



August 2005
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Terri Sasser
2004-2005 President

Dr. Wayne Giles Selected as Keynote Speaker

Dr. Wayne Giles has been selected to open the 68th Annual Meeting this year. Dr. Giles is the Director of the Division of Adult and Community Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. He will provide an overview of chronic disease and health disparities in the United States, as well as discuss treatment and prevention options for addressing chronic disease.

Dr. Giles holds a B.A. degree in Biology from Washington University, an M.S. degree in Epidemiology from the University of Maryland, and an M.D. from Washington University. He has completed residencies both in Internal Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Preventive Medicine at the University of Maryland.

MPHA Registration Is Open; Remember to “Circle”!

Registration for the 68th Annual Mississippi Public Health Association Meeting in September is up and running. The location is ready, the speakers are set, and we’re looking forward to making 2005 our best meeting yet! Special thanks go to the Executive and Planning Committees who’ve worked so hard this year to get things going.

With the changes in the registration this year for MDH employees, there has been some confusion as to how to complete the registration form. Please read the form carefully, and follow the instructions which state *you must “circle” the registration indication even if you are an MDH employee and are not including the registration fee with your form.* Otherwise, there’s no way for us to know that you intend to attend the conference. You will have marked earlier on the form that you are an MDH employee, and that information will let Registration Chairperson Sandra Hill know that no registration money needs to be included. However, you still must include money to cover your membership dues.

Registration forms are available on the MPHA website at www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha or from Sandra Hill. If you have any questions about registration, please call Terri Sasser, MPHA President, at 601-266-5251 or Sandra Hill at 601-576-7819.

President-Elect and APHA Candidates Selected

The MPHA Executive Committee accepted nominations for the positions of President-Elect and APHA Delegate selected candidates from those submitted. The candidates for President-Elect are Diane Carlisle and Pam Miles. Candidates for APHA Delegate are Dr. Nick Mosca and Terri Sasser.

Diane Carlisle is a nurse practitioner for the Mississippi Department of Health, and currently works in family planning and STD clinics in Districts I and III. She’s been a member of MPHA since joining the MDH 15 years ago, and last year served as the MD/NP Section Chairperson.

Pam Miles is the Office Systems Advisor for District V at the MDH. She has more than 20 years of public health experience, and has been a member of the Association for 10 years. Pam currently serves as Treasurer of MPHA.

Dr. Nick Mosca is the Dental Director for the MDH, a position he’s held for almost three years. He has extensive public health experience through his work at the University of Mississippi Medical

Center prior to joining MDH, and remains active as a clinical professor and instructor there. He has been a member of MPHA since joining the Department.

Terri Sasser is the manager of CREATEs, the research center in the College of Health at the University of Southern Mississippi. She began her public health career with the Mississippi Department of Health more than 15 years ago, and has been active with MPHA for more than 10 years. She currently serves as President of the Association.

Look for more information on these candidates in the next newsletter and in the brochure at the Annual Meeting.

Vote on Proposed Changes to MPHA By-Laws

In addition to voting for a President-Elect and a new APHA Delegate, MPHA members have the opportunity to vote on some very important changes to the Association By-Laws. We've discussed the changes in the last two newsletters, and have so far received a positive response on the proposals. During the opening session of the conference on Wednesday afternoon, we will offer a question-and-answer session to discuss the proposed changes.

As a reminder, the changes proposed for the by-laws are:

1. To increase dues structure for all levels of membership,
2. To give the Executive Committee the authority to hire an Executive Director for MPHA,
3. To create an MPHA Outstanding Member Award to be given annually, and
4. To assign the parliamentary duties to the President-Elect.

If you have questions or comments regarding these changes to the By-Laws, please contact Terri Sasser (601-266-5251 or terri.sasser@usm.edu) or Larry Rouse (601-544-6766 or larry.rouse@msdh.state.ms.us).

Absentee Voting Available for Members

If you are a dues-paying member of MPHA and are unable to attend the conference in September, you still have the opportunity to vote for the elected offices and for the proposed changes to the By-Laws. Please contact Voting Chairperson Susan Howell at the MDH District IV Office, 662-323-7313, to obtain a ballot and cast your vote. Ballots will be available beginning September 1 and must be returned on or before September 16 to be included in the election results.

Awards Nomination Deadline is August 12

Awards Chairperson Vernesia Wilson urges everyone to turn in their nominations for Prestige Awards, Longevity Awards, and Section Awards as soon as possible, but no later than August 12, 2005. This year, those receiving Longevity Awards will be recognized during the Opening Session, a change from previous years. The winners of the Prestige Awards and the Section Awards will be honored during the luncheon on Thursday. For more information about the awards or to obtain a nomination form, contact Vernesia Wilson at 601-576-7135.

We'll see you September 21-23, 2005
68th Annual Meeting
Mississippi Public Health Association
Casino Magic Resort and Casino
Bay St. Louis, Mississippi