It is my honor and distinct pleasure to serve as your president of the Alabama Public Health Association for 2018-2019. I came to the Alabama Department of Public Health in 1994 and have been a member of this organization for most of my public health career. In recent years, I have served on the board of directors as the nominations chairman, bylaws chairman, vice-president (planning the 2017 annual meeting), and president-elect.

The beginning of the current fiscal year last October brought us much more than a new set of budgets. From statewide redistricting (raise your hand if you continue to say “Area” despite your best efforts!) to extremely unpredictable winter weather to a severe flu outbreak to the new electronic health record now rolling out, the past eight months have been quite the roller coaster ride, with more changes to come. Changes often bring challenges, but they also offer unique opportunities for improvements. Continuous quality improvement isn’t just corporate jargon, it is something we should pursue – as individuals, as a department, and, yes, as an association created to serve and enhance both.

As I consider my own small part in all of the above, I am thankful. I am thankful that we have Dr. Scott Harris, our new State Health Officer, and his staff who have already shown their sincere support for this association and its members. I am thankful for the dedication and service of my fellow AIPHA board members. Melanie Dickens, now our president-elect, did an outstanding job planning and coordinating our recent 2018 conference and I expect no less of our new vice president, Deborah Leigh Dixon, in 2019. I am thankful for my many coworkers and fellow AIPHA members who serve the public in various ways every day. Going forward, our hope is that AIPHA can expand its scope to embrace more public health professionals and students, at ADPH and elsewhere, and include even more disciplines and interests at each future annual conference. Finally, I thank you, the membership, for entrusting me with this opportunity to help lead AIPHA in the coming year.

If you are in any field of public health and are not a member of AIPHA, I encourage you to consider joining. If you are a member of AIPHA but have never ventured beyond the newsletters and conferences, I urge you to take a more active role and become involved in the leadership of your association. I hesitated to do so for years myself but have been greatly rewarded for taking that next step. I sincerely hope that someone reading my words here will do likewise and find it equally fulfilling.

Richard W. Burleson, MBA, MPH
President, Alabama Public Health Association
As vice president and conference chair for the 62nd Annual Alabama Public Health Association Meeting and Health Education Conference, I want to thank everyone that was involved in making our conference a huge success! I have thanked our wonderful board, but I want to take this time to thank YOU, the attendees. I recognize the time and effort it takes for you as an attendee to participate in our conference. Schedules must be covered, obligations still need to be met, and time is a commodity in our busy lives.

I also want to thank ClubEpi for collaborating with AlPHA for our first time epi-tract. This was such a positive experience that we are going to partner with other disciplines across public health for a combined conference next year!

This conference is not only an educational experience, but a networking opportunity to meet other public health workers across the state as well as the nation. With phenomenal speakers, new partners, and a new location, we were able to double our attendance. In addition, with your generous bids, our silent auction continues to support scholarships. We could not achieve these wonderful results without you.

We look forward to seeing you at next year’s conference. Save the date: April 3-5, 2019. Please check out our website at alphassoc.org for future announcements.

Thank you for all you do!

Melanie Dickens
President-Elect 2018

**JOIN THE ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

AlPHA is an association of individuals and organizations working to improve the public’s health. It promotes the scientific and professional foundation of public health practice and policy, advocates for the conditions for people to achieve their maximum health, emphasizes prevention, and supports endeavors that protect and promote the health of the people of Alabama.

The goals of AlPHA are to:

- Promote excellence in public health practices that are based on national public health standards and science-based evidence.
- Strengthen, advance and support the activities and infrastructures of the organization.
- Provide membership benefits, services and opportunities that enhance core competencies and celebrate achievements.

Membership Benefits:

- Continuing education programs featuring nationally-recognized lecturers and speakers at the Annual Meeting & Conference and other seminars.
- Opportunities for networking among peers through discipline-oriented Section membership groups.
- Eligibility for awards and recognition for outstanding and innovative work in Public Health.
- Scholarship opportunities for students in advanced degree programs.

Annual Dues:

- Individual: $24
- Corporate: $350
- Student Membership: $5

You can include a check for your dues along with your enrollment form, or you can pay instantly and securely online through Paypal.
The following awards were presented during the AIPHA 62nd Annual Meeting and Health Education Conference in April 2018.

**The D.G. Gill Award**
Presenter Judy Smith and award winner Tim Hatch

**The Guy M. Tate Award**
Janice Cook and award winner Carrie Allison

**The Virginia Kendrick Award**
Earlene Arnold (on behalf of award winner Kratina Cunningham) and presenter Suzanne Terrell

**The Frederick S. Wolf Award**
Award winner Deborah Grim and presenter Corey Kirkland

**The Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health**

**The Anne M. Smith Public Health Nurse of the Year Award**

**AIPHA Hall of Fame Inductees, Class of 2018**

Presenter Richard Burleson and award winner Bob Hinds

Award winner Lynn Jacobs and presenter Mark Johnson

Hall of Fame Inductee Stacey Adams and presenter Jackie Holliday

Hall of Fame Inductee Tim Hatch and presenter Jackie Holliday
Email
(primary communication is achieved electronically)

Name (as appears on payroll) __________________________

AIPHA Name (If Different) __________________________ Work Phone __________________________

Agency/Organization __________________________ District/County __________________________

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Membership Type

- Full Time Student $5.00
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- Renewal

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Alabama Public Health Association, Inc.
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