

THE FLORIDA PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATE

A publication of the Florida Public Health Association



FPHA
Florida Public Health Association

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK....



Holiday greetings!

It goes without saying that there is strength in numbers, and therefore as we grow, the FPFA is stronger as a team- as a *network* - of public health professionals. We have experienced some challenges with membership this year, but together we can overcome this obstacle and move on to be better, stronger and more innovative than ever. We hope that all members are

reaching out to their co-workers to encourage them to become members. Just as with any organization, we get out of it what we put into it.

We have some exciting regional meetings in the works that will help us to provide networking and educational opportunities – which is of course, what we are all about. Share with your co-workers some of the interest groups they can be a part of, the updates we get from Chris Nuland on legislative issues, and encourage them to check out our webpages – which we are working to keep current and interesting. Also, be sure to like us on Facebook!

As we come to the end of the year, I am grateful for the caring professionals across the state and the country that work to protect and promote the health of all people.

Be sure to take time to sit quietly this holiday season, look around you at the many blessings that are a part of your life; those which, if you are like me, are sometimes taken for granted. Relish and savor your fun times, your quiet times, your food, your family and your community.

Warmest regards and best wishes for a joyful holiday season.

Shannon Hughes
FPFA President

Editor's Note

As the saying goes, "you don't know what you've got, 'til it's gone." There are many things in life that we tend to take for granted, things that we assume will always be available. Among those things are the many conveniences that we are afforded by a strong public health infrastructure. As you are making your holiday plans, please don't forget to renew your membership with the FPFA. Let's keep the FPFA strong, for the future of Florida. Thank you for your support!

NOVEMBER \ DECEMBER
2015

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Share Your Story – Why I am an FPFA Member

Please share your public health story on our Facebook page! Share about how you were introduced to the field of public health, what you are grateful for, or anything else you want to impress upon your fellow FPFA members. Thank you! Here are some from members.

“The FPFA brings me closer, virtually and literally, to other people like me, who share a passion for protecting and promoting good health for all people!”

Shannon Hughes

“One voice may not be heard while many voices speaking in unison can make a strong statement. That's why I'm a member of FPFA.”

Robert Maglievaz

“FPFA is important to me because it provides networking opportunities that facilitate learning how other public health disciplines support improving the health of our local communities. FPFA membership also provides me with resources to improve my knowledge and awareness of public health issues, priorities, best practices with possible solutions or public health interventions that work.”

Ethel Edwards

“Because of FPFA I've been able to meet others who care deeply about public health issues affecting Florida residents and visitors; importantly, they include people who work not only in different parts of the state, but also in different areas of public health. The opportunity to share best practices, and from different professional perspectives, has been valuable in helping me address those issues in my own community, as well as helping me appreciate the challenges faced by others elsewhere.”

Greg Danyluk

“Membership in FPFA is important to me, because it allows me to have a public health resource that keeps me informed and supports the goals of public health in Florida.”

Debbie Hogan

"I have been an FPFA member since 1999. Although I retired from DOH in 2011, I am still passionate about public health and have stayed engaged with FPFA. FPFA is the only organization in Florida that focuses on legislative advocacy for public health issues. FPFA also provides educational and networking opportunities for the public health workforce. This year, I invested in the future of public health by giving an FPFA membership to three new public health professionals. This is just one small way we can invest in the future of our public health workforce. "

Lynne Drawdy, FPFA Strategic Planning Chair

“Membership in FPFA has been and continues to be very important to me in my professional role within DOH and in my personal life. I have made valuable friends who share my passion, enjoy a great laugh and look forward to spending time with at conferences or when traveling through their areas in Florida.

With FPFA, I have made more of a difference and have had input in statewide legislative affairs, policies and bringing excellent speakers to our Conferences and Regional meetings. Now as the APHA rep for Florida, sitting on the Governing Council, I can promote what we do and what we need in Florida at a National level. Once you join and get involved, you will wonder why you didn't join earlier!”

Lori Jordahl, Past President, Past Recipient of the FPFA Meritorious Award and APHA Rep

“Membership is part of a commitment I have made to promote public health and public health nursing. I hope to help guide future public health professionals with many of the blessings I have had from former members. Membership in FPFA is our public health future in Florida”

Linda Lacombe-Williams

“Membership is one of vital importance for the overall operations and sustainability of any association. Without current members support through membership and the act of recruiting new members, an association may slip into financial and organizational jeopardy. Strength, support and growth are essential in furthering the mission of the Florida Public Health Association. FPFA requires the financial support memberships create and without these generated monies, fulfilling FPFA’s mission, vision and objectives will near about be impossible.”

Sandon Speedling

“All of the “little” conveniences of life (clean water and air, walking paths, etc.), are made possible in large part by a healthy public health infrastructure. I don’t want to take these things for granted. I want a healthy and vibrant association that is able to speak on my behalf, and on behalf of all Floridians. Membership just means giving up a dinner or two out.”

Rebecca Thomas

“FPFA membership is important to me because of the networking opportunities. Public health involves a number of unique professionals and agencies and only through FPFA am I able to meet and work with many of them.”

Richard France

“As a second year student in the PhD program in Health Promotion Disease Prevention at FIU, I recently became a member of FPFA. When I presented a poster at the 2015 FPFA educational conference, my first FPFA conference, I realized FPFA was the organization for me and, from the minute I joined FPFA, I felt welcome, appreciated, and important. As such, I now serve as FPFA’s secretary on their board of directors. I really enjoy all of the networking opportunities provided by FPFA. I have met so many public health professionals who I would probably have not met otherwise, without FPFA. I look forward to many more years with FPFA for so many different reasons such as meeting accomplished and working public health professionals, networking with other students, improving my CV in a variety of ways, and simply having fun!”

Jessica Weissman

“I have been a member of FPFA for many years. Membership in our professional organization has afforded me the opportunity to interact and more importantly, get to know my public health colleagues personally. We all share the same passion for public health and once you get to know them personally it is so much more fun to interact at FPFA as well as at work. Knowing people all over the state in public health has been so helpful when I need guidance or assistance. FPFA friends are friends forever.”

Warren McDougle

“FPFA has been my professional stronghold as I work in systems that do not yet understand the relevance of public health. You will never regret joining.”

Atalie Ashley West

I became interested in FPFA when my colleagues worked with the staff to organize the Annual Educational Conference in Jacksonville in 1989 which also celebrated 100 years of Public Health in Florida. I wondered-What was public health like 100 years (now >125 years) ago? Well, after this event, and with mentoring from the Public Health Laboratory Director at the time, Dr. Eldert Hartwig, the Jacksonville Laboratory Director, Ming Chan, the head microbiologist, Dean Willis, and both Peggy Melton and Bette Holeva, I learned more quickly! We attended meetings, with Dr. Chan and Dr. Willis schlepping the AV equipment and running the overheads (yes, this was a long time ago!) I became interested in the Epi/Lab section, and remember 2 meetings in particular: one when Dr. Roberta Lopez from the West Palm Beach Public Health Laboratory presented on influenza (and I decided it was a scary disease) and when Lea Heberlein-Larson and I did our first session as Epi/Lab co-chairs. We decided to have a poster session in the back of the room and invited a special guest speaker on Ehrlichia from the University of North Florida. Peggy, Bette and I became involved in helping out with registration one meeting when Sandy was extremely busy (and before Marsha started helping out). She looked at us one time, and we were behind the counter in a flash and enjoyed greeting everyone as they came to get their badges. Especially

memorable was the “Rapid Response” meeting in Ft. Myers. A hurricane decided to form on the first night, and we started scrambling to rearrange speakers and look for those that had PowerPoint lectures already assembled, as the speakers started to depart for their emergency roles. The meeting was shortened by a day, but we still had a great meeting and learned exactly what it took for Florida to respond to pending emergencies.

Being a member of FPFA allowed me to grow personally with the opportunities in the organization, but also as a professional: I was able to work with, meet and interact with those in various roles throughout the state, building trust, that I also touched on a daily basis at the public health laboratory and later, the agriculture laboratory. This came in especially handy with the events following 9/11. I fully appreciate my FPFA membership, and continue as an active member to this day, even though I have now retired from state government after 30 years and moved to another state and another role in public health. Florida has an organization it can be proud of, and membership in FPFA should be a priority for anyone working and touching the public health in the state, or even nation.

Yvonne Salfinger

Notes from the Executive Director

It is hard to believe we are almost ready to begin writing 2016. As I remember 2015, I am pleased with all the work FPFA had done. A very good Annual Educational Conference, active Legislative Session, funds received for scholarships, lots of Poster submissions, some great awardees and more. But if 2016 is to be a continuation of these successes, we need each of you to take part and continue your membership and bring others in too.

In all FPFA surveys of members, **advocacy** is the number one activity wanted. And FPFA continues advocating for public health professionals and programs. The Legislative Session starts early this year – in January. Chris has been working diligently to bring our concerns to the committees and individual legislators. Networking and Education are the next two important needs of our members. The Annual Meeting planning committee has been active developing a 2016 program that addresses both current needs and future anticipated issues. There are regional meetings being planned. Your Board and volunteers are busy. And you can join them by volunteering.

However, nothing can be accomplished without your support. And that also means your financial support. The easiest way is to be sure you renew your membership when notified and to go out and get at least one new member. I have seen FPFA with a huge membership and also with much lower numbers. And I know financially, times can be tough for each of us. But the Board and I ask that you continue to support FPFA through your membership and to help us reach out to the people who can make a difference in this state for public health. Dues range from \$15 - \$45. Not high compared to other professional organizations. So please stay invested in your public health professional association. And help get others involved.

APHA Report

Lori Jordahl

Lori Jordahl sits on the Governing Council representing Florida and at the Affiliates Meetings.

This year the theme was *Health in All Policies*. As always, APHA is very well attended with close to 13,000 in attendance.

Many states are experiencing tough times with regards to membership and finances. Illinois has the largest affiliate, with an office and staff. They are fortunate that all state Public Health workers are paid for membership. Even with our tough times, Florida still has a strong affiliate due to our Sandy and active members of the board.

One of the best activities at Affiliate day is Tag, where anyone can get up and share successes in 3 minutes or less (yes, we are timed). I shared the above and the successes of our Annual Meeting, including having representation and the Presidents from APHA and SHA. I spoke about the initiative that Lesli Ahonkhai took with getting board approval and starting on site the first Health Equity Special Interest Group. I shared highlights of how meaningful and powerful our legislative affairs, advocacy and Chris Nuland is. I also shared the opportunities for students and others to publish in our online Public Health review. 3 minutes is very little time. I picked up some ideas from other states and want to share them with the board at the next meeting and will report on this for the next publication.

Florida was one of the states that sent a letter to APHA asking for another keynote speaker to replace Ed Begley Jr., as he so actively fights nationally against fluoridation, especially since he is not an expert in this area of health care. APHA did not replace him but spoke with him to stay on topic. He spoke about global warming and how he conserves energy in his personal life and what others can do. We were also informed that APHA will have a committee to work on keynote speakers in the future.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you at the APHA Affiliates meeting.

University News

University of South Florida: USF open enrollment event draws the Tampa Mayor and the White House!

<https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/health/publichealth/news/usf-open-enrollment-event-draws-tampa-mayor-and-white-house/>

Dr. Claude Dharamraj retires after three decades of public health service

<https://hscweb3.hsc.usf.edu/health/publichealth/news/dr-claude-dharamraj-retires-after-three-decades-of-public-health-service/>

UF researchers call for close attention to flu viruses

<https://ufhealth.org/news/2015/uf-researchers-call-close-attention-flu-viruses>

Save the Date!

FPHA 2016 Annual Educational Conference

July 27-29, 2016

Challenges and Strategies for a New Age of Public Health