

Communiqué



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Calendar of Events

December 11, 2012
"Impact of the Affordable
Care Act on Public Health"
Stoney Creek Inn
Columbia, MO

January 16, 2013
Board Meeting
Jefferson City, MO

April 1-7, 2013
National Public Health
Week

April 10, 2013
Board Meeting
Jefferson City, MO

July 10, 2013
Board Meeting
Jefferson City, MO

Sept. 25-27, 2013
Board Meeting and
Annual Meeting
Stoney Creek Inn
Columbia, MO

November 2013
APHA Annual Meeting



722 E. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65101
573-634-7977
www.mopha.org



Dear Colleagues,

As the newly elected President of Missouri Public Health Association (MPHA), this is my first official communiqué. Before I say anything further, I want convey on behalf of the Board and myself a sincere and heartfelt thank you to Pat Morgester for the outstanding job he did as President of MPHA these last two years! MPHA is indebted to Pat for his fine work.

With the elections now behind us, and those uncertainties decided, we can now begin to chart our course to continue to seek opportunities to support, enhance, and improve the public health infrastructure of Missouri. For MPHA, one of the ways that we aspire to contribute to this process is by looking at how we can add more value to being a member of MPHA and to explore new ideas on how MPHA can best serve the Public Health Professionals of Missouri. MPHA does an excellent job of working with its partners in co-sponsoring an annual conference each year. This year's conference was another resounding success with outstanding and timely sessions as well as excellent student and public health professional poster presentations. Congratulations to the conference planning committee and to our Executive Director, Sandy Boeckman and her staff, for another flawless conference.

MPHA is also very good at advocating on behalf of Public Health to our legislature. Relevant bills are discussed in our Newsletters and at this year's meeting a good portion of the MPHA General Membership Meeting was spent discussing bills for which our membership needed to be aware. Another item that was discussed at the General Membership Meeting was that MPHA conducted a membership survey to obtain feedback on your perceived needs, interests and concerns. We did not have time to discuss the results; however we want to assure you that the Board will be using this valuable information to improve what MPHA offers its membership. A high priority for this year will be to categorize the results of the survey. Each categorized area will then be assigned to a subcommittee to analyze and address.

At our most recent Board meeting, as part of a discussion of what could be done to enhance what we offer our membership, it was brought to light that in the past MPHA had mid-year conferences. The newbies were not aware of this, but all thought it would be a great idea to revive this practice. One of the sessions that received a great deal of attention at the annual conference dealt with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). There were many questions during this session and a number that went unanswered. As a result, the Board decided that a perfect topic for a midyear conference would be to further discuss the ACA and specifically how it impacts Public Health. A panel of ACA experts will be selected to be our presenters for the conference. To help insure that they address how the ACA will impact Public Health, a survey was sent to the MPHA membership soliciting what questions you would like answered concerning the ACA. The survey feedback will be given to the panel of experts so they can prepare ahead of time. Besides our expert panelists, Missouri Foundation for Health will be sponsoring our keynote speaker, Bob Crittenden, Executive Director of the Herndon Alliance. We believe that this will be an excellent and valuable conference. It will be on Tuesday December 11th, starting at 10:00 AM at the Stoney Creek Inn in Columbia. The cost of the conference is nominal at \$50.00. However, for those who are MPHA members the cost is only \$35.00 and students will only pay \$20.00. Please contact the MPHA office at 573-634-7977 to register. I am truly excited about this coming year and the possibilities. I am looking forward to what we can accomplish together.

Warmest regards,

-Dalen

November 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dalen Duitsman, Ozark Public Health Institute and
Missouri State University

APHA Legislative Update

November 2012



Election results and impact on APHA priorities

On Tuesday, Barack Obama was re-elected president of the United States, winning at least 303 electoral votes, more than the 270 required to be elected. His Republican challenger, former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, won 206 electoral votes. While the Florida's 29 electoral votes remain undecided at the time of this update, the ultimate outcome in Florida will not change the result of the election. In the U.S. Senate, Democrats picked up two seats, putting them in control of 53 seats in the chamber, while Senate Republicans will control 45 seats. In addition, two independents were elected to the Senate. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., caucuses with, or generally votes with the Democrats and newly elected Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, is also expected to caucus with the Democrats. In the House of Representatives, Democrats picked up a few seats and a number of races remain undecided, but Republicans will retain control of the chamber.

The election results will have a major impact on several of APHA's top priorities. The first example is the Affordable Care Act, which is strongly supported by APHA. President Obama and the Democratic majority in the Senate also favor maintaining the law. It is

unclear whether the House Republican leadership will continue to bring bills to repeal the ACA to the House floor now that President Obama has been re-elected and Senate Democrats have expanded their majority. In addition, ongoing legal challenges to the ACA and opposition to the law's Medicaid expansion provisions by governors in several states will continue to present a challenge to supporters of the law.

The results will also likely boost the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to regulate pollution from coal- and oil-fired power plants, cross state air pollution and greenhouse gases under key public health rules required under the Clean Air Act. Opponents of the EPA rules tried to link the loss of jobs and the sluggish economy with regulation of power plants and coal-related pollution during the 2012 campaign.

Efforts to address the so-called fiscal cliff will also be affected by the results. The fiscal cliff refers to \$7 trillion in expiring tax cuts and required spending cuts over the next decade. Due to the failure of Congress to come up with a deficit reduction plan 2011, automatic spending cuts (also known as the sequester) of roughly 8.2 percent to both defense and nondefense discretionary programs is set to kick in beginning in January (more detail in the story below). Such cuts would have a devastating impact on many public health programs including various provisions in the law, such as the Prevention and Public Health Fund. Members of both parties have stated they would like to find a way to prevent the sequester from taking effect. A major sticking point in

negotiations to avert the sequester has been the issue of replacing it with a package that would include new revenue by letting some of the tax cuts for the highest income earners expire. At this point it is unclear whether Congress will take some temporary action to avoid the sequester before the new Congress is sworn in in January. APHA and its members have worked to urge members of Congress to find a balanced approach to deficit reduction that prioritizes public health and avoids sequestration.



Deficit reduction to top lame duck agenda

With the election over, attention will now turn to the lame duck session of Congress, set to start on Nov. 13, when a number of pressing fiscal issues will likely be addressed. One of the key issues that APHA and other public health organizations will focus on is the issue of the looming budget sequestration set to kick in Jan. 2. On Sept. 14, the White House Office of Management and Budget released a report outlining how the across-the-board cuts under sequestration would be implemented. APHA released a statement noting the negative impact the cuts would have on public health programs. The report estimates that across-the-board cuts of roughly 8.2 percent would be required for all nondefense discretionary programs, which

(Continued on page 3)

APHA Legislative Update (continued)

includes most public health programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Services Administration and other public health agencies. APHA is working with its health partners and other members of the nondefense discretionary community (education, law enforcement, environmental protection, etc.) to urge members of Congress to find a bipartisan and balanced approach to deficit reduction and to avoid the deep cuts to nondefense discretionary programs under sequestration.

APHA has developed a page with resources for advocates to use in their efforts to advocate against sequestration. Several APHA members and affiliates had op-eds and letters to the editor in support of public health funding and opposing the sequester published in local papers during APHA's annual PHACT Campaign. APHA members are strongly encouraged to continue their efforts to urge their members of Congress to find a balanced approach to deficit reduction that

prioritizes public health and avoids sequestration.



APHA urges Senate to support disability treaty

On Oct. 19, APHA sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., urging the Senate to support the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. U.S. ratification of the CRPD is consistent with our nation's commitment to fully implement and enforce U.S. disability laws and ensure that children and adults with disabilities receive the health care, education, transportation and employment opportunities vital to participate fully in all aspects of life.

The World Report on Disability estimates that there are a billion people worldwide with disabilities. It projects that this number will continue to grow due to the increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS and non-communicable chronic diseases, the aging of the world's population, more effective lifesaving measures of infants and mothers and increasing numbers of countries in conflict.

Currently, 154 nations and regional integration organizations have signed the treaty, including the U.S., and 124 have ratified the convention. In March 2009, APHA sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in support of the U.S. signing and ratifying the convention. Later in 2009, President Obama signed this important human rights treaty and more recently, the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee held a hearing in which strong bipartisan support was expressed for its ratification. The Senate must approve the package by a two-thirds vote before the president can ratify it.

NEW MPHA MEMBERS

- Kathryn Krueger, August 2012
- Janet Wilson, August 2012
- Anne Campbell, August 2012
- Ken Palermo, September 2012
- Ricki Orford, September 2012
- Dion Wisniewski, September 2012
- Emily Denight, September 2012
- Erin Svelmann, October 2012
- Marissa Thomas, October 2012
- Patricia Tighe, October 2012
- Brenda Maley, November 2012

Policy Watch: State and International Updates

November 2012



Dallas County approves health benefits for unmarried partners

On Oct. 30, Dallas County, Texas, approved a domestic partner benefit program that will provide unmarried employees with a stipend to provide health benefits to their partners — either gay or straight — to begin in 2013. The stipend is capped at the amount a married employee’s spouse would receive and is only available to partners without coverage through their own employer. Proof of living together for at least six months is required to obtain benefits and the couple must confirm that the relationship as a domestic partnership. This 3-2 vote comes with a clear divide between Democratic and Republican commissioners’ opinions. Democratic commissioners state the policy falls within the county’s antidiscrimination policy and will help attract and retain talent and embrace diversity, while Republican commissioners argue the policy creates a “special pool of people” receiving benefits.

Iowa Initiative to reduce unintended pregnancies

This year the Iowa Initiative to reduce unintended pregnancies wraps up its program, which provides free and reduced price long-acting reversible contraceptives or LARCs. As part of a five-year demonstration, initiative funds were provided to Title X family planning clinics in Black Hawk, Bremer and Buchanan counties to purchase LARCs, which include intrauterine devices or IUDs and other implant devices. Training was provided to clinical physicians and staff on application of the devices. Preliminary findings from the Bixby Center for Global and Reproductive Health and Philliber Research Associates have shown an 8 percent drop in the rate of unintended pregnancies and a 24 percent drop in pregnancies terminated by abortion from 2006–2011. Prior to the introduction of the Iowa Initiative, state rates of unintended pregnancy for women ages 18 to 30 closely matched trends across the United States, making the initiative a potential model for reducing unintended pregnancy in other counties and states.



APHA signs universal health coverage letter to the World Bank

On Oct. 11, APHA joined 109 other civil society organizations from across the world in sending a letter to the World Bank urging the bank to support universal health coverage on a global scale. The letter calls on the bank to remove out-of-pocket fees, which can block access to health care for the poor, especially women. The letter also urges the bank to take additional steps to help countries achieve universal health coverage by providing support to expand public financing, offering balanced policy advice, ensuring the inclusion of civil society organizations in national health policy development and collaborating with global health institutions.

Northwest Chapter of MPHA Meets

The North West Chapter of Missouri Public Health Association (MPHA) will meet on November 19, 2012, 10 AM – 1 PM at Ennovation Center (former Independence Regional Health Center), 201 North Forest Avenue #130, Independence, MO 64050.

Mary Kasal, President & CEO of Missouri Health Connection (MHC) speak on “Electronic Health Records”. MHC, the state-designated organization to create Missouri’s statewide health information network that will link together doctors, hospitals, labs and other health care providers. MHC’s Network will allow providers who are caring for patients to electronically pull records from other providers who have cared for that patient in the past so that they have a more complete health history at the point of care. Mary will give an overview of MHC’s organization and services, followed by a group discussion of how MHC may play a role in connecting public health organizations. For more information on MHC, please visit www.MissouriHealthConnection.org.

NW Chapter business meeting will begin at noon. Lunch is off the menu at Westside Café in Cafeteria Room or bring a lunch. Make reservations to Lindsay Evans at levans@indepmmo.org or 325-7185 by Thursday, Nov. 15.



Missouri Public Health Association

722 E. Capitol Ave. P.O. Box 126
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Phone: (573) 634-7977 Fax: (573) 635-7823
E-Mail: info@mopha.org

October 22, 2012

The Honorable Senator Claire McCaskill
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, Ste. 506
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

On behalf of the Missouri Public Health Association, I write to urge you to work with your colleagues to develop a bipartisan and balanced approach to deficit reduction that does not rely on additional cuts to public health funding. A recent report from the White House estimates that most discretionary health programs at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health Resources and Services Administration and other public health agencies would be cut by 8.2 percent under the pending sequestration that is set to begin on January 2, 2013. In addition, the report estimates that the mandatory Prevention and Public Health Fund would be cut by 7.6 percent, or \$76 million. These cuts would leave families in Missouri less healthy and at higher risk in the event of a public health emergency.

Adequate funding for CDC, HRSA and the prevention fund is needed to support a strong public health system in Missouri to promote the health and respond to everyday health threats, unexpected public health emergencies and to ensure that all individuals have access to the health care and preventive services they need. Since 2008, cuts to public health funding at all levels have already resulted in the loss of more than 52,000 high-skilled state and local public health jobs. In Missouri, 58% percent of local health departments have reported jobs lost and many more positions have been furloughed. Without adequate funding to address the many public health challenges we face, the net effect will be more death and disability and higher long-term economic and social costs.

A recent report by Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, shows the impact sequestration would have on a number of public health programs in Missouri including:

- 8,221 fewer people tested for HIV
- 3,092 fewer children receiving vaccinations
- 654 fewer cancer screenings for women
- 68,291 fewer women, children and families served through Maternal and Child Health programs

Reduced public health funding under sequestration would also limit our ability to respond to disease outbreaks like pertussis and natural disasters such as flooding and tornadoes as occurred in Joplin so recently.

Missouri needs an unwavering investment in public health funding that supports life-saving programs and services that have long been underfunded. Building a sustainable public health infrastructure means improving community-based health programs and strengthening the capacity of public health departments.

I urge you to pass a balanced deficit reduction plan that prioritizes public health funding. I look forward to hearing your position on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Bert Malone, M.P.A, Chair
Legislative Advocacy Committee
Missouri Public Health Association

"The following letter was sent to senators Blunt and McCaskill on October 12, 2012. A great debt of gratitude goes out to the Legislative Advocacy Committee for their diligent action regarding sequestration and other important political issues."

2012 Joint Annual Conference “A Healthier Missouri Begins Today - Join the Movement”

September 26-28, 2012
Columbia, MO



Above: Mark Woods, Robert Crampton and Ann Books-Crampton. Volunteers for Outdoor Missouri. Exhibit and breakout session “More Recreational Trails for Public Health”



Above: Lisa Kean, Phelps/Maries County Health Department receives the Council for Public Health Nursing (CPHN) 2012 Public Health Nursing Award from JoAnn Martin, Chair of the CPHN.



Left: Jane Wernsman and Debbie Pleimling accept the CPHN 2012 Public Health Nursing Leadership award for Charlotte Craig, Administrator, Cape Girardeau Health Department.

Joint Annual Conference September 2013 Stoney Creek Inn - Columbia, MO



2012 Joint Annual Conference “A Healthier Missouri Begins Today - Join the Movement”

September 26-28, 2012
 Columbia, MO



MPHA Communiqué: Student Submission Student Quotes

Meeting Overview

"A fantastic networking opportunity for students to interact with professionals in the public health field. It was extremely helpful to get tips on how I can grow and develop my skills now while I am still in the MPH program."

Hayley D. Yaglom, MS, MPH Candidate 2013

Poster Session

"MPHA conference poster session provides students with the valuable opportunity to present their research to professional colleagues around the state. Having the opportunity to share my research with others in a professional setting was a rewarding experience."

Jenna Jordan, MPH

Student Social Review

The night of the official kickoff to the MPHA Annual Meeting, students from across the state gathered together for a Student Association social. The event, sponsored by the Master of Public Health Graduate Student Association at the University of Missouri, provided Missouri Public Health students with an opportunity to network with each other and MPHA Board Members. Students were able to discuss areas of interest, research, and internship experiences. Students and board members expressed interest in continuing the social event for future meetings. Potential opportunities for expanding the social into a MPHA Student Association are promising.

Kristi Eftink, MPH Candidate 2013

Missouri Public Health Association
87th Annual Conference
Stoney Creek Inn, Columbia, MO
September 27, 2012

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MPHA President Pat Morgester called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the 2011 Annual Membership meeting were reviewed. There were several amendments to the 2011 minutes (add awards, change threescore to therefore and Luethen to Leuthen). A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. On a vote, the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report was presented with finances through September 20, 2012 showing a checking account balance of \$23,993.45. A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial report. This motion was approved.

ARGC Report: Pat Parker reported that her entire report was printed in the last issue of the Communiqué. She reported that APHA membership dues were under the budget as well as the Annual Meeting that was coming up in October. She reported that there was a person from Region 7 (Nebraska) up for election to the APHA Board of Directors and the Region 7 would be meeting in the Kansas City area in 2013.

MPHA Foundation: Kathleen Welton sent a written report for the conference and reported that there were no applications for scholarships.

Advocacy and Public Policy: Bert Malone presented the following resolutions for membership approval:

- 1. Medicaid Expansion:** There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as presented.
- 2. Improving Access to Health Services:** There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as presented.
- 3. Social Determinants of Health:** There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as presented.
- 4. Fair Tax Proposals:** There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as presented.
- 5. Farm Bill:** There was a suggestion to change the wording to "any farm bill that contains reductions in the SNAP". There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as amended.
- 6. Prevention and Public Health Fund:** There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as presented.
- 7. Aid to Local Public Health Funding:** There was discussion about restoring the funding level to the same amount as FY12 or \$5.5 million. There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as amended.
- 8. Federal Deficit Reduction:** There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as presented.
- 9. Statewide Comprehensive Tobacco Control:** There was discussion concerning changing the wording to include "any efforts by the General Assembly to pre-empt current or future local ordinances related to tobacco". There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as amended.
- 10. Statewide Excise Tax to Support Cessation Services and Tobacco Control:** There was a motion and a second to approve this resolution as presented.

All of the resolutions will appear on the MPHA website at www.mopha.org.

Annual Meeting and Awards: It was announced that awards would be given during the luncheon. The Group Merit Award was awarded to Micaela Lynch, Excelsior Springs High School for "Texting & Driving" docudrama; Media Awards were as follows: Newspaper—Jae Juarez, Excelsior Springs High School, "Texting & Driving"

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (continued)

coverage; Radio—Faune Rigglin-KZIM 960 Radio-Monthly Health Update; Newspaper—St. Louis Post Dispatch and the W. Scott Johnson was presented to Charlotte Craig, RN, Cape Girardeau County Public Health Center.

Education: Dalen Duitsman reported that MPHA would be working on planning more programs for the membership in 2013 and he reported that MAHEC was now support public health education.

Membership Services: A written report was presented.

Newsletter: Pat Morgester reported that an October issue of the newsletter would be coming to MPHA members.

Nominating: Bert Malone distributed the slate of officers and board members. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers and directors for 2012-2013. On a vote, the motion was approved.

Tobacco Free Missouri: Linda Cooperstock encouraged everyone to vote in November and reported on the website (www.showmeabrighterfuture.com)

CHAPTERS

Northeast: Kathleen Welton was commended for reinvigorating the Northwest Chapter. The chapter’s next meeting is November 19.

Eastern: It was reported that the Eastern chapter would begin working with SLU to do education programs.

NEW BUSINESS

None: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



Dean El-Mohandes Selected to the APHA Executive Board

Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes, the Dean of the College of Public Health has been elected to the APHA Executive Board for a four-year term. This is the first time for many years that someone from the APHA Region VII (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas) has been elected to this position.

Dean El-Mohandes is an enthusiastic leader on the PHAN Board; he participates in board discussions and reminds us about the big-picture view of public health that sometimes gets lost in our daily work. As the PHAN Board works through governance and policy issues, Dr. El-Mohandes contributes his expertise. He is very dedicated to growing the public health system in Nebraska; asking for input from public health practitioners, getting feedback from the PHAN Board and other public health organizations. This is reflected in the selection of courses at the CoPH and in the strong support he gives PHAN. He has shown extensive leadership in the field of public health; as a practitioner and through research and education. Dr El-Mohandes served on the APHA Committee for Women's Rights. Over the past 15 years he has given numerous presentations at APHA and submitted a number of abstracts to APHA.

We congratulate Dean El-Mohandes on his selection to the APHA Executive Board.

Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council (ARGC)

Pat Parker, Missouri ARGC, patparkerargc@aol.com



Prevention and Wellness across the Lifespan

American Public Health Association
140th Annual Meeting and Exposition
Saturday, October 27 – Wednesday,
October 31, 2012
San Francisco, CA

The American Public Health Association (APHA) conducted its Annual Meeting and Exposition with more than 12,500 public health professionals from around the world to address leading public health challenges. Centered on the theme “Prevention and Wellness through the Lifespan,” the meeting focused on the importance of social, environmental, and behavioral issues that impact health at all stages of life.

Council of Affiliates (CoA) Affiliate Day The business of your Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council (ARGC) started at 7 AM on Saturday, October 27 and continued through 1 PM. This very informative, “jam-packed” meeting facilitated the update of CoA leaders’ (Affiliates’ as well as Regional representatives) regarding public health successes, challenges, and strategies for the future.

APHA’S executive director, Georges Benjamin, MD, FACP, discussed the importance of the local public health effort, encouraging advocacy and policy development, and helping local leaders “follow the dots” to funding resources at the federal level.

Affiliate Affairs staff highlighted their activities in support of affiliates, such as funding to assist eight local public health agencies become accredited; funding and conducting the president-elects meeting at the APHA mid-year meeting; the Public Health Act (PHACT) campaign; the 4-part membership training on attracting, recruiting, involving/engaging, and renewing, and facilitating communication between affiliates via the on-line community.

Based on the Affiliates’ Survey, the top three benefits/services rated as *Very Important* are: complimentary travel to APHA COA and mid-year meetings; the annual list of APHA members in our respective state; and invitation to apply for APHA grants and mini-grants such as the Affiliate Capacity Building Initiative. Affiliate Affairs will continue to provide mini-grants to assist LPHAs with their accreditation efforts as well as conduct the president-elects’ meeting. Based on the Affiliates’ Survey, additional benefits are being considered.

COA approved an increase of affiliate dues effective January 2014. This will be the first increase since 1970 and will change the affiliate apportionment from \$.25 to \$.75 per MPHA member who is also an APHA member. For the MPHA member who is not an APHA member, the

apportionment would change from \$1.00 to \$1.50. Based on MPHA’s 2012 membership, this would amount to a \$51 increase. Affiliate Membership Sub-committee will re-review dues in 2017.

The second half of Affiliates’ Day included APHA staff and COA leaders’ updates on activities undertaken to revitalize national membership and continue national advocacy. A panel of volunteer affiliate staff and leaders provided attendees (affiliate leaders and representatives to the APHA Governing Council) tips to assist them in developing and implementing successful advocacy and policy programs.

Governing Council (GC) From 3:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., the GC conducted its first business meeting and a Candidates Forum. The meeting was convened by the Speaker of the Governing Council, Barbara E. Giloth, DrPH. The meeting provided the opportunity for reports from four officers, five boards, eight committees, the President, Governing Council Chair, and the Treasurer; a forum of the ten candidates who ran for the offices of president-elect and the executive board; and the selection of Annual Meeting Program Emphasis for 2014. The Nominations Committee accepted nominations from the floor for three new members. Two additional meetings of the Governing Council occurred on Sunday, October 30, 9:00 – 11:00 AM and on Tuesday, November 1, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

With support and guidance from Treasurer, Richard Cohen, the

(Continued on page 11)

ARGC continued



Back row from left to right, Region VII delegation: Shirley Orr (KS), NE ARGC David Corbin, Ed Schneider (NE and immediate past president National Association of Local Boards of Health) Denise Strehlow-Labardi (MPHA Secretary), and KS ARGC Eldonna Chestnut. Front row, left to right: Ivonne Rivera-Newberry (KS), MPHA ARGC Pat Parker, IA (Louise Lex, and Ellen Averett (KS).

vault, they'd parachute. Of course, today we all know the happy outcome.

Reed Tuckson, executive vice president and chief of medical affairs at UnitedHealth, spoke of the "tsunami" of preventable

disease now threatening to destroy the health care system and the disaster it represents for all payers of health care services. Hear his thoughts on the four steps necessary to overcome this challenge and the critical role for public health. The Opening Session also features keynote speeches from notable health leader best-selling author Gail Sheehy, Kaiser Permanente's Raymond Baxter, HHS's Howard Koh and APHA President Melvin Shipp. After the #Apha12 opening session, entertainers led attendees to the Public Health Expo. Only in San Francisco! Video of opening session speakers is available on APHA's YouTube Channel.

The National Public Health Week theme for 2013 was announced at APHA's Annual Meeting Opening Session, "Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money!" Get involved with National Public Health Week by downloading the 2013 brochure and signing up for updates at www.nphw.org.

Additionally, several new distinguished leaders and officers were elected to guide the meaningful work of the Association,

including President-Elect: Joyce Gaufin and Executive Board (3-year terms): Pamela Aaltonen, Ayman El-Mohandes, and Lynn Bethel, plus (1-year term to complete Dr. Troutman) Ella Greene-Moton



Ayman A.E. El-Mohandes
Ayman El-Mohandes, MBBCh, MD, MPH, is Dean of the College of Public Health at the University of

Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC). He is a Board-certified pediatrician and neonatologist and a perinatal epidemiologist, with a career combining clinical and public health expertise in maternal-neonatal health and elimination of health disparities. Dr. El-Mohandes is believed to be the first Executive Board member from Region VII (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas). MINK is especially proud of its success in this endeavor!

International VPs were selected as follows:
VP for Latin America/Caribbean – Dr. Raul Cuadrado;
VP for Canada – Dr. Erica DiRuggiero;
and VP for USA – Dr. Gail Christopher

New APHA Nominating Committee Members: Patricia Parker (re-elected), Andre Stanley and Luba Ivanov.

Closing session: 'Justice is never partial. Justice is always indivisible'

Executive Director, and the Association's Chief Financial Officer, Kemi Oluwafemi, the Association received an unqualified opinion (clean audit) from its Auditors, Tate and Tryon. APHA closed the fiscal period ending June 30, 2012, with a change in net assets (surplus) of \$1,355,497 out of which \$1,102,006 represents unrestricted (operating) revenue, investment income of \$136,426, an increase of \$99,315 in temporary and \$17,750 in permanently restricted revenue.

2012 APHA Membership 25,336

The Annual Meeting officially kicked off on Sunday, October 28 with the opening session that featured a **surprise visit** U.S. Rep. and House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** who thanked APHA for supporting the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and helping to ensure its passage into law. Pelosi said that during the run-up to the law's passage, she and her colleagues in Congress committed to go up to any fence in their way and push it open; if it didn't open, they'd climb over it; if it was too high to climb, they'd pole vault; and if it's too high to pole

ARGC continued



The 2012 Annual Meeting concluded with a closing session that focused on incarceration, justice and health. Angela Davis provided the keynote address on her research into prison systems around the world and the importance of building communities of struggle for economic, racial and gender justice.

This year's Annual Meeting concluded with five charges from new APHA President Adewale Troutman. Troutman called on attendees to:

1. bring five new APHA members to next year's Annual Meeting in Boston, where the theme will be "Think Global, Act Local: Best Practices Around the World;"
2. stand up and take a leadership position in APHA;
3. increase your personal knowledge of the APHA policy process;
4. educate your local policymakers about APHA and its public health priorities; and lastly,
5. stand for justice.

"Remember: The power of one is real," Troutman said.

April 1-7, 2013, 2013 National Public Health Week: *Public Health: ROI*
National Public Health Week 2013 theme: Public health is ROI. Save lives, Save money!

2013 APHA 141st Annual Meeting and Exposition: Think Global, Act Local: Best Practices Around the World (Boston, MA)

2014 APHA 142nd Annual Meeting and Exposition: **Where You Live, Work and Play Determines Impacts Your Health and Wellbeing** (New Orleans, LA)

Tobacco Free Missouri

Linda Cooperstock, MPH



Mission: Creating a healthier Missouri by eliminating the burden of tobacco

Tobacco Free Missouri State Coalition met in Columbia, Missouri on November 16, 2012. Key discussions included: an analysis of the narrow defeat of Proposition B, the tobacco tax initiative; education about preemption; and a preview of some marketing brochures and videos. Misty Snodgrass, American Cancer Society, provided a detailed analysis of the strategies and advertising used to promote Proposition B and the opposition tactics. She stated that it was very unfortunate that the health

proponents adhered to the facts while the opposition created unfounded fears, linked the initiative to negative political buzz words, and outright lied. The last minute robocalls said the tax would harm farmers, and the proceeds pay for Obamacare; right to life groups said it would pay for abortions. None of which had any shred of truth. Misty said that the mere seed of doubt is enough to create a negative vote.

Materials from the National Policy & Legal Analysis Network were used to describe preemption. Preemption is a legal concept in which a higher level of government has the authority to limit, or even eliminate, the power of a lower level of government to regulate a certain issue. TFM wants everyone to understand that preemption limits the power of local government, and is an excellent strategy for a large lobbying concern to encourage a state to pass weak legislation, which then destroys all efforts at the local level and prevents any future efforts on that issue.

The members previewed a video developed by St. Joseph, MO coalition to persuade business owners and policy makers in communities considering smoke free ordinances that the public welcomes and frequents smoke free hospitality venues. This can viewed on the TFM website at www.tobaccofreemo.org.

MPHA Scholarships

Edna Weinel Scholarship



Edna Weinel Scholarship provides the opportunity for practicing public health professionals to participate in this lifelong learning process. This scholarship, the value of which is dependent upon the request and need of the applicant(s), is available for public health workers to develop in their profession through educational meetings, seminars or through traditional academic course work. Applications will be considered for seminars, continued education meetings, conventions, college classes, etc., with priority given to continued education programs. Applicants may apply an unlimited number of times providing he/she qualifies under the established criteria and has not been a previous recipient.

Leuthen – Brunner Local Public Health Agency Scholarship

Leuthen – Brunner Local Public Health Agency Scholarship grant honors Ron Leuthen and Phil Brunner, former MPHA members who worked tirelessly to advance local public health in Missouri. This award is designed to assist local public health agencies towards voluntary accreditation through Missouri Institute for Community Health or National Public Health Accreditation Board. It may be used for educational meetings, seminars, continuing education, specific certifications or testing, and traditional academic course work in areas of Performance, Infrastructure or Workforce Standards. This is a one-time grant for local public health agencies. The first maximum \$750 scholarship will be awarded at the 2012 MPHA Annual Meeting and then annually. The grant may be divided among multiple applicants up to a total of \$750.

Missouri Public Health Foundation Jackie Liesemeyer Nursing Scholarship

Jackie Liesemeyer was a Community Health Nurse who worked for more than 20 years in various positions in the Central District Office of the Missouri Department of Health. Jackie's spirit of independence and self-reliance was reflected in her approach to her clients, individuals, program representatives and local health units. She provided the information, support and encouragement that fostered growth and the ability to do for oneself all that was possible in the spirit of community health nursing. Jackie is honored with a \$500 nursing scholarship in her name that will enable others to enhance public health in Missouri. Applicants must explain how the scholarship would be used and why they are working in the field of public health nursing. Applicants may apply an unlimited number of times providing he/she qualifies under the established criteria and has not been a previous recipient.

Missouri Public Health Foundation Health Professional Scholarship

The \$500 Health Professional Scholarship is available for a MPHA member who is working on an undergraduate or graduate degree in a public health related field which will further their career. Examples of fields of study include: administration, epidemiology, health education, nursing, health promotion, etc.) Applicants must explain how the scholarship would be used and state their commitment to continue to work in public health in Missouri after completing the public health related degree. Applicants may apply an unlimited number of times providing they qualify under the established requirements and have not been a previous recipient.

More detailed information can be found on the MPHA website at <http://www.mopha.org/>

A Moment in the APHA Midyear Meeting Held in Charlotte, NC - June 26-28, 2012

*Louise Lex, PhD
Affiliate Representative to the APHA Governing Council
Region VII Representative*

I was with my daughter and son-in-law when their two boys were born. The birth of the first child was unbelievably joyous; so was the second one, but there was something different about this birth. Both parents, although quite happy, had become aware of the responsibility of raising a child. They knew about the sleepless nights and the unexpected trips to the pediatrician along with the giggles of laughter and the first steps taken across the room.

I was reminded of this feeling during another joyous event—the Supreme Court’s upholding of the Accountable Care Act (ACA) on June 28, 2012. This time I was attending the Midyear APHA Conference in Charlotte. That morning, two large screens projected the news. For a moment, participants were silent. Then there was what I can only describe as pandemonium. We all knew that the day when health as a right for everyone had come, that now prevention and public health were more than a footnote in a piece of legislation, and that 31 million Americans who were without health insurance could eventually obtain coverage. There was solemnity among us as we heard that the expansion of Medicaid was an optional choice for the states. This meant that our journey had just begun.

We knew there would be some major roadblocks, particularly with the Prevention Fund—the first time any major federal money has been set aside for what we do in public health. We also were aware of the role public health professionals needed to play in telling better stories about how we use the fund to change people’s lives. We became aware of opportunities to work more effectively with the medical community, non-profit hospitals, and federal qualified community health centers. Without this collaboration, public health will be left at the station after the train has pulled out. Finally, we needed to explain in simple words what the ACA will do for the people in our communities.

Like my daughter and son-in-law with their two growing boys, we have some big responsibilities in seeing to it that the ACA thrives.

Sharing Responsibility, Improving Community Health

In 2010, the Public Health Grand Rounds speaker series, *Sharing Responsibility, Improving Community Health*, was designed by the Schools of Public Health (SPH) and Medicine at Saint Louis University and several community partners, including the Missouri Public Health Association. The series is aimed at strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of community organizations by providing information on the latest practice and evidence based approaches to address social determinants in order to reduce health disparities in the St. Louis region. Saint Louis University, along with community partners, will continue the conversation in 2012/2013 with six new sessions that will provide attendees with information about strategies to address health disparities, as well as opportunities for partnership development.

This speaker series is a collaborative effort, led by an advisory group consisting of community and government partners, faculty from the public health and medical schools, and college of arts and sciences at Saint Louis University. The advisory group will determine the agenda based on a needs assessment conducted with 2010 attendees.

The first event will be held on November 30, 2012 from 8:30-11:30 and will focus on creating partnerships – more details will follow soon. Subsequent dates will be the last Friday of the month-January through May 2013. For additional information or to get on the email list, please contact Denise Strehlow LaBardi at dsl9171@bjc.org or 314-286-0504.

APHA 140th Annual Meeting and Exposition

San Francisco, CA - October 27-31, 2012

Louise Lex, PhD

Affiliate Representative to the APHA Governing Council



At the end of October, about 12,500 participants at the 140th American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting, held in San Francisco, carried yellow conference bags with their conference materials. A picture was printed on the outside of the bag of a young child whose face was divided by a line. On one side was ZIP CODE 90002 Life Expectancy 73; on the other side, ZIP CODE 94301 Life Expectancy 86. Underneath the picture was the following: “Your ZIP Code Shouldn’t predict how long you’ll live...but it does.” More than anything else, these words could be considered a major theme in what was discussed at the meeting.

It was fitting that Nancy Pelosi, whose congressional district is in San Francisco, should open the conference. As majority leader of the US House of Representatives, she led the effort to pass the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care legislation. In commenting on this landmark legislation, she said that the country could not miss the opportunity of making health care a right and not a privilege for the few. When asked by reporters before the bill was passed about how she planned to seek passage, she said that if there were a fence, she would push open the gate; if the fence was too high, she would pole vault over it; and if that didn’t do it, she would parachute in. And she noted that when the gate did open, public health workers were with her inside the gate.

As your representative to APHA and member of its Governing Council, I spent much of my time in meetings, doing the business of the organization. The council voted on policy statements that lay the groundwork for advocacy. The policies varied from preserving dental amalgams to such issues as tracking and taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages. We elected officers including the president-elect, Joyce R. Gaufin. Joyce knows public health from the ground up because she started her stellar career as a secretary in a public health office. Representatives from our Region VII (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas or MINK) lobbied successfully in electing one of our own, Dr. Ayman El-Mohandes, dean of the University of Nebraska, College of Medicine, College of Public Health, to the APHA Executive Council. This is the first time in memory that MINK has had a representative on the executive board. (Yes, your representative passed out fliers, helped organize block voting, and solicited support.)

IPHA received recognition for its efforts in the Flu Near You campaign, chiefly because our executive director did such an outstanding job in promoting the campaign. The recognition was in the form of a \$1,000 check. In giving his report to the Governing Council, Don Hoppert, who directs our legislative initiatives, singled out Iowa as a state having done an outstanding job in advocacy efforts.

We can be proud that IPHA is part of APHA—a vast network of public health workers from across the country who can use their collective power to move mountains.

MPHA Board Roster

OFFICERS

President (2012-2013)

Dr. Dalen Duitsman
 Director - Ozarks Public Health
 Institute
 901 S. National Avenue
 Springfield, MO 65897
 417-836-5550
 Fax: 417-836-3171
 DalenDuitsman@missouristate.edu

President-Elect (2012-2013)

Linda Cooperstock, MPH
 Columbia/Boone Co. Public Health
 and Human Services
 1005 W. Worley
 Columbia, MO 65203
 573-817-6403
 lrcooper@GoColumbiaMo.com

Vice President (2011-2013)

Bert Malone, MPA
 Kansas City Health Dept.
 2400 Troost Suite 2300
 Kansas City, MO 64108
 816-513-6166
 Fax: 816-513-6290
 bert.malone@kcmo.org

Secretary (2010-2012)

Denise Strehlow LaBardi, RD, LD,
 MPH, MSW
 BJC School Outreach and Youth
 Development
 MS: 90-75-577
 4901 Forest Park Avenue, Ste. 1021
 St. Louis, MO 63108
 314-286-0504
 Fax: 314-747-8644
 Cell: 314-580-8713
 dsl9171@bjc.org

Treasurer (2011-2013)

Patti Van Tuinen
 MoDHSS
 930 Wildwood, PO Box 570
 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570
 573-751-6188
 patti.vantuinen@dhss.mo.gov

Imm. Past President (2011-2012)

Patrick Morgester
 Kansas City Health Department
 2400 Troost, Ste. 2300
 Kansas City, MO 64108
 816-513-6200
 Fax: 816-513-6090
 Pat.morgester@kcmo.org

ARGC TO THE APHA GOVERNING COUNCIL (2011-2013)

Patricia Parker
 Affiliate Representative to the
 (APHA) Governing Council
 601 E. 12th, Room 1728
 Kansas City, MO 64106
 816-426-5207
 patparkerargc@aol.com

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Jodee Fredrick (2011-2013)
 Clay County Public Health Center
 800 Haines Drive
 Liberty, MO 64068
 816-595-4234
 Fax: 816-255-4824
 jfredrick@clayhealth.com

Corrie Lutte, BSN, RN (2012-2014)
 Clay County Public Health Center
 800 Haines Center
 Liberty, MO 64068
 816-595-4238
 Fax: 816-595-4395
 clutte@clayhealth.com

Robert Niezgoda, MPH (2012-2014)
 Taney County Health Department
 15479 US Highway 160
 PO Box 369
 Forsyth, MO 65653
 417-546-4725
 Fax: 417-546-4727
 niezgr@lpha.mopublic.org

Andrew Warlen, MPH (2011-2013)
 Independence Health Department
 515 S. Liberty
 Independence, MO 64050
 816-325-7187
 awarlen@indepmo.org

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Judy Alexiou (2011-2013)
 219 Schumate Chapel Rd.
 Jefferson City, MO 65109
 573-893-2256
 judia2007@gmail.com

Jodee Fredrick (2011-2013)
 Clay County Public Health Center
 800 Haines Drive
 Liberty, MO 64068
 816-595-4234
 Fax: 816-255-4824
 jfredrick@clayhealth.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sandra C. Boeckman
 722 E. Capitol Avenue
 PO Box 126
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 573-634-7977
 Fax: 573-635-7823
 E-mail: sboeckman@mopha.org

MPHA FOUNDATION

Cindy Leuthen, RN
 Center for Local Public Health
 Services
 MO Department of Health and Senior
 Services
 PO Box 570
 Jefferson City, MO 65102
 573-526-0449
 Fax: 573-751-5350
 Cindy.leuthen@health.mo.gov



PO Box 126 - Jefferson City, MO 65101



COMMUNIQUE' Editor
Pat Morgester
Kansas City Health Department
Send comments and/or articles to:
pat.morgester@kcmo.org

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