President’s Message
Georgia Heise

Outside my home state, people know me as Georgia from Kentucky, and I’m very proud of being a southern girl. I’m also very concerned with the poor health our citizens suffer from. Our southern states have the worst health status of all the states. Obviously, we are not living in a culture of health. Given Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s (RWJF) Culture of Health national metrics and all the research that’s been done, we know that in order to improve our health status we must have a comprehensive public health system. As President of the Southern Health Association, a position I’m very honored and humbled to hold this year, I will share the message with funders that financing our public health system adequately is the pathway to a healthier society.

Our current method of financing public health does not fund the necessary infrastructure to accomplish the work that needs to be done. Public health has historically been funded like medical care, utilizing a fee-for-service model, encouraging the provision of individual clinical services to the exclusion of other important services. This model has had little positive impact on our health status and has currently diminished with nothing to take its place. We all have a vested interest in improving our health status – our children! This generation will be the first in history to have a shorter life expectancy than their parents.

Please accept this invitation to join the Southern Health Association as we strive to improve prevention/public health funding and subsequently our health status.

Thank you,

Georgia from Kentucky

Mark these Dates
Mid-Year Governing Council Meeting (Tentative Info):
December 10-12, 2017; Orlando Florida
SHA meet with the Kentucky Public Health in April for the annual meeting. The joint KPHA-SHA meeting was held in Owensboro, Kentucky on the dates of April 11 –13th. Owensboro overlooks the Ohio River and is the industrial and medical hub for western Kentucky. The conference theme was: ‘Meeting the Challenge to Improve Kentucky’s Health Status’. KPHA members were gracious hosts as the conference provided wonderful opportunities to learn, share ideas, and network. Main speakers included Dr. Karen DeSalvo (Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services), Dr. Angela Carmen (Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Network) and Greg Lee. SHA hosted a ‘Meet and Greet’ with the KPHA Governing Council and KPHA members on the evening prior to the conference. Many thanks to Shellie Donahoe for organizing the Silent Auction and to all the members who volunteered their time to work. A total of $2,741 was raised! Our own Suzanne Terrell won the Yeti cooler.

*Congratulations Suzanne!!!*

**SHA Officers**

President: Georgia Heise  
President Elect: Cathy Cowart  
First VP: Andy Thomas  
Immediate past President: Patti Holmes  
Secretary: Libby Seftar  
Treasurer: Sheila Puckett  
Member at Large: Suzanne Terrell  
Member at Large: Ronny VanVlake  
Member at Large: Beverly Turner
Presented at the annual conference in Owensboro, KY with KPHA

Congratulations to our award recipients!

* Ted Hanekamp Special Meritorious Service to SHA Award: Richard Funderburk
* Howell Special Meritorious Service to Public Health Award: North Carolina Citizens For Public Health
* President's Award: Mark Hensley

SHA Position Papers

Position papers bring a focus to specific health issues and provide a document that outlines the association’s concern as well as recommendations regarding the issue. The Public Policy and Resolutions Committee reviews legislation relating to public health and provides information as well as recommendations to the Governing Council regarding official position and action which the Association should take regarding proposed legislation.

There are currently no new or pending position papers for the association. Please contact Warren McDougle if you have new ideas or suggestions regarding needed or pending legislation in your state regarding public health issues.

SHA Calendar at a Glance

Conferences:

- Alabama: Birmingham, AL 2018 TBD
- Arkansas: Little Rock, AR 2018 TBD
- Florida: Orlando, FL July 26-28, 2017
- Kentucky: TBD 2018 TBD
- North Carolina: Asheville, NC Sept. 27 - 29, 2017
- South Carolina: TBD TBD, 2018

Upcoming President’s Quarterly Conference Calls for Council:

September 18, 2017 2pm EST
March, 2018 and June, 2018 ~ Dates and times TBD

For more information regarding meetings, go to www.southernhealth.net
REPORTS

Executive Director's Report
Jan Cooke

No report at present time. Jan’s Contact information is: email: cookejan54@gmail.com or Phone: 803.788.0128

Membership

Please welcome our new SHA members!

West Virginia: Reneé Swisher and Lynn Peters
Kentucky: Drew Beckett
Chattanooga–Hamilton County: Laura Hawes-Hammons

A HUGE thank you to ALL who recruited and helped bring in new SHA members!!!!!

Congratulations to the following members for attaining some great membership milestones!

Raymond Heaggans — 5 years
JoAnn Palmer — 20 years
Sherman Kahn — 25 years
Becky Barnes—30 years (Life Membership)
WANT a new hobby? .... Enjoy being creative? .... 

Want to do something that helps the SHA membership...?

How about becoming the SHA UPDATE Editor?

SHA is looking for someone who is reliable, enjoys the business side of SHA; is good at communications and who is willing to volunteer time on a routine quarterly basis.

If you think this might be you—AND you would be interested in becoming the creating force behind the SHA newsletter, please contact Diana Kreider (dianak@hamiltontn.gov or 423.209.8177).

Humor Break
Note: It is with much sadness that we announce that GPHA and West Virginia are no longer affiliate members of SHA. We appreciate their contributions and past support for SHA as well as their leadership in Public Health. We wish them well and hope that these fellow Public Health advocates will be able to return to membership in the near future!

The 61st annual ALPHA conference was held in Birmingham, AL at the Hill Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham on April 5-7, 2017. The theme was ‘Lifetime of Public Health’.

ARKANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

- APHA held it’s annual conference on May 10-12 in Little Rock. The theme was ‘Building A Healthy Arkansas: Strategies in the Natural State’. Members had an opportunity to attend a ‘Baseball and BBQ” event with the Arkansas Travelers playing Springfield Cardinals.
- APHA currently has 293 paid members as compared to last year numbers of 462.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (ADH)

The State of Arkansas passed Amendment 6 (Arkansas Medical Marijuana) creating new responsibilities for ADH. The responsibilities include rulemaking, insurance of Registry Identification Cards, tracking of dispensed marijuana and other operations. In addition, ADH will be responsible for regulation labeling and testing standards; establishing fees; consideration of public petitions for the addition of medical conditions as qualifying conditions; and the submission of reports to the legislatures. Under the amendment, qualifying individuals and designated caregivers can apply to receive Registry Identification Cards from ADH. ADH will maintain a data base for dispensaries to validate the amount of marijuana dispensed to card holders.

Mumps Outbreaks: The mumps outbreak across the state which began in August 2016 has slowed significantly. At the end of March 2017 there were 27 active cases of mumps impacting 9 workplaces and 12 schools located in 7 school districts. ADH has targeted its outbreak response to minimizing transmission in schools. ADH has required students who have an MMR vaccine exemption to be excluded from school for 26 days from the date of exposure or for the duration of the outbreak, whichever is longer.

ADH has determined that 2 cases of tick-borne disease met the surveillance definition for Lyme disease. No cases in Arkansas have met the CDC surveillance definition since 2007.
ARKANSAS STATE NEWS

Arkansas Coalition for Obesity Prevention (ArCOP) hosted a ‘Mayors Mentoring Mayors (3M) Conference’. ArCOP is a multi-state coalition of partners and members working together to increase the health of Arkansas’s people and economy through access to healthy foods and physical activities. The conference was held in North Little Rock on May 11th. Seventy-seven (77) mayors, elected officials and partners attended from Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. States shared success stories and community “grass roots” efforts that have been effective in their areas. There were 13 “out of state” Growing Healthy Community projects developed, expanded or in the planning phase. Currently Arkansas has 105 GHC projects in 2017 with an additional 30 projects being developed since the 3M meeting. Sharing best practices among our Southern Partners was an excellent way to learn and expand public health initiatives jointly across the southern region.

69th Annual Arkansas Public Health Association Conference
The 69th Annual Arkansas Public Health Association Conference was held on May 10-12 in Little Rock. It was a great success with more than 300 public health advocates in attendance. The conference highlighted the complexity of public health, the need to break down silos, and to foster information sharing across disciplines and organizations. Opening speaker was Governor Asa Hutchinson followed by Dr. Georgia Heise, Southern Health Association President. Director’s Awards recipients for outstanding service were: Dirck Haselow, State Epidemiologist, recognized for Science; Reginald Rogers, JD, General Counsel, recognized for Management; and NW Region Director Don Murray recognized for Local Public Health. Nutritionist Consultant Mary Jane Cagle was recognized with the Outstanding Achievement Award; Dr. Gene Shelby with the Dr. David E. Bourne Public Health Award; and Don Murray received the Tom T. Ross Award. The APHA Health Administration Section presented their Emerging Leader Award to Arkansas WIC Program Director Mitzi Fritschen. The Arkansas Society of Professional Sanitarians honored Environmental Health Specialist Matthew Hicks as Sanitarian of the Year, and Environmental Health Specialist Freddie Young received the Award of Excellence. Nevada County Health Unit Administrator Deborah Henderson and Public Health Nurse Peggy Bruington were recognized by the Public Health Nursing Association of Arkansas with the Donetta McGriff PHNAA Scholarship and the Outstanding Public Health Nursing Award, respectively. The APHA Conference Poster Winner was WIC Regional Training Coordinator Angie Whatley. Several staff members were acknowledged for their years of service to the health department including Administrative Specialist Mary Jo Stetzer for 50 years of service. Public Health Technician Donna Bull, Maternity Nurse Coordinator Rhonda Kitelinger, Public Health Section Chief Gayla Lanum, Immunization Vaccine Manager William “Bill” Ledford, IT Support Specialist Hope Sanders, and Deborah Steele were all acknowledged for their 25 years of service. In 2018 APHA will host its 70th Annual Meeting—follow us at http://www.arkpublichealth.org. Individuals interested in presenting at the upcoming conference should contact Quinyatta Mumford, APHA President at Quinyatta.Mumford@Arkansas.gov.
**Chattanooga– Hamilton County Health Department (CHCHD) News:**

- Electronic Health Record (EHR) - The CHCHD is planning to expand their EHR to our remaining clinics by January, 2018. CHCHD currently has an EHR at their homeless clinic. The name of new HRR project is the ‘Phoenix Project’. In Greek mythology, a phoenix is a long-lived bird that is cyclically regenerated or reborn. Tammy Burke stated, "The Health Department is long-lived and the roll out of an electronic medical record is our way to regenerate or be reborn as an entity." There is much excitement with the staff as we begin the transformation from paper to electronic.

- Clear the Air Conference - The 2nd Annual Clear the Air Conference is occurring on May 10, 2107 in Chattanooga. This is also a Community Engagement Forum and is free and open to the public. The purpose of the conference is to promote tobacco free policy and prevention resources, and provide education to empower action to change local and state tobacco policies.

- TNSTRONG – CHCHD staff is involved in the TNSTRONG Grassroots Movement Planning workgroup. TNSTRONG stands for TN Stop Tobacco and Revolutionize Our Next Generation. Potential activities include TN specific tobacco legislative strategies and work to gain community support and participation. The workgroup will examine current TN tobacco related policies that are in place as well as proposed future policies. Examples are as follows: no smoking in cars with children/youth, tobacco tax increase, equalization of cigarettes and ENDS, voluntary public spaces policies (parks, outdoor restaurants) and voluntary multi-unit housing policies.

- CHCHD staff worked with Head Start on a Tobacco Exposure Reduction Initiative that involved educating all 200 staff, about 80 participating parents, and about 90 foster grandparents at main sites and some satellite sites that resulted in a tobacco free campus policy change for the main sites. The goal of the program was to educate parents and staff about the dangers of tobacco/marijuana smoke exposure to infants, children and pregnant women.

- The CHCHD Birchwood Health Center in north Hamilton County held a 4-part ‘Healthy Living Birchwood’ workshop in April 2017. This workshop was held to help participants learn about and manage common symptoms such as poor sleep, fatigue and stress and promote physical activity for everybody, healthy eating and much more. The program was free to adults, 18+ and over.

**TENNESSEE LEGISLATION**

- Opioid Prescribing - as introduced, this bill requires the department of health to identify the prescribers who are in the top 20 percent prescribers in this state and requires the identified prescriber to comply with certain requirements after being notified that such provider is a high volume opioid prescriber.

- The ‘Lovin Law’-has been introduced: this bill enacts The Lovin Law, which requires facilities having a capacity for occupancy of at least 500 people to have at least one functional AED for emergency use at all functions open to the public. Local education agencies are to have at least one AED in each school.

- Vitamin D Deficiency - Request the board of medical examiners and board of osteopathic examination to study Vitamin D deficiency in pregnant women and report to the health and welfare committee of the senate and health committee of the house of representatives by January 15, 2018.
• As introduced, this bill limits the amount of fluoride that public water supply system operators may add to public drinking water; requires that fluoride testing results be open for public inspection; requires notice of fluoridation.

• As introduced, the bill requires public water systems for which a monthly fluoride test is confirmed by quarterly laboratory analysis to exceed 1.5 mg/L to have each monthly test analyzed by a laboratory until fluoride levels are below 1.5 mg/L for three consecutive months.

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**Florida Public Health Association**

FPHA will hold their 2017 annual meeting on July 26-28, 2017 at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center in Orlando. Program details and registration information are now on the FPHA website. The theme for this year’s event is ‘The Power of Collaboration’.

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**Kentucky News**

Submitted by: Mark Hensley, KY Affiliate Representative

The 2016 Kentucky Public Health Association Annual Meeting was held in Owensboro, KY April 11-13, 2017 and hosted SHA at the event. The conference theme was ‘Meeting the Challenge to Improve Kentucky’s Health Status’.

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**North Carolina News**

(Submitted by Brittany Dobbins Affiliate Representative)

NCPHA is holding an educational conference this fall in Asheville, NC. The conference dates are September 27-29th and will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Golf Resort in Asheville. The theme for the event is ‘Public Health Today = A Healthy Tomorrow’. Keynote Speaker will be Magda Peck, ScD, ScM PA; Founder and Principal, MP3 Health Group.
South Carolina State Report
Submitted by Richard Funderburk, Affiliate Representative

South Carolina

Association News: SCPHA has made progress in increasing the net worth of the Association. The 2017 Annual Meeting will be held Charleston, S.C. on May 24-26, 2017. Theme: “Public Health: Leading Change; Changing Leaders”. SCPHA held its Annual Golf Tournament Friday, September 9, 2016. Current membership as of March 1, 2017 was 222. Of the 222 members, 163 are paying member dues; 59 - Lifetime (nonpaying), 76 - Regular, 69 - Student, 17 Retiree and 1 organizational member.

State of South Carolina News: One controversial decision made by the State Board of Health relates to the use of controversial seawalls, “Siding with coastal property owners, South Carolina’s environmental protection board refused Thursday to ban experimental seawalls that its own staff said are contributing to beach erosion and threatening rare sea turtles”.

South Carolina State Legislature recently passed or are still debating the following:

- **State Retirement System**: System is currently under-funded, Bill H3726 will increase contributions made by current employees and employers in order to fully fund the Retirement System by 2026.

- **Gas-tax Hike**: S.C. senators are drawing battle lines over increasing the state’s gas tax, the second-lowest in the nation. By a 14-8 vote Tuesday, the Senate’s budget panel approved increasing the state’s gas tax by 12 cents a gallon and hiking other fees, moves that would raise nearly $800 million a year to repair the state’s crumbling roads.

- **Pay Raise for SC State Employees**: Chances of a pay increase for state workers have been bleak since legislators returned to Columbia in January. Lawmakers have an added $522 million to spend in this year’s $8 billion budget, which takes effect July 1. But a chunk of those added dollars — roughly $150 million — is being spent to shore up the ailing pension system for state workers. Lawmakers knew they likely could not both give state workers a raise and put millions into fixing the pension system this year, said state Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland. The absence of a pay raise comes as state agencies struggle to recruit and retain employees, who are underpaid compared to their counterparts in local government and the private sector.
Missed News:

For those of you that might have missed this important story from 2016 — here it is in print!

Patti Holmes shared this information in late 2016 after attending her first SHA meeting as president. The meeting was with FPHA. Patti reported that she thoroughly enjoyed the speakers as well meeting some of the FPHA members and as seeing some of my SHA friends; Warren McDougle, Bonny McDougle, Sandy Magyar, and our new member Samantha Spoto. Patti had the opportunity to present a very special SHA award to a very deserving person. The Ted Hanekamp Special Meritorious Award is presented to an individual, a group of individuals or organization to honor outstanding and continuous service to, involvement with and support of the Association. The 2016 year’s recipient was presented to Sandy Magyar. Sandy has been involved with public health for 30 years. She has been FPHA and SHA past president as well as the FPHA Executive Director for the past 14 years. Sandy has decided to retire this year and it is well deserved. We wish her well in her next endeavors in life!!!
Southern Health Association
Membership Application

Name_____________________________________   Office Phone_________________
Email____________________________________________________
Organization/Agency________________________________________
Position__________________________________________________

Dues Paid

Mailing Address ____________________________________________    1-Year  2-Year
New Member __$20  __$40
Individual __$25  __$45
Fellow  __$40
Retiree  __$10  __$20
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 willing 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
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Email: sha@southernhealth.net or cookejan54@gmail.com

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

For additional information on the Southern Health Association, check out our website at: www.southernhealth.net