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### **MPHA Introduces New Logo**

MPHA introduces our brand new logo with this edition of our Newsletter. The logo emphasizes our mission involving leadership, education, and advocacy, and the colors were developed reflecting environmental colors. We hope you like it!

In addition, we are using an email service to improve our communication with members and as a way to expedite our contact with you. Several templates are being developed including this Newsletter format. It is very important that you provide us with the email address you use most frequently when you renew your membership application.

### **2008 Membership Survey Results**

During the 2008 Annual Meeting, a membership survey was provided to attendees and is providing some valuable information in planning future annual meetings as well as for membership planning.

74 percent of the respondents rated the conference as very good to excellent. You felt the conference should relocate and there should be more variety in speakers/workshops as well as changes in entertainment.

In the questions involving membership feedback, 88 percent of respondents stated their satisfaction with changes during the past 18 months was above average to very high. 78 percent rated their satisfaction with their MPHA membership as high to very high.

Most respondents rated Advocacy and promotion of better health status and professional development as the two highest reasons for why you are a member. In the area of membership benefits you would like MPHA to offer, the two highest indicators were more advocacy for public health and better and more communication.

Additional comments included statements in the area of communication including "more timely communication with members" and "keep members informed as to pending events, legislation or opportunities that affect membership." Additionally, there were comments around membership including "I think the organization should encourage membership to public health students as well as public health employees who are not employed by the Board of Health."

We thank you for your responses and plan to implement many of the suggestions and suggested directions as we move forward.

### **Let Us Hear From You**

Do you have ideas for the Association? Do you have a topic or speaker to recommend for the Annual Meeting? How about our logo or email method of communication?

We would like to use our member's ideas and knowledge to assist us in growing our Association and making it more responsive.

You can email our Executive Director Buddy Daughdrill at [bdaughdrill@hotmail.com](mailto:bdaughdrill@hotmail.com) or President Kevin Pearson at [kevin.pearson@msdh.state.ms.us](mailto:kevin.pearson@msdh.state.ms.us).

Let us hear from you!

## **2009 MPHA Executive Board**

Kevin Pearson, President  
Judy Parrott, President-Elect  
Jim Johnson, Past President  
Kay Henry, Secretary  
Louisa Denson, Treasurer  
Terri Sasser, APHA Delegate  
Roger Riley, Member-at-Large  
Buddy Daughdrill, Executive Director

### Section Chairs

Karen Herrington, Nursing  
Perry Robinson, EPI  
Wanda Green, Clerical  
Paul Chapman, Environmental  
Josie Moore, Nutrition  
Kathy Posey, Administrative  
Monica Sawyer, Social Work  
Linda Roland, Physician/NP

## **Executive Director Update**

**Buddy Daughdrill**

2009 looks to be an exciting year as we continue our efforts to grow and improve our Association. We plan to increase our communication with members through quarterly newsletters and other correspondence. We plan to unveil a new independent website. Additionally, we plan to provide additional advocacy efforts this year and to enhance our visibility in a variety of ways including a major outreach forum.

Continuing to grow and diversify our membership is essential. Shortly, we will send out membership renewal notices to our existing members (remember your membership is for each calendar year!) as well as announce a membership drive to recruit additional members. SEE MEMBERSHIP SECTION ON WEBSITE AND COMPLETE YOUR APPLICATION TODAY!!!

During 2009, we plan to focus our attention and efforts in the following areas:

- 1) Improve communication with members through newsletters, regular updates, and reminders through email and by soliciting your ideas and suggestions.
- 2) Implement a new website with enhanced features, information, and contact information.

3) Focus our advocacy efforts at the State and National level in the areas of improved public health funding, maintaining current immunization laws and standards, supporting the smoke-free indoor air act, and raising tobacco taxes in the state.

4) Increase our visibility and effectiveness through a variety of outreach and partnership efforts.

5) Develop a strategic plan to further clarify our medium and long-term direction and improve the Association.

**We had 603 members during 2008, and we need EACH OF YOU** to continue being a valued member by renewing your membership and finding a new member to join.

**Message from the President**  
**Kevin Pearson**



Each new year gives us opportunities to reflect and set goals for the year to come. We have had our first Board Meeting and began developing plans for membership, advocacy, and the Annual Meeting.

We are working on establishing an ad hoc committee to undertake a strategic planning process to analyze and develop medium and long-term directions for our Association.

Remember, January starts a new year for us, so please renew your membership as soon as possible.

We need your support and participation to make a **great** Association.

If you have questions or suggestions, please let me know.