The Alabama Public Health Association (AlPHA) will return to the Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill in Prattville for its 2019 Annual Educational Conference. The theme of this year’s conference, scheduled for April 3-5, is “The Changing Tides of Public Health.”

The conference will once again cover a wide-ranging variety of topics, including substance abuse disorders; infant and maternal health in rural areas; childhood lead poisoning prevention; professionalism and leadership; and much more. Our popular silent auction will also return this year.

You can view the current agenda and register for the conference at alphassoc.org/conference.

**NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR 2019 ALPHA AWARDS**

AlPHA’s annual awards ceremony honoring individuals for their outstanding service in public health will be held during the 2019 Annual Educational Conference. Nominations will be accepted through March 1 for the following awards:

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

The Guy M. Tate Award, 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, 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, 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, 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, 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.
NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR ALPHA HALL OF FAME

Please consider nominating a deserving individual for the ALPHA Hall of Fame. The HOF recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the enhancement of ALPHA. To be considered, the nominee must have been a member of ALPHA for at least 10 years and must have made, or is making, a significant contribution to ALPHA through membership growth, advancement of ALPHA and public health, and improvement of the organization. The nominee may be living or deceased.

All nominations should be addressed to the ALPHA Hall of Fame Committee, c/o Sheila Puckett, 57 Michael Lane, Wetumpka, AL 36092. Nominations will be accepted through March 1, 2019. Visit www.alphassoc.org/about-alpha/awards/hall-of-fame for more information.

DELEGATE REPORT: AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

This year’s conference was truly amazing as approximately 13,000 individuals from across the United States and the world gathered in San Diego, California, and shared their work toward creating the healthiest nation.

The theme of this year’s conference was “Creating the Healthiest Nation: Health Equity Now.” The workshops and panel discussions were excellent. The amazing fact is that health care providers across the nation are facing the same challenges as we are in Alabama. Sometimes we get wrapped up in what is happening in our state and think that our experience is unique and that no other state is facing similar problems, but they are. I was amazed when I talked with the affiliate representatives from Hawaii and Arizona and realized we have the same problems. I left the conference energized and ready to fight for our citizens to receive the best health care they can in Alabama.

Our state organization is very fortunate to be financially sound and have a board that is providing the leadership necessary to move us forward. Many of the other affiliates are losing membership and state support. Some states have been unable to pay their national dues and no longer have a say on issues that the national Governing Board votes on. We are one of the few affiliates that awards scholarships to our members and I was very happy to share that fact at the Affiliate meeting. We have a lot to be proud of in Alabama, but our work continues and I feel fortunate to be a member of the Alabama Public Health Association.

Submitted by Ross Hudson, ALPHA Delegate, American Public Health, Association Conference

HUDSON TO SERVE AS COUNCIL OF AFFILIATES REPRESENTATIVE

Ross Hudson, LICSW, Delegate from the Alabama Public Health Association, has been selected as the Region 1V representative to the Council of Affiliates. He is the first representative from the state of Alabama to fill this position.

Hudson will be reporting monthly to the council on the health issues and concerns of the affiliates for the following states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. He will coordinate communication from the national office to those affiliates and will participate in monthly conference calls. He will attend the annual mid-year council meeting in Washington, D.C., at no expense to the Alabama affiliate.

Hudson will serve a two-year term that will conclude in his final year as the ALPHA Delegate to the American Public Health Association in 2021.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can read a calendar like anyone else, but I still find it hard to believe that it has been almost a year since I first wrote to you as the current president of the Alabama Public Health Association. At the time I was addressing all of the major changes that had happened recently or were expected soon. Since then, we have seen the implementation and continuing improvements to CureMD, become accustomed to the ADPH districts, experienced different outbreaks and emergencies on multiple fronts, and gotten to know our new State Health Officer better. As our 2019 ALPHA Conference fast approaches, our thoughts turn to strategic planning and our challenges (and opportunities!) for the future. I remain hopeful for that future.

Please make every effort to attend and participate in this year’s ALPHA Conference. Better still, get involved and consider a role in leading and shaping the future of ALPHA. If you are like most of us, you will gain and learn from the experience. Even though my tenure as the association’s president will end as the conference concludes, I have no intention of letting my service to ALPHA, or to ADPH, end with it. I wish our current president-elect all the best as she prepares to serve in the coming year. I know she will do a great job and look forward to passing the gavel on to her. Thank you all for this opportunity. It truly has been an honor.

Richard W. Burleson, MBA, MPH
President, Alabama Public Health Association
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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Membership Type
- [ ] 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