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NEWSLETTER

Pam Miles
2007 President

Message from the President

Hello to All.

This year promises to be a record year in the history of MPHA. The Executive Committee is already working hard to accomplish great things for our Association. By June 1, 2007, we should have our new executive director on board. The executive committee members are making every effort to make this year's conference educational, enjoyable and exciting.

"Focusing on Public Health" is the theme for this year's conference. It is my wish that every Mississippian will be able to focus on public health issues and begin to work for a healthier Mississippi for all.

I would urge all MDH employees and anyone else interested in focusing on public health to join MPHA now. Just watch us grow!!!

I am extremely proud to be serving as your president and I am looking forward to all the adventures that this year will bring.
Blessings, Pam Miles

MPHA WANTS YOU!



Let's aim for the record on membership this year and join MPHA whether or not you plan on attending the annual meeting. MPHA is more than a conference!

Check us out on our website at www.msdh.state.ms.us/mpha

Candidates WANTED

The MPHA Executive Committee is ready for nominations for the next President Elect for 2008-2009 term. If you know of an interested person, please contact a member of the Executive Committee to make the nomination. The Committee will select two candidates from those who are nominated and the election will be held at this year's Annual Meeting in September 2007.

Remember, candidates must be a member of MPHA to run for this position.



2007 Annual Meeting
September 19 - 21, 2007
Pearl River Resort
Philadelphia, MS



Don't delay; call **1.866.447.3275** today for you reservations. It is extremely important that you identify

yourself with the MPHA group **#MIS107A**. Room rates for the conference are \$65 plus tax per night for the single or double room. Tuesday, August 28, 2007 is the deadline for reservations blocked by MPHA.

National Public Health Week

From the desk of Terri Sasser

APHA and MPHA Urges Americans to Prepare for Health Emergencies During National Public Health Week



The Annual Nationwide Health Event Will Be Held April 2-8, 2007

Washington, D.C., January 26, 2007 – The American Public Health Association (APHA) and hundreds of partner organizations will encourage Americans to prepare effectively for public health threats, from bioterrorism and natural disasters to disease outbreaks, during National Public Health Week, April 2-8, 2007.

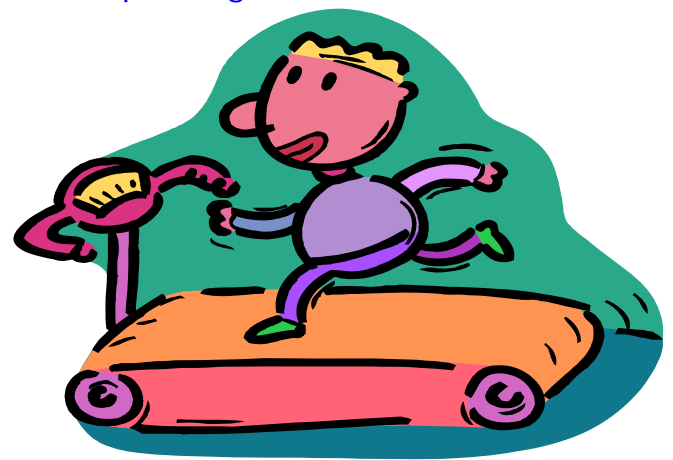
As part of the weeklong observance, themed “Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation’s Vulnerable Populations,” communities across the nation will explore ways to connect vulnerable populations, including mothers with young children, hourly-wage workers and people with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and asthma, with resources to help them prepare for health emergencies. Despite growing threats and a host of awareness campaigns, Americans remain largely unprepared for public health emergencies in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and other recent events. A September 2006 poll conducted by Marist College Institute for Public Opinion noted that only 31 percent of Americans have any emergency plans in place.

During the twelfth annual event, APHA will reach out to policy-makers, public health officials and partner groups across the country to empower them to share tools and resources that will enable residents to

overcome barriers to create preparedness plans. The week will focus on five core audiences who are vulnerable to health dangers: mothers with young children; local food banks; hourly workers and employees; schools serving children in kindergarten through 12th grade; and individuals with chronic health needs, such as diabetes, asthma, cancer and high blood pressure.

Last year’s National Public Health Week focused on ways that Americans can build healthier communities and address health threats associated with built environments, including air pollution and neighborhood design. More information on National Public Health Week 2007 may be found at www.nphw.org.

Founded in 1872, the APHA is the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world. The association aims to protect all Americans and their communities from preventable, serious health threats and strives to assure community-based health promotion and disease prevention activities and preventive health services are universally accessible in the United States. APHA represents a broad array of health providers, educators, environmentalists, policy-makers and health officials at all levels working both within and outside governmental organizations and educational institutions. More information is available at www.apha.org.



MPHA Awards

The Mississippi Public Health Association is currently accepting nominations for



Prestige Awards to be given at the 2007 Annual Meeting in September. Recipients must be current members of MPHA. Nominations are being taken for the following:

Felix J Underwood Award:

Recipients of this award earn an honor reserved only for those people who share concern with "the father of public health in Mississippi" for protecting the health of Mississippians.

John Vic Bailey Award:

Recipients of this award have performed outstanding service to his/her community or to an individual in the community during the preceding 12 months.

Alton B Cobb Award:

Recipients of this award consist of individuals who exemplify the service standards set by Dr. Cobb, who devoted nearly two decades of his distinguished career to serving as Mississippi's State Health Officer.

MPHA Outstanding Member Award:

Recipients of this award are honored for having gone above and beyond their day to day duties to dedicate their time to the mission and values represented by Mississippi Public Health Association.

Longevity Awards

If you have been with MDH for 20, 25, 30, 35, or 40 years, you are eligible to receive a Longevity Award as a member of MPHA.

Section Awards

Sections Awards are to be presented as well as the Prestige Awards.

- Remember nominations for any Section Awards are to be submitted to your 2007 Section Chairs.
- For more information contact your Section Chairperson.

The recipients of the above mentioned awards will be honored during the MPHA Awards Luncheon.

- For more information on these awards, or if you would like to nominate a fellow co-worker, you may contact Louisa Denson, at 601.576.7856



2007 MPHA Executive Committee Officers:

President - Pam Miles
President Elect - Jim Johnson
Past President - Diane Hargrove
Treasurer – Dongela Matory
Secretary – Lawana Thompson
ARGC/APHA Delegate – Terri Sasser

Section Chairs:

Clerical – Jackie Beeler
Environmental Health – John Luke
Epidemiology – Andrea Miller
Health Administration – Vernesia Wilson
Nutrition – Rhonda Guttuso
Nursing – Sandra Mangum
Physician/NP – Amanda Jordan
Social Work – Melanie Williams

Standing Committees:

Audit – Jason Easley
Awards – Louisa Denson
Exhibits – Judy Parrott
Policy & Resolutions – Larry Rouse

Special Ad-hoc Committees:

Membership – Saundra Hill
Entertainment – Kay Walker
Exhibits/On-site – Bruce Chamberlain
Silent Auction – Karen Herrington
Door Prize – Judy Iazard, Esther Poe
Voting – Roger Riley
Workshop Coordination – Jean Grantham
Audiovisuals - Malcolm Dodd
Hotel Arrangements – Buddy Daughdrill

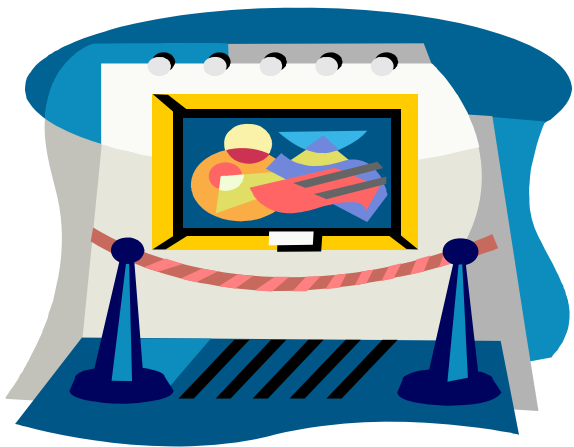


Silent Auction & Door Prizes

Have you often wondered what to do with all those Christmas, Bonko, and/or Birthday gifts? Gifts that just did not fit or was not what you wanted or needed. Wonder no more! Donate your unwanted gifts to MPHA Silent Auction/Door Prizes. One man's junk is another man's treasure!

- If you have donations for the Silent Auction, please contact Karen Herrington at (601.847.2755).
- If you have donations for the Door Prizes, contact Judy Izard at (601.894.2271) or Esther Poe at (601.825.2141).

EXHIBITS NEEDED



We need as many exhibitors as possible. If you know of anyone who would like to participate in the exhibitor booths, please contact Judy Parrott at 601.978.7864 with contact information and or suggestions.

Now this is Entertainment!

"You really don't want to miss this event," says Kay Walker. Wednesday night's special entertainment is for ALL attendees. Not gambling, not drinking, but clean fun and a lot of laughs at the expense of some very talented people. Since there is no where else to go in Philly besides the hotel/casino, we are providing an event that no one will forget for a long, long time! It's all about Public Health like you've never seen or heard before! Plus legitimate entertainment from within our own body of co-workers. This event to remember will start at 8:00 p.m. and will end when we cannot possibly laugh any more. BE THERE!



- If you have suggestions or you would like to volunteer to play an instrument in the back up band, please contact Kay Walker at 662.453.4563.

The Early Bird Gets the Worm

For your convenience a Membership Application/Annual Meeting Registration Form is attached as page 5 of this newsletter.

If you are registering for convention, remember:

- **Membership/Registration Application must be approved by your supervisor before you submit it to MPHA.**
- **\$85 must be entered in the window provided for MDH Employees Registration Fee**
- **MDH Employees are required to pay \$10 along with the submission of the Application.**