Greetings from south Alabama where liquid sunshine is currently in abundance. I am reminded that like the challenges we face in public health, this too shall pass and the sun will return. I am sure that you are seeking to get back into the routine of our daily services and trust that you experienced a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

As I mentioned earlier, we face challenges in public health; but we are not alone. The partnerships that we have forged and nurtured with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the Alabama Department of Public Health, Southern Health Association, American Public Health Association and countless others provide strength toward our common goals. I continue to marvel each day as I witness public health professionals focusing, not on themselves and the ongoing changes, but rather, the health and well-being of others. I am proud to be associated with individuals that always provide caring and compassionate services despite distractions around them.

Tim Hatch, AIPHA, Inc., Vice President, and Annual Educational Conference Chair, along with his committee are doing an outstanding job preparing for one of the best (Tim would say THE BEST) conferences ever for our association. Richard Bennett, along with other UAB staff, have been most supportive and have provided unparalleled commitment to our conference. Please look for additional information on the conference elsewhere in this newsletter.

I would encourage you to take a few moments and consider the opportunity to serve our professional organization through an elected office. Jamie Manning is the Chair of the Nominating Committee and the various offices open for election are also found in this issue. Additionally, we all have the privilege to serve alongside colleagues who excel in their daily service to public health and deserve recognition for their devoted efforts. Ricky Elliott is Chair of the Awards Committee and I solicit your nominations for the prestigious awards that AIPHA, Inc. presents.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve our association as president. I look forward to seeing each of you at our annual conference. Please call me at 334-295-1000 if I may be of service. Thank you for the positive difference that you make daily in the lives of others.

Jackie R. Holliday
2012-2013 President
OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE APRIL 3-5

The Edge of Chaos

A unique conference venue and interesting program await attendees at the 57th annual Alabama Public Health Association Education Conference April 3-5 in Birmingham. The University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health is partnering with AlPHA for this conference being held during National Public Health Week.

This year’s conference theme is “Public Health at the Edge of Chaos...Where Opportunities Abound!” In addition to bringing a variety of speakers from around the country on numerous topics of interest to public health, the conference will be held on the exciting UAB campus. This setting lends itself well to greater interactions with enthusiastic students, the ability for speakers to address larger numbers of people because of spacious auditoriums, and the beauty of an academic setting.

More than 36 hours of educational sessions, numerous speakers and vendors, and the return of the student poster competition are being offered.

Kicking off the conference with a positive and enjoyable presentation will be William L. “Pete” Rearden, a Dallas-based national speaker and humorist. State Health Officer Dr. Donald Williamson will address attendees on the state of public health. Kay Bender of the Public Health Accreditation Board promises a special surprise as the final general session is concluded.

Sonya Tinsley and Judy Smith will again coordinate the fun at a silent auction. Although there will not be a single conference hotel designated, several lodging options and local eateries are available within walking distance of the conference.

Registration is now available through LCMS. Be sure to tell your colleagues to register now by clicking 57th Annual ALPHA Education Conference 2013 Registration.

The conference agenda will be included in the next newsletter.

NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR ALPHA OFFICES

Nominating Committee Chair Jamie Manning invites members to nominate interested and qualified members for the following open positions for the 2013-2014 year.

- Vice President—(Nominees for vice president must have served on the AlPHA board for a minimum of two years.)
- Treasurer
- Recording Secretary
- Southern Health Association Delegate
- Alabama Public Health Association Alternate Delegate
- Southern Health Association Alternate Delegate

If you are interested in serving yourself or would like to nominate others, please send your nominations by Feb. 11 to:

Sheila Puckett, Association Director
Alabama Public Health Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 990
Montgomery, Ala. 36101
alpublichealthass@gmail.com
Telephone: (334) 399-3249
The New Year brought an important lesson for why the ethic of public health matters. Cooper Green Mercy Hospital ceased inpatient and emergency room care. Despite ample time to develop and communicate a comprehensive transition plan to patients and other stakeholders, inpatient and emergency services ended with virtually everyone wondering what’s next. Although everyone agrees the transition could have been managed better, yet for me the real lesson is how fragile are our safety nets and how vulnerable are the poor!

At its very core, public health is about protecting and advocating for the most vulnerable in our society. Sometimes we take for granted the support systems we have that allow us to navigate our complex institutions - health care paramount among them. The turmoil surrounding Cooper Green’s transition has left thousands of former patients confused and bewildered about what they are to do next. Some will be persistent enough to get answers, others will passively wait for news or instructions, and others will simply give up.

Recognizing and understanding the vulnerability of those we serve forces us to think about change differently. The change, in this case the transition of Cooper Green Mercy Hospital, may be entirely appropriate, make imminent sense on paper, and be fiscally responsible. Yet it may fail miserably because we failed to give those who rely on Cooper Green the tools they need and can use to adapt to the change. This is not paternalism or hand holding, rather it is sensitivity to culture, circumstance, means, and general support systems.

Changes like Cooper Green’s transition can create the basis for improving health, reducing costs, and ultimately realizing the benefits of the revolution in health care delivery we are witnessing through the Affordable Care Act. Like welfare reform or education reform, we must work to assure that the promise of new programs and benefits are made accessible to everyone regardless of social class. And, that will take hard work for at least one or two generations before the true benefits are realized by everyone.

The painful transition taking place in Jefferson County as the Commission modernizes its historic commitment to the health care for poor serves to remind us that the ethic of public health - protecting and advocating for the most vulnerable in our society - is even more important with the New Year than it was for many years in the past. We now face the hard part of continuing to protect and advocate for the most vulnerable in our community.

Max Michael, MD
Dean
UAB School of Public Health

The Alabama Public Health Association, Inc. continues to celebrate over 50 years of new beginnings. The AlPHA mission is to link individuals as well as organizations in addressing public health issues and promote public health policy. AlPHA strives to promote the education of its members together with the public on public health issues. This mission is just one of the most fundamental reasons we want to encourage the membership of our younger generation. In most cases, knowing better will cause people to do better; be that as it may, it is a definite fact that knowing earlier-hence early education/intervention produces a much more positive outcome along with less health related issues due to lack or absence of health education. Student membership is only $5 annually.

Don’t wait! Join today, and enhance your ability to promote and protect personal, environmental and community health.

In addition to students, all others interested in public health are encouraged to join the association. Payroll dues deduction for state employees only costs $2 per month. A membership form is on page 8.

For more information, contact

Shawanda Surles, Office Manager
Montgomery County Health Department
3060 Mobile Highway
Montgomery, Alabama 36108
Office: (334) 293-6501
There is no greater honor than to be recognized by one’s peers. The Alabama Public Health Association (AlPHA) award program is an excellent way to let your co-workers know how much their hard work is appreciated. The awards will be presented at the AlPHA Annual meeting April 3-5. Nominations for AlPHA awards and three letters of support must be received by Feb. 15, 2013, and should be mailed to:

Ricky Elliott, MPH
AlPHA Awards Committee Chair
PHA 9
312 Courthouse Square Suite 31
Bay Minette, Alabama 36507
(251) 937-5859

I. Award (check one):

    ______ D. G. Gill Award
    ______ Virginia Kendrick Award
    ______ Ira L. Myers Award
    ______ Frederick Wolf Award
    ______ Anne M. Smith Award
    ______ Guy M. Tate Award

II. Date Nomination Submitted:

III. Person Nominated:

IV. Present Position:

V. Address:

VI. List organizations the individual may be associated with and positions previously held, including but not limited to: civic, church and community activities relevant to the proposed award (attach additional pages as needed):

VII. Relate specific incidents, accomplishments or attributes which illustrate the extent to which the nominee's performance relates to the eligibility criteria for the award (attach additional pages as needed):

VII. Nominator Information (must be a current AlPHA member):

    Name: 
    Address: 
INSTRUCTIONS FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT
(At least three of these must accompany the Nomination Letter)

I. INTRODUCTION
   A. Name of the person being nominated
   B. Why it is an honor to nominate the individual

II. BODY
   A. List the individual strengths, talents, and abilities (e.g., leadership, reliability, creativity, independence, and teamwork).
   B. List other outstanding contributions to the public.
   C. Give examples of his/her integrity and devotion to the citizens of Alabama and/or the nation.

III. CONCLUSION
    Confirm that the applicant would be a desirable candidate by adding any additional comments you feel appropriate.

CRITERIA FOR AIPHA NOMINATIONS

I. The D.G. Gill Award was established in 1967 by the Association to honor an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to public health in Alabama.

II. The Guy M. Tate Award was established at the annual session in 1974 to be presented yearly to a public health employee, group (division or discipline), or agency with ten years or less in public health for outstanding current or recent service or contribution to public health. The service should be beyond the job assignment and be one which promotes and protects public health in Alabama.

III. The Virginia Kendrick Award was established in 1976 to be presented annually to an individual who has provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supportive position in the field of public health.

IV. The Frederick S. Wolf Award was established in 1982 to recognize an individual who has been active in public health at the local level for more than ten years; who has demonstrated efficiency, dedication and professionalism in delivery of public health services; and who has provided unselfish community services in areas unrelated to public health.

V. The Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence was established and was presented for the first time in 1987. The intent of this award is to honor Dr. Myers for his accomplishments by recognizing an individual, group, or organization who, through excellence in work, has made a significant impact on some aspect of public health in Alabama. Nominees are not required to have a direct affiliation with or represent any specific discipline, group, or organization. Rather, they should represent excellence in effort and a significant achievement toward the promotion and protection of public health.

VI. VI. The Anne M. Smith Excellence in Public Health Nursing Award, which originally was presented at the Anne M. Smith Seminar in 1989, was established and presented as an AIPHA Award in 2010. The recipient must exemplify the mission of Public Health Nursing in Alabama. Other qualifications include: employment at the county, area, or state level for at least five years; the nurse should exemplify her/his dedication to public health nursing through involvement in the community beyond expectations of employment (e.g., membership in AIPHA, volunteer activities in the community, etc.); and the nurse should exemplify her/his dedication to the profession of nursing through activities in the community beyond the expectations of employment (e.g., membership in nursing organizations, preceptor for nursing students and new nurses, mentorship of young nurses or newly hired nurses).
The AlPHA Hall of Fame Committee is now accepting nominations to the 2013 Hall of Fame Class.

The induction ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Awards Luncheon at the 2013 conference.

Criteria and the nominating form can be downloaded from the AlPHA Web site at www.alphassoc.org.

The completed nomination form can be sent, along with the letters of support, to:
Ruth Harrell, Hall of Fame Chair
P.O. Box 626, Flomaton, AL 36441
(251) 296-5101
E-mail: rharrell@panhandle.rr.com

Please send your nominations in by Feb. 15, 2013.

ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME CRITERIA
The AlPHA Hall of Fame is intended to complement current AlPHA Awards and recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the enhancement and advancement of AlPHA.

The Hall of Fame was established by the association in May of 2007.

Selection Criteria:
1. The name of the recognition is the “AlPHA Hall of Fame.”

2. To be considered for the AlPHA Hall of Fame, an individual must be or have been a member of AlPHA for at least 10 years.

3. The nominee must had made, or is making, a significant contribution to AlPHA through membership growth, advancement of AlPHA and public health, and improvement of the organization, (AlPHA).

4. Nominee may be living or deceased.

5. Any current member may present a nominee to the AlPHA Hall of Fame Committee. The Hall of Fame Committee shall consist of the Hall of Fame Chairperson (appointed by the President), current Awards Committee Chairperson, AlPHA President, and two at-large members selected by the Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson.

6. After the inaugural year, a maximum of two people will be selected for induction into the Hall of Fame.

7. The nomination must include a one-page justification letter detailing why the nominee should be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

8. Each year’s inductees will be introduced at the AlPHA’s Annual Education Conference during the Awards Ceremony. They, or their family, will be presented with a plaque of recognition.

9. The AlPHA Hall of Fame will be printed in the conference program each year.

PARKING SUGGESTIONS/HOTELS NEAR ALPHA CONFERENCE VENUE
The best parking deck is located at 9th Ave. S. and University Boulevard, behind the School of Public Health (Ryals Building). The School of Public Health is located at 1665 University Blvd. and 16th St. S. Seventy-five spaces are available on a first come-first serve basis for approximately $6 per day. Parking fees are reimbursable via state travel voucher. A map with other available parking will be included in the next issue.

Listed here are some hotels in the UAB area within walking distance of the conference venue. Prices are the best state/government rate offered. Please make your reservations early as none of these rooms are guaranteed, first come-first serve basis only.

The Courtyard Downtown UAB
1820 5th Ave. S., (205) 254-0004
AlPHA Code and rate is $129, 40 rooms available at this price. No shuttle service, newly renovated, breakfast available

Double Tree by Hilton
20th and University, (205) 933-9000
AlPHA/AEHA rate: $86, no breakfast; no shuttle, rate good until March 1

Residence Inn by Marriott
821 20th St. S., (205) 731-9595
Code & rates: AlPHA, $139 with breakfast, no shuttle

Springhill Suites
2024 4th Ave. S., (205) 322-8600
Prices from $109, no shuttle
ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

I. Name of Nominee ________________________________

   Years in AlPHA (Must be at least 10 years) ________________________________

   Nominee Position now held, if any__________________________________________

   Address ________________________________________________________________

   Street                        City                        State                        Zip

II. List positions previously held:

   ________________________________

   ________________________________

   ________________________________

   ________________________________

III. Relate specific incidents, accomplishments or attributes which illustrate the extent to which the nominee’s performance relates to the eligibility criteria for the award.

   ________________________________

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(USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS AS NEEDED FOR ADEQUATE DESCRIPTION)

IV. All nominations must be made by current AlPHA member

   Name of Nominator ________________________________

   Street Address of Nominator ________________________________

   City State Zip ________________________________

   Daytime telephone ________________________________

Please submit nomination and up to 10 letters of support by Feb. 15, 2013, to:
Ruth Harrell, Hall of Fame Chair
P.O. Box 626, Flomaton, AL 36441
(251) 296-5101
E-mail: rharrell@panhandle.rr.com
Email (primary communication is achieved electronically)
Name (as appears on payroll)
ALPHA Name (If Different) Work Phone
Agency/Organization Area/County
Agency Mailing Address

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New Member Renewal

PLEASE CHECK HERE! I would like payroll deduction. ______ (ADPH employees only. $2 per month)
Signature

Social Security #_______ - ______ - _____________ (SSN needed only for members selecting payroll deduction.)

Alabama Public Health Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 990, Montgomery, AL 36101-0990