I am very pleased and honored to serve as President of the Alabama Public Health Association for 2017-2018. I have been a member of this organization for over 10 years, but this will only be my fourth year serving on the Board of Directors. I have had the opportunity to network more in these four years than I have in my sixteen-year career with the Alabama Department of Public Health. I am happy to be a part of an organization that not only gives knowledge back, but also allows relationships to be created. We pride ourselves in being able to provide continuing education opportunities for working professionals through our annual conference and by helping divisions within the Alabama Department of Public Health provide internal continuing education opportunities as well.

Speaking of the annual conference, I would like to thank Richard Burleson for doing an excellent job in planning the last conference in Birmingham, Alabama. We would like to thank those attendees that braved the inclement weather to make the conference a success. This year Melanie Dickens is serving as Vice-President and Conference Chair. She is working relentlessly to plan a great conference while dealing with daily struggles. Thank you Melanie! The theme of next year’s conference is “Navigating the River of Public Health.” It will be held at Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill in Prattville, Ala., on April 4-6, 2018. We hope to see you at next year’s conference. More information on the conference will be available soon on the AIPHA website and our Facebook Page.

As always in Public Health, we face changes often. After many years of service, Dr. Tom Miller has retired as our State Health Officer. We would like to thank Dr. Miller for his continued support of the Alabama Public Health Association and the Alabama Department of Public Health. We would like to welcome Dr. Scott Harris as our new Acting State Health Officer. Also after many years of hard work, the Alabama Department of Public Health has achieved national accreditation status. Accreditation provides a framework for a health department to identify performance improvement opportunities, to improve management, develop leadership, and improve relationships in the community. Lastly, on October 1, 2017, we saw a major change in the Alabama Department of Public Health, which shifted from public health areas to public health districts. There are six districts, not to include Jefferson and Mobile Counties. There will be many changes associated with redistricting, but I am confident that we will navigate this change successfully.

Once again, thank you for giving me the honor to serve as this year’s AIPHA President. I am excited about what this year will bring, and I encourage each of you to learn more about AIPHA and the benefits of becoming a member.

Kimberly Gordon, LICSW
2017-2018 President
The 61st Annual Meeting and Health Education Conference of the Alabama Public Health Association centered on the theme “A Lifetime of Public Health.” Members honored several outstanding public health professionals at an awards luncheon on April 7 at the Hill Student Center in Birmingham.

Melanie Dickens, M.S., was presented the Guy M. Tate Award. This award is presented annually to a public health employee, group or agency with ten years or less employment in public health for outstanding current or recent service or contribution to public health. The service should be one which promotes and protects public health.

Described as creative, charismatic, courteous, caring, and dedicated, supporters wrote that Melanie “eagerly accomplishes her work in the only way she knows how…with enthusiasm, pride, and resourcefulness.” Colleagues said Ms. Dickens works to make a difference in the lives of others. This includes homeless individuals for whom she organized a multidenominational coalition of churches to open their doors during the colder months to house and feed this population, collects bottled water and other items homeless people might need, and brings awareness to this often forgotten segment of the population.

Ms. Dickens built a strong coalition leading the Smoke-Free Shoals to address problems associated with secondhand smoke in public venues. One innovative approach she used to increase awareness was to distribute burp cloths printed with a smoke-free message. Ms. Dickens actively participates in the Children’s Policy Councils for multiple counties and is an active member of the Sheffield Kiwanis Club. She is an inspector with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Tobacco Inspection Branch, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, based in Florence.

The Virginia Kendrick Award recognizes individuals who have provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supporting role in the field of public health. This year’s recipient, Tarina Moores, administrative support assistant with the Behavioral Health Division, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease, has been described as a person who “is not satisfied with the acceptable, but is a perfectionist who makes everyone around her better.” In addition to clerical and support duties assigned to her, she serves as the leave clerk and travel coordinator for the approximately 80 employees of her bureau.

Supporters wrote that Ms. Moores is conscientious and thorough, maintains excellent standards, and routinely mentors and assists newer clerical staff with their duties. Ms. Moores is a professional who works well with everyone to resolve problems and get questions answered.

Although it is not a required duty, she is a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician who volunteers at local monthly car seat clinics and works very closely with the Alabama Child Passenger Restraint Program. Certification requires extra time and training. The reward to her is that she gets to work with families to ensure their child car seats are installed correctly so that, in case of an accident, the risk of injury or death is greatly lessened. Finally, Ms. Moores exhibits a very good understanding of the programs, missions, and efforts she supports in her daily duties, as well as maintaining a great attitude toward her work.

The D.G. Gill Award is intended to honor an individual who has made exceptional contributions to public health in Alabama. This year’s winner of the Gill Award is Michael Smith, M.S., M.Ed., director of the Distance Learning and Telehealth Division, Bureau of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease. Smith established the Video Communications Division in 1990 to provide video services for the ADPH inservice training, public relations, educational programs, and information services. In 1995, he coordinated the purchase of a Ku-band satellite uplink vehicle specifically designed to provide interactive delivery of educational programs via satellite. The division has become a nationally recognized provider of training and public information for health professionals across the nation. Supporters wrote, “In keeping with the changing landscape of healthcare delivery, Michael had the vision and expertise to take telehealth from concept to reality in county health departments. This ensures that the services needed, particularly in our rural areas, are provided in the most convenient manner possible for patients.”

Supporters describe Smith as “forward thinking” and praised him for “looking out for the best interests of the department and those whom we serve.” One said, “He doesn’t see barriers as obstacles to overcome, but as opportunities to showcase what we do best,” and for his excellent leadership and vision. Michael and his staff are not only gracious, but “have a way of taking those of us who are clueless about such matters and making us look quite professional.”

The Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health was established to honor Dr. Myers, former State Health Officer, for his accomplishments by recognizing...
Awards, continued from page 2

An individual, group, or organization who, through excellence in work, has made a significant impact on some aspect of public health in Alabama. Salvador Gray, now retired director of the State Lead Contractor Certification Programs and the Lead/Indoor Air Quality Branch of the Bureau of Environmental Services, was presented this award. Coworkers wrote about his passion for environmental health and his dedication to ensure that patients’ families are receiving all available services to live in a lead-free environment.

A longtime colleague praised Gray’s efforts and persistence to have enabling legislation passed to protect children from the deleterious effect of lead-based paint in the Lead Reduction Act of 1997. Gray then participated in the long, detailed, and sometimes arduous task of writing regulations to implement what became known as the Alabama Lead Contractors Certification Program. He worked to ensure that the rules were fair as well as effective in preventing childhood lead poisoning.

Throughout this process, the supporter stated that Gray “would always pull us back to the ‘why’ we were doing this—to ensure that no children in Alabama would be exposed to lead from paint in their residence or daycare center because of poor, careless, and uninformed construction and renovation practices.” Gray collaborates with social services staff and attends coalition meetings to get recommendations on how to improve services provided to Alabama citizens. He was described as “a catalyst for action to abate the physical sources and work towards prevention.”

The recipient of the Anne Mangum Smith Public Health Nurse of the Year Award must exemplify the mission of public health nursing in Alabama, which is “to assure conditions in which individuals, families, and communities can be healthy utilizing the unique expertise of public health nurses to assess, plan and implement, and prevent disease.” The 2017 award recipient is Carol Wilson, R.N., nurse supervisor for Autauga and Elmore county health departments and interim supervisor for Russell County Health Department.

In support of the ADPH mission, public health nurses are often the first face of representation to perform these duties as well as to selflessly serve as a liaison among patients in the communities and the core decision-makers within public health. Ms. Wilson has served 28 years in her nursing career with ADPH as clinic nurse, area nursing director, and nurse supervisor. Supporters describe her as “an advocate for the patients as well as for public health.”

One supporter wrote, “As a person, Ms. Wilson is dedicated, generous, and welcoming. As a colleague, she is an avid team player. As a leader, she is a visionary who serves with the same passion that she leads.” Ms. Wilson is involved in many community activities, has been a CPR instructor, worked on the ADPH Emergency Response Team, and communicated with many local nurses in the community. In addition to her other duties, she serves as a preceptor for students for colleges in the area and is involved with the training/mentoring of new employees.

The Frederick S. Wolf Award recognizes an individual who has been active in public health at the local level and 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. This year’s award winner is Choona Lang, R.N., B.S.N., M.H.A., D.H.Ed.

In addition to her professional responsibilities as State Trauma/Health System Administrator, Office of Emergency Medical Services, that take her on onsite hospital visits throughout the state, Ms. Lang dedicates her time and effort to church, community, and civic organizations. Nominators said Ms. Lang “steadfastly and untiringly, goes beyond the call of duty in her quest to bring awareness to her constituents concerning health challenges that plague all of us.” They noted her leadership and commitment to community service with events such as health care workshops, seminars, and health care awareness programs. After receiving 4013C status to support a center located in the neighborhood where she grew up, she and other volunteers are regularly available to provide academic tutoring, life skills training, and GED classes. She directs the Christian Education and Health and Wellness Ministry at her church where she incorporates healthy living into the curriculum and plans activities during the month of February to bring awareness to heart disease. This includes preparing heart healthy breakfasts and distributing literature to educate the membership and encourage them to take care of their hearts. As an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Beta Nu Omega Chapter, she supports activities that promote awareness for various diseases and serves on the Health Services Incorporated, Inc., Board of Directors. She also chairs the Montgomery Christian School Board. While she remains very active in the community, Ms. Lang also communicates with family members and friends to ensure they are compliant with doctors’ visits and medicine regimens.

AlPHA Hall of Fame Inductees, Class of 2017
The Alabama Public Health Association Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made outstanding

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contributions to the enhancement and advancement of AIPHA. The inductees for 2017 are retired ADPH employees Jackie Holliday and Shelia Puckett.

Holliday has been called “the embodiment of a public health professional who understands our mission and how our decisions can affect the lives of so many people.” Holliday has served the association admirably in many capacities for more than three decades, including the offices of 2013 AIPHA president, president elect, vice president, past president, and Southern Health Association delegate, in addition to service on numerous boards and in various roles promoting public health throughout the state. Colleagues call Jackie firm but fair, quickly adding that he works with his heart as well, always making others laugh and smile. Known as a problem solver, his coworkers noted that he listened to his staff and helped them think “outside the box” before determining the best solution. A supporter wrote, “His devotion to duty, work ethic, and uncanny ability to build and achieve consensus among his peers is where I feel he has no equal.” Many of his former employees proudly call him their mentor and servant leader. Since his retirement from ADPH in 2014, Jackie has remained active in AIPHA and the Alabama Environmental Health Association, plus he donates his time to rural prostate cancer screenings.

Ms. Puckett spent 26 years serving the citizens of the state as a departmental employee. In this capacity, she was on the front lines, serving some of the neediest people in Alabama as office manager for the Elmore County Health Department. She then became office manager for the Bureau of Professional and Support Services at the Central Office, and upon completion of her college degree summa cum laude, she was promoted to health services administrator, state clerical director, and served as TEAM Academy project coordinator. Prior to her retirement in 2011, Ms. Puckett was very active in AIPHA and served as treasurer for two years. The association was so ingrained in her that she was hired as part-time executive director and has held this responsible position ever since. She has efficiently handled the accounting for numerous AIPHA-sponsored educational events while remaining pleasant, calm, and available to assist the board and the membership.

Organizational skills, people skills, and a jovial “can do” attitude exemplify everything that public health represents, and Ms. Puckett serves with a smile as a positive role model for others.

ALPHA AWARDS CATEGORIES AND NOMINATIONS

The Alabama Public Health Association honors individuals once a year for outstanding service. We are now accepting nominations for the 2018 AIPHA Awards! Submit your nomination at www.tinyurl.com/2018alphaaward. Nominations and three letters of support are due by February 23.

Please consider employees, supervisors, co-workers, and community partners for these awards. Descriptions of each award can be found below.

Note: To nominate someone, you must be a current AIPHA member. However, the nominee does not have to be an AIPHA member. Learn more about becoming a member at www.alphassoc.org.

AIPHA Award Categories

The D.G. Gill Award is given to honor an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to public health in Alabama.

The Guy M. Tate Award is given to recognize a public health employee, division, or agency with 10 years or less in public health for outstanding current or recent service or contribution to public health.

The Virginia Kendrick Award is given to recognize an individual who has provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supportive position in the field of public health.

The Frederick S. Wolf Award is given to recognize an individual who has been active in public health at the local level for more than 10 years. The employee must have demonstrated efficiency, dedication and professionalism in delivery of public health services and have provided unselfish community services in areas unrelated to public health.

The Anne M. Smith Excellence in Public Health Nursing Award is given to a nurse who exemplifies the mission of Public Health Nursing in Alabama, which is to assure conditions in which individuals, families, and communities can be healthy utilizing the unique expertise of public health nurses to assess, plan, and implement programs which promote health and prevent disease. The employee must have served at the county, area, or state level for at least five years and be involved in the community beyond expectations of employment.

The Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health is given to recognize an individual, a group, or organization that has made a significant impact on some aspect of public health. Nominees should represent excellence in effort and a significant achievement toward the promotion and protection of public health.
I recently attended the American Public Health Association’s conference held Nov. 4-8 in Atlanta, Georgia, entitled “Creating The Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health.” Over 12,000 health care professionals attended the conference. I am honored to hold the position of Delegate to the Governing Council and I represent the Alabama Public Health Association in the Council of Affiliates.

AIPHA has been working with the American Public Health Association since 1918 on common health issues that affect our local communities across Alabama. One of the highlights of the conference was when the new Surgeon General, Dr. Jerome Adams, spoke to the Governing Council. He stated he would support APHA values and encouraged members to work with a variety of community partners to eliminate public health issues. The representatives from Puerto Rico, Texas, and Louisiana shared their experiences with members of the Council of Affiliates regarding the recent hurricanes and how their public health associations responded to these natural disasters.

- Ross Hudson

**ALPHA 2017 SPONSORED EVENTS**

**Jan. 13, 2017:** CCC Meeting  
**Jan. 18, 2017:** Satellite Training for Supervision in Health Care Parts I & II  
**Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2017:** State Survey Agency Directors 2017 Meeting  
**March 8, 2017:** After School Staff Training  
**March 10, 2017:** Opioid Crisis in Alabama Training  
**March 15, 2017:** Annual CEP Social Work Training  
**April 7, 2017:** Annual AIPHA Conference  
**April 20, 2017:** Volunteer Symposium  
**March 29-30, 2017:** DTTAC Lifestyle Coach Training  
**April 21, 2017:** CCC Meeting  
**April 26-27, 2017:** Nurse Practitioner Meeting  
**April 28, 2017:** Data Driven Prevention  
**May 18, 2017:** Emergency Preparedness Training  
**May 19-20, 2017:** Rural Health Training  
**May 23-25, 2017:** SNS Training  
**May 24-25, 2017:** Annual Lab Conference  
**June 2017:** Toastmasters  
**May, June, July:** QI Training  
**June 6, 2017:** Dealing with Mental Health Issues During Disasters  
**June 6, 2017:** Alabama Obesity Task Force Meeting  
**June 15-16, 2017:** Independent Living Center Meeting  
**June 20-22, 2017:** Child Death Review Training  
**June 27, 2017:** Active Play Workshop  
**July 14, 2017:** CCC Meeting  
**Aug. 4, 2017:** Office of Women’s Health Update  
**Aug. 16-17, 2017:** Grant Training

**JOIN THE ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

AIPHA 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 AIPHA 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.

**Dues:**

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

You can include a check for your dues along with your enrollment form, or you can now pay instantly and securely online through Paypal.
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The Southern Health Association, Inc. annual meeting was held in conjunction with the 69th annual meeting of the Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) April 11-13, 2017, in Owensboro, Ky. Member states represented were Alabama, South Carolina, North Carolina, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Florida. The theme for the conference was “Meeting the Challenge to Improve Kentucky’s Health Status” and former SHA President Mark Hensley chaired the conference planning committee.

KPHA presented an outstanding conference with over 400 health professionals in attendance. Dr. Karen Desalvo provided the opening Keynote address titled “Public Health 3.0.” Topics included: “Electronic Health Records Implementation,” “Reducing Risks for Secondary Transmission of Imported Cases of Zika Virus,” “Social Determinants of Health and a Managed Care Organization’s Response,” “Building Healthy Communities Through Community Engagement,” “Making Good Health Contagious: Using Social Relationships to Prevent the Spread of Disease,” and many others timely to the opportunities we see in public health.

The SHA hosted a very successful social time for the participants and also a silent auction which garnered almost $3,000.

The next annual meeting of SHA will be held jointly with the Florida Public Health Association in Orlando in August of 2018, so please mark your calendars now.

- Jackie Holliday
ALPHA NEW/RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM

Email____________________________________________________________________________________
(secondary communication is achieved electronically)

Name (as appears on payroll) ___________________________________________________________________

AIPHA Name (If Different)________________________________________ Work Phone____________________

Agency/Organization ________________________________________ Area/County______________________

Agency Mailing Address________________________________________

<table>
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Membership Type | Annual Dues
❑ Full Time Student | $5.00
❑ Individual | $24.00
❑ Corporate | $350.00

❑ New Member  ❑ Renewal

PLEASE CHECK HERE! I would like payroll deduction. ______ (ADPH employees only, $2.00 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