expecting this to be a great meeting as we join with the folks from Florida.

Another exciting thing happening for Southern Health is the addition of Wayne Raynor from North Carolina as fund raiser. Wayne recently retired from Public Health and comes to Southern Health with many years of experience. There is more about Wayne later in the Update. I know each of you will welcome Wayne to the Southern Health family and wish him well as he starts to move SHA forward.

I continue to hear about the budget issues and economic trials folks are facing. In my experience I know this means the Public Health Departments will become more important to the folks we serve and unfortunately the old “do more with less” motto will be heard even more than usual. The thing that has impressed me the most as I have traveled to the affiliate states is the amount of passion for Public Health and the folks we serve I continue to see in each state regardless of the adversities folks are serving. This is what sets Public Health workers apart from all the rest, it is more than a job, it is not just what we do, it is who we are!
PACK YOUR BAGS! BOOK YOUR FLIGHT! You don’t want to miss this exciting meeting. It will be a great opportunity to learn, network and a beautiful setting for a vacation. The theme this year is

“The Public Health Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together.”

The conference is being held at the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach, Florida. SHA Governing Council will meet Tuesday, August 4, 2009. FPHA will officially open the annual event Wednesday, August 5th and close around lunchtime on Friday, August 7th.

The Planning Committee has secured excellent conference rates at the hotel and if you watch the airlines, you can book a very reasonably priced flight directly into West Palm Beach. Also it is worth checking flights into Ft Lauderdale/Miami and taking a shuttle to the resort. Any way you can get there, you don’t want to miss this convention!

Several nationally recognized speakers will be giving plenary and keynote addresses. The finest of Florida’s Public Health will also present to the group in concurrent and section sessions. The educational tracks this year are Chronic Disease, Wellness, Best Practices, and Grant Writing.

SHA is taking the lead on the third track – Best Practices. The targeted areas preferred are Environmental Health, Communicable Diseases, Administrative/Business Practices, Dental Programs, and Epidemiology/Immunizations/Laboratories. The selected Best Practice being sponsored by SHA will be Wednesday afternoon, possibly in a panel presentation. If you are interested in submitting an abstract for consideration, please contact Jan Cooke TODAY by email at: cookejan@bellsouth.net. We want Florida public health professionals to learn what is happening in the region – similarities and possibilities!

President Suzie Hamm and the Governing Council look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Educational Conference this summer!

Hotel reservations may be made by calling the PGA National Resort and Spa at 561-627-2000. Room rates are $127.00 single or double.

Additional information on the annual meeting will be posted to the SHA or FPHA website as it becomes available. Both websites are listed below.

www.southernhealth.net
www.fpha.org
National Public Health Week

April 6-12, 2009

Theme: *Building the Foundation for a Healthy America*

Most affiliates of Southern Health will be supporting numerous public health activities during Public Health Week across our Nation. We know there are many creative public health workers across the southeast, and we would be interested in sharing those unique activities held during Public Health Week. Therefore, we encourage you to submit articles for our next newsletter to sha@southernhealth.net.

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McADAMS 2009 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Prescott-Nevada County, Arkansas Chamber of Commerce named Janet McAdams its 2009 Citizen of the Year February 16 at the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet. The award recognized her vision, effort and sacrifice of time toward the progress of Prescott and Nevada County. She is the Southeast Region Hometown Health Initiatives manager.

Janet is currently serving on the SHA Governing Council as a Member-at-Large.

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Donations Acknowledged

Thanks to the following who have made donations to SHA during the past year:

Ronny Van Vlake
Lou Thayer
Hugh and Becky Barnes
Carol Ballard
Frank Meyers
Ardis Lamb
Dr. Sherman Kahn
Fred Agel
Peggy Montalbano
Cheryl Shouse

Memorial donations made in memory of Art Tatum, father of Becky Barnes:

Richard Funderburk
Diana Kreider
Susan Bland
Jan Cooke
Suzie Hamm
Sandra Whittle
SHA Contracts For Fundraising

The Southern Health Association has entered into a contract for fundraising with Wayne Raynor from North Carolina, effective March 1, 2009. Mr. Raynor recently retired as Director of the Cumberland County Department of Health in Fayetteville, N.C. All total, he has more than 35 years experience in public health, which includes federal, state and local levels. Mr. Raynor has a M.P.H. from the University of North Carolina with concentrations in Public Health Policy and Administration. He is the immediate past-president of the North Carolina Public Health Association.

The mission of SHA is to be a regional advocate for public health and for the development and growth of its membership. In order to better accomplish this mission it is important and necessary to increase our revenue base. SHA is interested in partnering with official agencies, volunteer agencies, private companies, pharmaceutical companies, etc., in the planning and coordination of educational conferences and promotions. SHA members have a wealth of experience in planning, coordinating and implementing conferences of all sizes. It will be the goal of Mr. Raynor to seek out funds from various sources to enable SHA to work with the affiliates to further promote the public health issues in their states.

Mr. Raynor will be contacting the public health leadership in all the affiliate states to learn more of their needs and suggestions as to how SHA might be of assistance through joint efforts and partnerships.

Nominations Committee Report

The Governing Council approved recommendations from the Nominating Committee at the mid-year meeting to change the Constitution and Bylaws requiring a double slate of officers to a single slate of officers. Provisions are to be made to allow for additional nominations from the membership if desired. These actions must be approved by the membership at the annual meeting in August in Florida. If approved, the changes would be effective for the 2010-11 year.

See pages ____________ for a list of the candidates submitted by the Nominating Committee for 2009-2010. Additional candidates may be placed in nomination by the petition of at least twenty members consisting of five members from four affiliate states. Said petitions must contain a signed statement of consent to serve if elected and must be submitted to the Nominating Committee by May 22, 2009 along with a photo and biographical sketch. Ballots will be mailed to all SHA paid up members on June 5, 2009.
President-Elect

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.

In the Southern Health Association, Dennis is currently the 1st Vice President, and has served in roles as the Treasurer, 2nd Vice President, and Chair of the Finance Committee. He is currently the President Elect of the South Carolina Public Health Association.

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, 29 and 27, both who are law enforcement officers. His hobbies include boating, golfing, and spending time with family.

Dennis Thompson (SC)

Carey received her Bachelors degree from Arkansas Tech University. She has worked in public health for 31 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 has served on the SHA Governing Council as Arkansas’ Affiliate Representative since 2007 and is also currently Chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. She has also served as First Vice President and Secretary.

Carey is active in the Arkansas Public Health Association, Arkansas Society of Professional Sanitarians, Arkansas State Employee 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.

Carey Woods (AR)

First Vice President

Fred has been involved with public health for more than 33 years. He served as Director of the Franklin County Health Department in Frankfort, Kentucky until he retired in 1999. During his tenor he participated in many regional and statewide committees and study groups such as the Governor's Study on the Shortage of Nurses, Medicaid Reimbursement Committee, and statewide Strategic Planning for Public Health.

After retirement, Fred stayed involved in public health issues while serving as Franklin County’s Deputy County Judge for nine years. He has remained an active member of Southern Health and Kentucky Public Health, as well as the Kentucky Public Health Environmentalist Association. His participation in several regional committees to manage water and protect the environment led to his selection for the statewide Environmental Service Award in 2001.

Fred has been a member of Southern Health for more than fifteen years. He has served on several committees for SHA including Audit and COFO. He has served on the SHA Governing Council as Treasurer, First Vice President, and Member-at-Large. He was also elected President of the Kentucky Public Health Association the year Kentucky hosted the Southern Health Association.

Fred has been married to his wife, Debbie, for 33 years and has a son attending law school and a daughter graduating this May from the University of Kentucky.

Fred H. Goins (KY)
First Vice President Cont.

Nettie Gerstle has been a public health nurse at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Health Department for almost 13 years. She has served as Quality Management Coordinator and Support Services Program Manager. Currently, she is serving as Communicable Disease Control Program Manager with oversight of the STD/HIV Prevention and STD Treatment, TB, Overseas and Adult Immunization, Immunization Outreach, Epidemiology and Infection Control programs. Nettie has been a facilitator for the Continuous Quality Improvement program for 10 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 of Science in Nursing and Master in Business Administration degrees at Southern Adventist University.

Nettie became a Southern Health Association member in February 2005 and has served on the Audit and Public Information Committees. Nettie has been a member of TPHA since 1996.

Nettie lives with her husband, David, and their cat, Baby, in the North Shore area of downtown Chattanooga. Their daughter and son-in-law live not too far away in Cleveland, Tennessee. She is an avid reader with eclectic tastes, enjoying books ranging from Louis L’Amour’s westerns to science fiction, mysteries, action/adventure, humor, and religious literature.

Secretary

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 served for three years as Member-at-Large on the SHA Governing Council. She has served on numerous committees including Chair of the Silent Auction Committee and the Hospitality Committee.

Diana loves to travel and is also involved in multiple community and church activities.

Paula Alexander (KY)

Paula has been Public Health Director of the Franklin County Health Department, Frankfort, Kentucky, for 1½ years. She is also one of 30 current Robert Woods Johnson “Survive and Thrive” Program initial fellows, through NACCHO.

She previously served as a Nurse Consultant Inspector with the Kentucky Department for Public Health, since 1994, where she held such duties as state Family Planning Director, first Coordinator of the Women’s Health Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program, first coordinator of the Arthritis Program, and many other duties. She spent her last five years at DPH as one of three founding members on the Quality Improvement Team. This team traveled to all local state health departments to provide assistance with the many details involved in implementing complex programs at the local level. The team also took local ideas and concerns back “to Frankfort” to help improve state/local communications.

Always interested in quality standards, Paula became passionate about local health department accreditation while with the QIT and has carried this interest to FCHD. She is secretary of the Kentucky Health Department Association and chair of its subcommittee on accreditation, and others.

Paula is a board member of Frankfort’s Coalition of Committed Christians, known locally as the “Soup Kitchen”. Paula holds a BA in English Literature from Indiana University Northwest, and served as a journalist/public relations employee before answering a call to nursing. She then received an ADN from Midway College, and continued her nursing education studies at the University of Kentucky (BSN and MSN) while employed in critical and emergency care.
Treasurer

Dr. Brumley is the epidemiologist for the South Central Region of the Tennessee Department of Health. He 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 on the statewide dental program.

David has been a member of the Tennessee Public Health Association and the Southern Health Association for many years. He has served TPHA in numerous capacities included President in 2007. He has also served on various committees and as Treasurer and Member-at-Large on the SHA Governing Council.

David has been honored several times for his work in public health. In 2003, he received the Above and Beyond Award from the Tennessee Department of Health and the Tennessee Public Health Association Distinguished Service Award. In 2008, he was presented the Southern Health Special Meritorious Award and the TPHA R. H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Award, which is the most prestigious award given by TPHA.

I am running for the office of Treasurer and would like to share a summary of my public health experience. In 1977, I began my public health training as a food and waterborne disease investigator with the United States Air Force. Since 1982, I have worked for the Florida Department of Health as an environmental health professional. I served as Environmental Manager of local county health departments from 1986 to 2003. In 2003, I moved to environmental epidemiology to work in the discipline that stole my heart many years ago. Currently, I am the Epidemiology Program Manager for the Hillsborough County Health Department in Tampa, Florida.

I have had the privilege of serving the past 6 years as Florida’s affiliate representative to the Governing Council of the Southern Health Association. I am a past president of the Florida Public Health Association.

Warren McDougle (FL)

Member-at-Large

Currently Tom is the Health Director for the Henderson County Health Department, Hendersonville, NC, a position he has held for the past ten years. He has held various other positions in public health including positions with the Person County Health Department, NC Adult Health Branch, Division of Public Health, Craven County Health Department and the Department of Nutrition, UNC School of Public Health. He has a BS in Zoology/Chemistry and an MPH in Nutrition.

Tom is actively involved with numerous professional and community activities including serving as past President of the North Carolina Public Health Association. He is currently serving on the SHA Governing Council as NCPHA’s affiliate representative and as Treasurer. He has a BS in Zoology/Chemistry and an MPH in Nutrition.

Tom Bridges (NC)
Member-at-Large Cont.

Currently serving as the President of the Florida Public Health Association, Frank, is a fourth generation Floridian, whose roots and interests in public health run deep.

On April 3, 2008, Frank retired from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s STD program serving over 29 ½ years. He worked from coast-to-coast in city, county and state health offices including Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Baltimore, and throughout the state of Florida.

Frank also is an administrator on FaceBook’s “This is Public Health” page (and is the current top recruiter of new members to that cause). He also serves as the creator and coordinator of the CDC’s STDPreventionOnline.org special interest groups:

Educated at Palm Beach Jr. College and later the University of South Florida, Frank received a degree in Speech Communication. Originally planning on a career in marine biology (and food production) many of his undergraduate courses were in bio-chemistry. This combination of a strong science background and communications later came to serve him well as a US Public Health Advisor.

While assigned to the Florida Bureau of STD, Frank served three years as the Bureau’s coordinator for the Florida State Employees Charitable Campaign, and simultaneously the CDC’s Federal Charitable Campaign.

Frank is a member of APHA and a Fellow member of SHA. In addition, he holds membership in a number of other organizations.

Frank currently lives in Tallahassee with his life partner of 37 years, three cats, and a couple goldfish. When not involved in his Public Health interests, you will likely find him either in his flower, fruit and herb gardens or out fly fishing on the saltwater flats.

GEORGIA NEWS CONT.

The Governor has proposed that Public Health be combined with Medicaid/SCHIP Programs to become a separate Department of Health or Department of Public Health. The Governor has also proposed that all mental health activities be combined in a Department of Behavioral Health. The federal government is threatening to further investigate the problems with the Mental Health Programs, especially the Mental Health Hospitals in Georgia. The Governor is seriously considering privatizing the Mental Health Hospitals in Georgia.

Future Leaders Conference Set for April 3

Registration is now open for the first annual Future Leaders Conference to be held at Mercer University on April 3, 2009. This one-day conference is open to all undergraduate or graduate students in a public health related area of study. The conference will offer an opportunity for students to hear presentations by leaders in Georgia’s public health field and by students attending Georgia colleges.

Note: Georgia Public Health Association, Post Office Box 80524 Atlanta, GA 30366-0524; Phone: (678) 302-1132 Fax: (678) 302-1134; http://www.gapha.org.
June 1, 2009 Deadline for Submitting Award Nominations

There are many outstanding people working for the good of public health throughout the southeast region. The SHA Awards are a great opportunity to give regional recognition to those people. It does require a small effort to complete the nomination form that can be found at the SHA website, but the appreciation for the recognition is definitely worth it!

June 1, 2009 is the deadline for getting nominations in so NOW is the time to start putting those nominations together. Nominees must be either individual members of the Southern Health Association or a member of their affiliate state public health association. Nominations may be submitted by individual members of SHA or by the affiliate state associations.

Following is a brief description of each award. More specific guidelines and instructions along with a nomination form may be found on the SHA website at www.southernhealth.net; or you may contact the SHA Executive Office at 615-754-0779 or Sandra.whittle@comcast.net or Tammy Burke, Chair of the Awards Committee, at TammyB@mail.hamiltontn.gov.

♦ 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. This award is named in memory of a past president of the Southern Health Association.

♦ The Charles G. Jordan Memorial Award
This award honors the memory of Mr. Jordan and his impact on this Association. To be eligible for this award, the nominee must have been employed in a public health capacity for not more than ten years and must have demonstrated a potential for achievement in the field of public health above and beyond the usual requirements or voluntary activities.

♦ The Ficquett-Holley Award
This award honors the memory of two nurses and past-presidents of this Association. 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
This award is presented to an elected local, state, or federal public servant from the southern region who has a proven record of sponsorship and support of beneficial health policies, regulations, legislation or statutes.
79th GPHA Annual Meeting & Conference

Due to state budget shortfalls, the 79th Annual Meeting and Conference in Savannah was cancelled. There was an informational meeting of the Georgia Public Health Association held on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 on the Macon campus of Mercer University. Board elections were held and GPHA president W. Douglas Skelton, M.D., addressed the membership.

2009 GPHA Legislative Priorities

To support the recommendation of the Governor’s Task Force on Health and Human Services for the removal of the Division of Public Health from the Georgia Department of Human Resources.

To advocate for a new Department of Public Health with a Division of Public Health Services, an Office of Regulatory Services, and a Division of Finance (Medicaid) and Planning charged to improve Georgia’s health status.

To advocate for the state’s chief health officer to have direct access to the governor in addressing major health threats such as hurricanes, terrorist incidents, and pandemic flu.

To advocate for membership of the board of the Department of Public Health to include professionals with public health expertise from one or more of the nine public health degree granting programs in Georgia.

To advocate for adequate funding to allow Georgia’s public health programs to maintain core services in the 159 county health departments.

Note: NOTES FROM THE SENATE BY SENATOR JACK HILL, 4th DISTRICT

December 31, 2008

GPHA and 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.”
The SC Public Health Association is proud to announce the opening of registration for our 2009 Annual Convention to be held May 19-22 at the Springmaid Beach Resort and Conference Center in Myrtle Beach. This year’s theme is Capturing the Spirit of Public Health.

This overall cost of this year’s meeting has been lowered with you in mind! We realize the difficulty for everyone during these challenging financial times; therefore, we have planned a very high quality program of speakers and sessions at the most reasonable expense possible. I encourage you to review the outstanding program content in this registration packet and make plans now to attend this historical meeting. You might be interested to know that:

There is no registration fee to attend the Tuesday Pre-Conference.

The full conference registration fee for all attendees has been lowered by $50.00.

In addition, a number of $50 reimbursement stipends will be available to participants who register to attend the four Public Health Preparedness sessions scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday. Up to a total of 19.5 CEU hours will be available for conference attendees in a number of varied disciplines, from EMS, Medical and Nursing to Social Work, Nutrition and CHES.

As you register by the May 6, 2009 deadline, don’t forget to make your hotel reservation today. You must mention that you are coming to the South Carolina Public Health Association Conference to get the reduce rate of $85.47 a night (includes taxes and hospitality fees), and we encourage attendees to share rooms to cut their hotel cost in half. Also, each room has a full-sized refrigerator, a microwave and coffee maker as convenience amenities. Springmaid has recently renovated their rooms in the Live Oaks Building and it is entirely smoke free and, of course, located directly on the beach.
PUBLIC HEALTH HAPPENINGS IN ARKANSAS

- Arkansas 87th General Assembly began Monday, January 12th. Governor Mike Beebe gave his State of the State address. He emphasized the importance of many public health initiatives – increasing the tobacco tax, implementing a statewide trauma system, expanding the coordinated school health program, the importance of home health programs, the need for annual influenza vaccines and the need for expanded cancer control, to name a few.

- In order to address some of the most serious health concerns the Department of Health has identified four strategic priority areas of focus. One priority area is to strengthen injury prevention and control in Arkansas through evidence-based interventions and implementation of a statewide trauma system. Through implementation of interventions including an integrated trauma system, laws for primary seatbelt use and graduated drivers’ licenses for teenagers, the rate of injuries and deaths and their economic impact can be greatly reduced.

- Arkansas has recently partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through a content syndication pilot. Content syndication allows us to share timely and relevant content from CDC that is automatically updated on our website. You’ll find information on ADH website regarding pertussis, floods, winter weather, flu, salmonella, and E. coli.

- A national program designed to provide flu vaccine to medically-underserved areas selected Arkansas, Baxter County schools as a site for a free flu mist clinic. Dr. Kevin Adkins, Baxter County Health Officer, asked the ADH earlier this season to administer flu vaccine to all students in the county. ADH did not have enough vaccine to provide the services until MedImmune, the maker of Flumist®, donated doses of the vaccine to Arkansas. In the first day of the free clinic, we vaccinated 1,091 children in just four hours – more than 25 percent of the students in the Mountain Home School District. The clinic is the first of its kind in the state and may be the first county-wide effort in the entire country.

- Governor Beebe and the Arkansas Farm Bureau recognized the ADH Office of Oral Health with an award for its sponsorship of the Farm Bureau’s Medical Applications for Science and Health (MASH) program during the Farm Bureau’s 74th Annual Meeting. MASH conducts summer camps in rural areas across Arkansas to encourage high school and middle school students to consider health careers.

- The Department’s HIV/STD/HEP C Section partnered with local agencies and coalitions to recognize the 20th Annual World Aids Day. The highlight of the day was a candlelight vigil at the State Capitol that provided an opportunity for Arkansas’s government officials, HIV/AIDS agencies, faith-based and community organizations and concerned citizens to show support for those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.
The Florida Public Health Association had the privilege of hosting the SHA Governing Council, which met for two days in Orange Park, FL, and we were pleased to have them with us in the Sunshine State, even though we had some liquid sunshine for part of the time.

We also were able to meet with the SHA Program Committee during our AEC Committee planning meeting in Green Cover Springs, FL to work on the 2009 Joint Meeting. Mark your calendars now to attend the joint FPHA/SHA Annual Educational Conference, August 4 - 7, 2009, at the PGA Resort in Palm Beach Gardens.

As the budget crisis on the national level is bad, Florida, along with other states is also facing very serious cuts this year. FPHA's Legislative Committee and lobbyist will be making a strong effort to see that public health funding is a priority. It appears that any issue with a monetary requirement will have a real tough time getting any support during this session. We are waiting to see if Florida will get any stimulus funds and it will be interesting to see how they are used.

FPHA is doing a special fundraiser this year - a cookbook. We would like to have our Southern Health friends also contribute. You can find all the information on the FPHA.org website.

FPHA finished the 2008 year with about 1100 members. The 2009 membership drive is underway and the Membership Committee hopes to increase that number. They presented several new ideas to the board of directors at the last meeting. This could get interesting.

The FPHA Academic Committee and the Florida Public Health Institute will be conducting an Academic Public Health Programs Survey. The survey will be distributed to all schools and programs of public health with a one month turn around. Responses to the survey will provide an overview of academic capacity in the state.

An excerpt form President Frank Meyer’s message on our website:

We are a diverse group with one overriding interest – improving the Public’s Health for Floridians and visitors. A significant number of our members are Department of Health employees. Many others have joined with us; some are actively employed in the private sector; still others are from the non-DOH public sector. Some members are retired. Some members never worked in the public health, but realize that they too have an important part to play in the public’s health. WHY? Public Health is too important to be “owned” by the government. It belongs to ALL of us! It belongs to EACH of us!

We encourage each of you to visit our website frequently www.fpha.org
State and Department of Health News:

Uncertainty is the word of the day, concerning the upcoming budget year. As in all states, Tennessee is taking a wait and see approach with the Federal Stimulus package. A state budget has been prepared for cuts of five to twenty five percent, depending on potential federal assistance. Health informatics and Public Health Accreditation continue to be priority areas for the Department.

Association News:

Advocacy:

The major legislative issue will be maintaining the integrity of the Non Smokers Protection Act and may pursue changes in the act to remove the exemption of adult establishments and the “garage door” language. The Association will also support new legislation backed by the Tennessee Medical Association known as the “Tennessee Protection from Secondhand Smoke for Children Act of 2009” which prohibits smoking in a motor vehicle when a child is present in a child safety seat or booster seat. In addition, bills that require the labeling of food content at the point of ordering will be supported.

Workshops/Conferences:

TPHA held its 2008 Annual Conference, August 27-29 at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, Tennessee with over 740 in attendance. The theme this year was Preparing the Best Game Plan; Tackling Behaviors for Health Improvement. Highlights of the conference were opening plenary speakers, Dr. Stephanie B. Coursey Bailey, MD, MS, Chief of the Office of Public Health Practice at CDC, presenting the topic, “The Tipping Point to a New Brand of Leadership,” and Russell Rothman, MD, MPP, Director of the Program on Effective Health Communication and Deputy Director, Diabetes Research and Training, Vanderbilt University Medical Center who spoke on: Addressing Health Literacy and Numeracy to Improve Patient Care. The Silent Auction at this annual meeting, which raises money for Public Health Scholarships, raised over $6000.00.

TPHA will host its 2009 Annual Conference, September 2 – 4 at the Cool Springs Marriott in Franklin, Tennessee. The theme of that conference will be Achieving True Improvements in People’s Lives. Plenary Sessions and workshops are organized around five major tracts – Local Health Department Accreditation, Healthy People in Every Stage of Life, Healthy People in Healthy Places, People Prepared for emerging health Threats and Healthy People in a Healthy World and promise something for everyone.

New this year, TPHA will offer continuing education credits at all three of the Grand Division mid-year meetings.

Membership:

The Association currently has 1,432 active members, 133 agency members and 6 sponsoring agency members.
The North Carolina Public Health Association’s Governing Council met last month with discussions that included the following items of note:

The Strategic Business Plan committee will convene to develop the next 3 – 5 year business plan.

Two new Board member positions having State representation have been appointed and in attendance, one representing the Division of Environmental Health and the other representing the Division of Public Health. With so much local public health involvement, it is thought that having two designated State positions on the Board would provide us greater communication and continuity having State presence and greater involvement.

NCPHA Policy on Tobacco: The NCPHA Executive Committee is considering recommendations on guidelines for policies to put in place that addresses tobacco companies and others that manufacture products known to be detrimental to the public’s health. There are three things to consider in this regard:

- **Membership section of Bylaws:** It describes membership as a privilege that can be revoked if it is determined that membership is detrimental to the association; Policies about Acceptance of Funds from Private Sector. (APHA is very clear that it does not accept funds from the tobacco industry.);
- **Policies about Disclosure of Conflict of Interest when submitting a paper for presentation or publication** (APHA has a policy).

Plans for celebrating NCPHA’s 100th anniversary are well underway for holding at the Grove Park Inn and Spas with a negotiated rate of $125.00 per night. There will be one black tie event commemorating the centennial year with a silent auction on items of significant value, as well as a historical walking tour in Asheville conducted by the North Carolina Public Health historian, Dan Shingleton. Many other activities are being planned with much excitement and enthusiasm about this big occasion taking place September 30 – October 2, 2009. Additional information about the conference and hotel information can be found at [www.ncpha.com](http://www.ncpha.com).

NCPHA has a new cookbook out for sale for $25.00. It contains recipes of NCPHA members from across North Carolina and is hoped to be a significant fund raiser for the Association.

After eight years serving as NC State Health Director, Dr. Leah Devlin, has announced her retirement. She has agreed to stay on with the NC Division of Public Health serving as State Health Director until her replacement is selected. Dr. Devlin’s 30 years services includes positions as a local public health dentist, Health Director of the Wake County Health Department, NC Branch Head of Health Promotion, Disease Prevention, and NC State Health Director. She has served as President of the NC Association of Local Health Directors, President of the NC Public Health Association, and President of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers. She has won numerous awards. She will be missed by all who have known and worked with her, but many expect that after some down time she will be serving public health in some new capacity.
The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Public Health Association (AlPHA) will be held at the Ashbury Hotel and Suites in Mobile, Alabama, from March 26 through March 27. All SHA members are invited to attend this meeting. The standard room rate for the conference is $70 and the registration fee is $150. Building the Foundation for a Healthy America is the theme of the conference, and the conference is being dedicated to the memory of Dr. Ira L. Myers, past state health officer. David Ring, an internationally known motivational speaker, is to deliver the keynote address. Other topics to be presented include Alabama’s new trauma system, an immunization update, and an environmental perspective on the growth and development of Southwest Alabama. Registration may be done online at www.alphassoc.org

The AlPHA is planning to invite city officials from Mobile to the conference. A partial list was identified and the program chairman is planning to send invitations to these officials. A letter inviting faculty and students to the annual conference was distributed to colleges and universities statewide. News articles promoting the conference will also appear in school and state newspapers.

Terri Sasser with the Mississippi Public Health Association discussed pointers to move forward with hiring an executive assistant. She stated that Mississippi applied and received a grant from the American Public Health Association. This has enabled it to become financially stable and to conduct meetings and business successfully. It was written in the grant to also pay someone for secretarial duties. Other suggestions included writing a clear and precise contract for only one year, and having this person report to only one person.

The AlPHA distributed a press release to the news media discussing Alabama’s health rankings compared to the 2010 health objectives. This is the second news release distributed to the media. The Association plans to develop and disseminate other news releases to increase AlPHA’s visibility.

The membership brochure was revised to reflect changes in the vision and mission statements of the Association. Other changes included updating the website address and providing new members with information discussing activities with which the Association is involved.

Alabama Department of Public Health News

The Alabama Department of Public Health has proposed a $3,125 civil penalty against Birmingham Engineering & Construction Consultants, Inc., headquartered in Birmingham for a violation of the Rules of the State Board of Health. The department identified the violation as a result of a portable gauge containing a radioactive source falling from a company truck and becoming lost along a right of way on August 28, 2008. This violation involved the failure to properly secure portable nuclear gauges when not in use.

The Alabama Department of Public Health has reported three deaths since July occurring in Lee County females between seven and ten years of age which is related to probable viral infections affecting the heart. There is no evidence that the recent cases were caused by a bacterial infection. Therefore, there are no recommendations for treatment with antibiotics or other medications. As a standard precaution parents, teachers, and others should continue to encourage strict handwashing and other hygienic practices.
Southern Health Association Calendar

SHA Governing Council Meetings
August 4, 2009 ......................Palm Beach Gardens, FL

SHA Annual Meeting
August 4-7, 2009..............................Palm Beach Gardens, FL

State Association Meetings

Alabama..............................Mobile..............................March 25-26, 2009
Theme: Building the Foundation for a Healthy America

Arkansas..........................Hot Springs..........................May 6-8, 2009
Theme: Raising the Bar: Taking Public Health to New Heights

Florida..............................Palm Beach..............................August 4-7, 2009
Theme: The Public Health Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together

Georgia............................TBA..............................TBA

Kentucky..............................Louisville..............................TBA

North Carolina......................Ashville..............................September 30-Oct 2, 2009
NCPHA’s 100 Anniversary Celebration

South Carolina......................Myrtle Beach..............................May 19-22, 2009
Theme: Capturing the Spirit of Public Health

Tennessee..............................Franklin..............................September 2-4, 2009
Theme: Achieving True Improvements in People’s Lives

Other Meetings

APHA..............................Philadelphia, PA..............................November 7-11, 2009
Theme: Water and Public Health
Southern Health Association
Membership Application
(Mail to SHA, 1590 North Bass Drive, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122)

Name_____________________________________OfficePhone___________________
Email________________________________________
Organization/Agency____________________________
Position________________________________________
Mailing Address __________________________________________________________
1-Year    2-Year
New Member    ___$20 ___$40
Individual    ___$25 ___$45
Dues Paid
Fellow        ___$40
Retiree       ___$10
Student       ___$10

Is mailing address: (Office___ Home___)
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)______________________________