

# 2025 Mississippi Public Health Association Annual Business Meeting



1

## Agenda

Welcome	Danielle Fastring, MPHA President
Treasurer's Report	Paige Stevens, MPHA Treasurer
Presentation of Candidates for Office	Susan Rigdon, MPHA Nominating Committee Member
Committee Reports	Committee Members
Executive Directors Report	Lydia West, MPHA Executive Director
Tips to Advance your Career	

2

# Welcome


3

## 2025 Treasurer's Report

4

# Presentation of Candidates for Offices

**CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT**



**Keltra E. Chandler, MPH, CHES**  
Program Manager, MSU



**Jameshyia Ballard, PhD, RDN**  
State Director MSDH WIC Program

**CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY**



**Hayli Sweigart**  
Graduate Student, UM



**Ora Williams**  
Graduate, USM

5



# 2026 Legislative Agenda

---

6

# Membership and Partnership Update

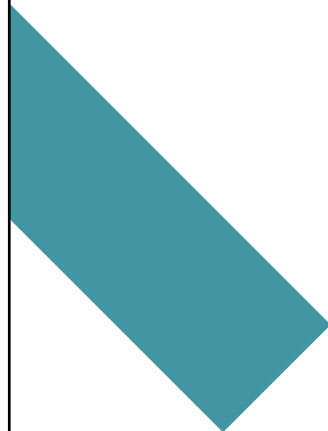
---



7

# Health and Racial Equity Update

---



8



# Executive Director Report

---

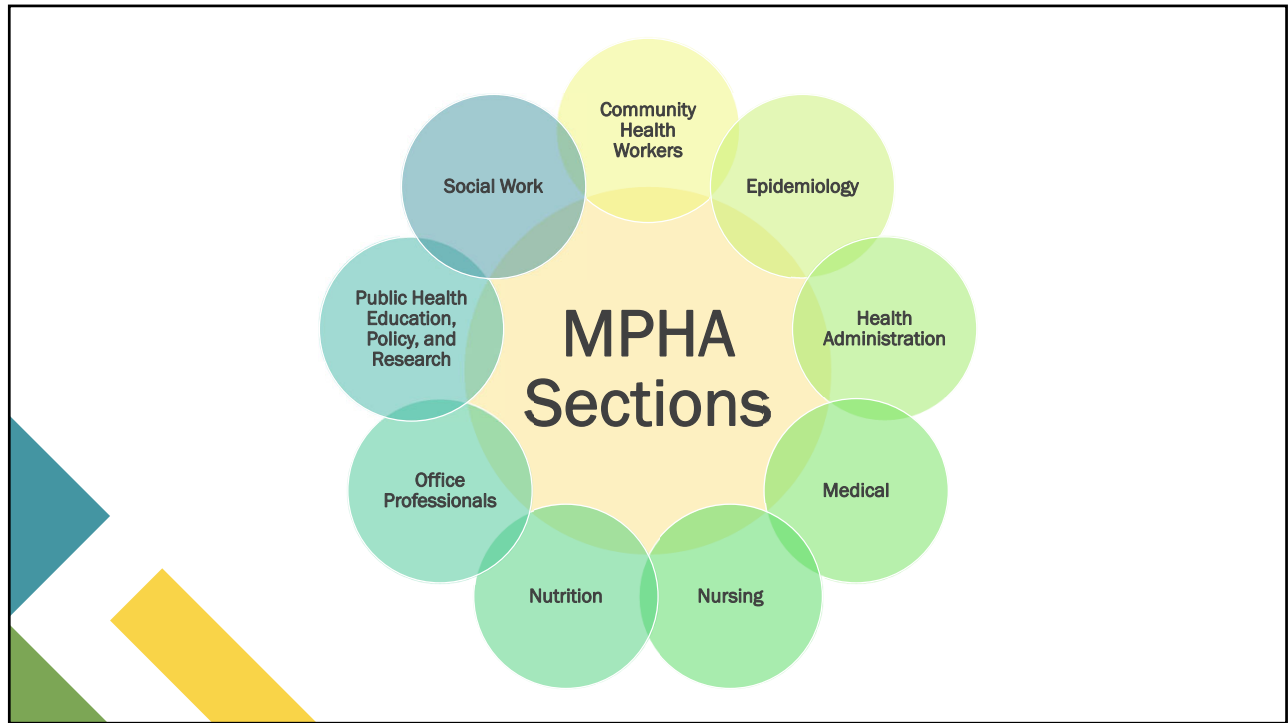
9

## 2024-2025 MPHA Board of Directors and Staff



President	Danielle Fastring
Past President	Karin Thurman
Secretary	Brad Martin
Treasurer	Paige Stevens
APHA Delegate	Shawn Rossi
Member-at-Large, North MS	Allison Ford-Wade
Member-at-Large, Central MS	Robyn Breland
Member-at-Large, East MS	Brittney Mosley
Member-at-Large, South MS	Jude Haney
Health and Racial Equity Committee Chair	Katie Buys
Student Member	Latasha Cox
MPHA Consultant	Valerie Collins
Accounting/Audit	Jason Easley
MPHA Executive Director	Kaye Bender (through June 30, 2025) Lydia West (after July 1, 2025)

10



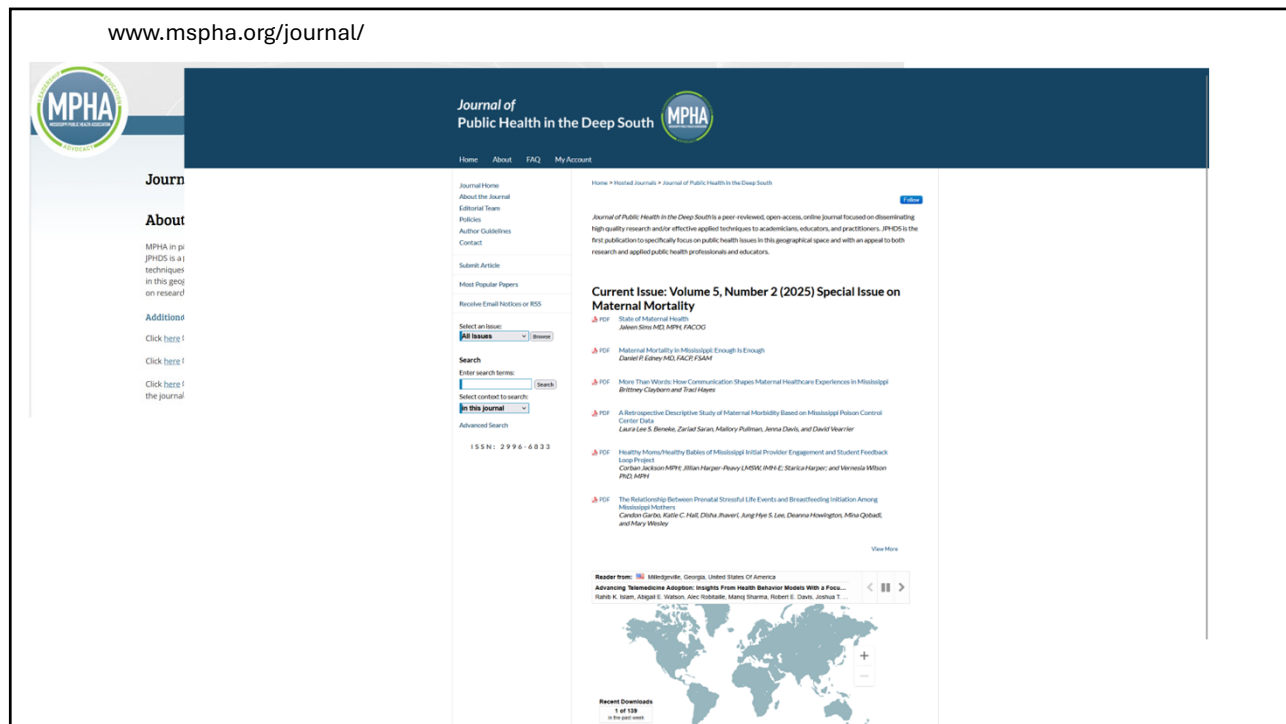
11

This banner highlights several public health projects for 2025. On the left, there is a vertical list of logos and project names:
 

- Age Friendly work (with a logo featuring a stylized 'A' and a flower)
- AIM work (with the AIM logo)
- Strengthening Capacity to Advance Health Equity (with a circular logo divided into colored segments)
- Special Olympics International (with the Special Olympics logo)
- National Public Health Week (with the NPHW logo)
- Journal for Public Health in the Deep South (with a logo featuring a stylized 'J' and 'S')
- Special Issue on Maternal Mortality / Violence Prevention in Public Health (with the MPHA logo)

On the right side of the banner, there is a large, abstract geometric graphic composed of several overlapping diamonds in shades of teal, green, and yellow. Below this graphic, the text "2025 Projects" is written in a large, bold, black font.


12



13



14





[2025 MPHA Annual Conference](#) | [Journal of Public Health in the Deep South](#)

## Webinars

**Healthy and Resilient Workforce Webinar Series**

This free series will focus on addressing a number of workforce topics that include challenges and opportunities; addressing burnout, fatigue and compassion; enhancing your career as well as workforce planning and development. Check back soon more sessions will be added to this list.

Registration is required for each of the webinars. Please click each link to register. A certificate of attendance will be emailed to participants after webinar. Keep checking back on this website - new information will continue to be added.

Schedule of Events:

- October 22, 12:00-1:00 PM: Building Your Personal Brand**  
Participants will learn about personal branding and leadership branding. You will also understand how to recognize individual core values. A demonstration on how to use social media websites to build your personal and leadership brand will be shared.  
**Speaker:** Shawn Rios, DPA, FACHE  
Please visit our YouTube Channel @mpha1937 to view a recording of the webinar: <https://youtu.be/CuJkCvzGdM8>  
[Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)
- October 29, 12:00-1:00 PM: More Than A Paycheck: Work and Human Flourishing**  
Mississippi's labor force participation rate measures how many people that can work, are working. The state has consistently ranked among the bottom in the US for labor force participation, but recent trends have shown improvement. This session will provide an overview of recent trends in Mississippi's workforce, including its relationship to mental health, "brain drains," and healthcare industry growth. Work is more than a paycheck - it's a pathway to human flourishing.  
**Speaker:** Rebekah Staples  
[Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)
- November 12, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM: PERIs on the Move**  
This presentation will provide PERI members with comprehensive information about benefits, and available benefit options, as well as information on the retirement process. The end of the presentation will also include information on Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust including retirement addresses, saving goals, budgeting, investing plan features, and enrolling.  
**Speaker:** Nirma Tillman, Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Mississippi.  
[Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)
- November 12, 1:30-3:00 PM: PERIs on the Move for Early Career and New Employee**  
This presentation will include an overview of PERI and what it means to be a part of a defined benefit plan like PERIs, as well as provide insight about the benefits of enrolling in Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust.  
**Speaker:** Cheyan Washington, Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) of Mississippi  
[Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)
- November 19, 12:00-1:00 PM: Succession Planning for Organizational Sustainability**  
This presentation will provide leaders with strategies for succession planning in the work place while considering internal and external factors, Budget challenges, staff turnover, and other adverse circumstances will be discussed as examples of factors.  
**Speaker:** Verneise Wilson, PhD, MPH  
Please visit our YouTube Channel @mpha1937 to view a recording of the webinar: <https://youtu.be/CuJkCvzGdM8>  
[Click here for a copy of the presentation.](#)
- December 2, 11:00-11:30 AM Strengthening the Soul for High-Stress Service**  
Reverend Buckley is a WFLA Fellow and a member of the inaugural class of the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute. He is committed to the causes of community development, social justice, and equity. This session will be another great addition to the MPHA Healthy and Resilient Workforce Webinar Series.  
**Speaker:** Reverend Reginald M. Buckley  
Zoom Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/zoommeeting/LwYfLQeSgRtDKE?si=50>
- December 16, 12:00-1:00 PM Health Communication in Challenging Times**  
Effective communication is central to advancing public health. This session explores how principles from communication science can strengthen public health practice as we seek to deal with empathy and evidence in times of uncertainty and change. Drawing on research and real-world examples, the session offers practical strategies for crafting messages that promote healthy behaviors, build trust, and foster resilience.

COVID 19  
[Age-Friendly Public Health](#)  
[Dr. Cobb](#)  
[Zika Virus Resources - provided by the CDC](#)  
[Ebola](#)  
[Organizations](#)  
[Mississippi Success Stories](#)  
[Public Databases and Reports](#)  
[Professional Development](#)  
[Career Services](#)  
[Webinars](#)

## HEALTHY AND RESILIENT WORKFORCE WEBINAR SERIES

Topic: *Strengthening the Soul for High-Stress Service*  
Date: December 3, 2025  
Time: 11:00 - 11:30 am



Visit [www.mspha.org/webinar](http://www.mspha.org/webinar) or scan the QR code to visit our website for more information.

Speaker



**Rev. Reginald Buckley**  
Pastor Buckley is a W.K. Kellogg Fellow and a member of the inaugural class of the Mississippi Black Leadership Institute. He is committed to the causes of community development, social justice, and equity. This session will be another great addition to the MPHA Healthy and Resilient Workforce Webinar Series.



## HEALTHY AND RESILIENT WORKFORCE WEBINAR SERIES

Topic: *Health Communication in Challenging Times*  
Date: December 10, 2025  
Time: 12:00-1:00 pm



Visit [www.mspha.org/webinar](http://www.mspha.org/webinar) or scan the QR code to visit our website for more information.

Speaker



**Holli H. Seitz, MPH, PhD**  
*Effective communication is central to advancing public health. This session explores how principles from communication science can strengthen public health practice as we seek to lead with empathy and evidence in times of uncertainty and change. Drawing on*



## HEALTHY AND RESILIENT WORKFORCE WEBINAR SERIES

Topic: *Supercharge Your Job Search with AI*  
Date: December 17, 2025  
Time: 12:00-1:00 pm



Visit [www.mspha.org/webinar](http://www.mspha.org/webinar) or scan the QR code to visit our website for more information.

Speaker



**Shawn Rossi, DHA, FACHE**  
*In this session, you'll learn how to leverage AI tools to enhance every stage of your job hunt. Participants will explore how to use platforms like ChatGPT, LinkedIn's AI features, résumé analyzers, and job-matching algorithms to gain a competitive edge.*

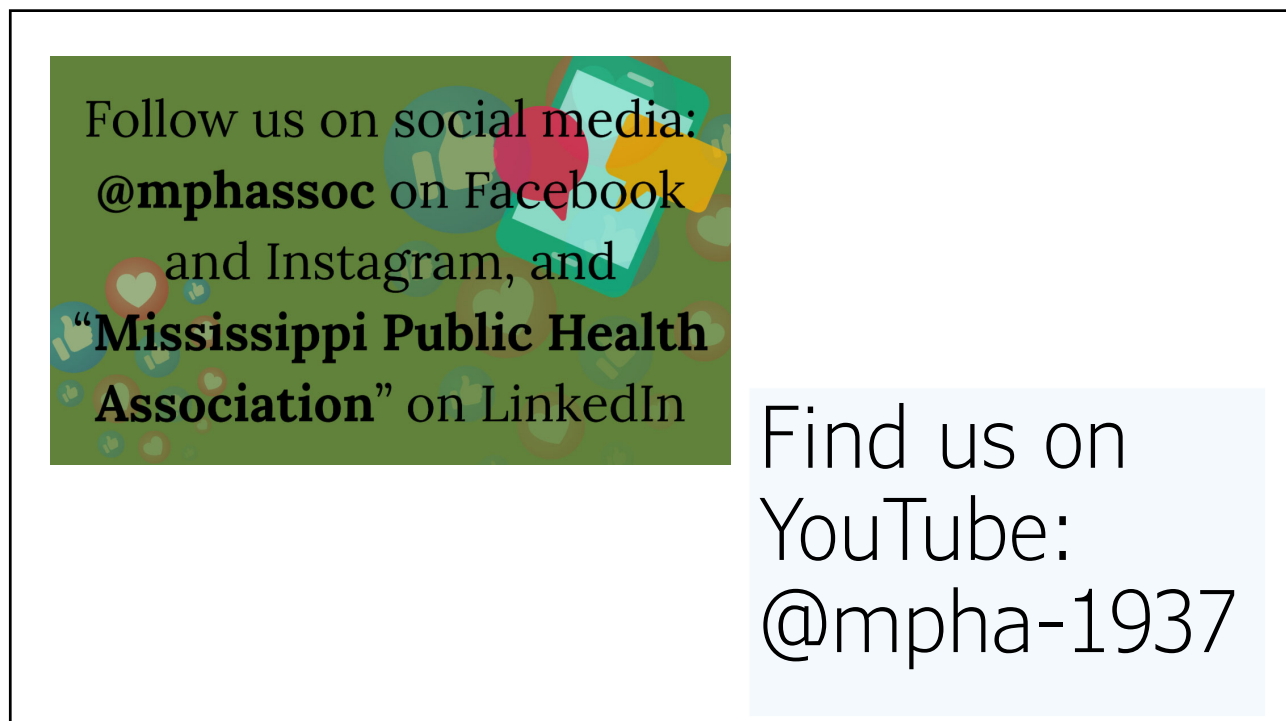






# 2025 Projects

17



Follow us on social media:  
**@mphassoc** on Facebook  
 and Instagram, and  
**“Mississippi Public Health Association”** on LinkedIn

Find us on  
 YouTube:  
**@mph-1937**

18

# Longevity Awards

**Deadline for Submissions**  
**December 15, 2025**


RECOGNIZING DEDICATED  
PUBLIC HEALTH ADVOCATES  
FOR THEIR YEARS OF SERVICE


20, 25, 30, 35, 40+

email submissions to:  
Lydia West  
[execdir@mspha.org](mailto:execdir@mspha.org)



19





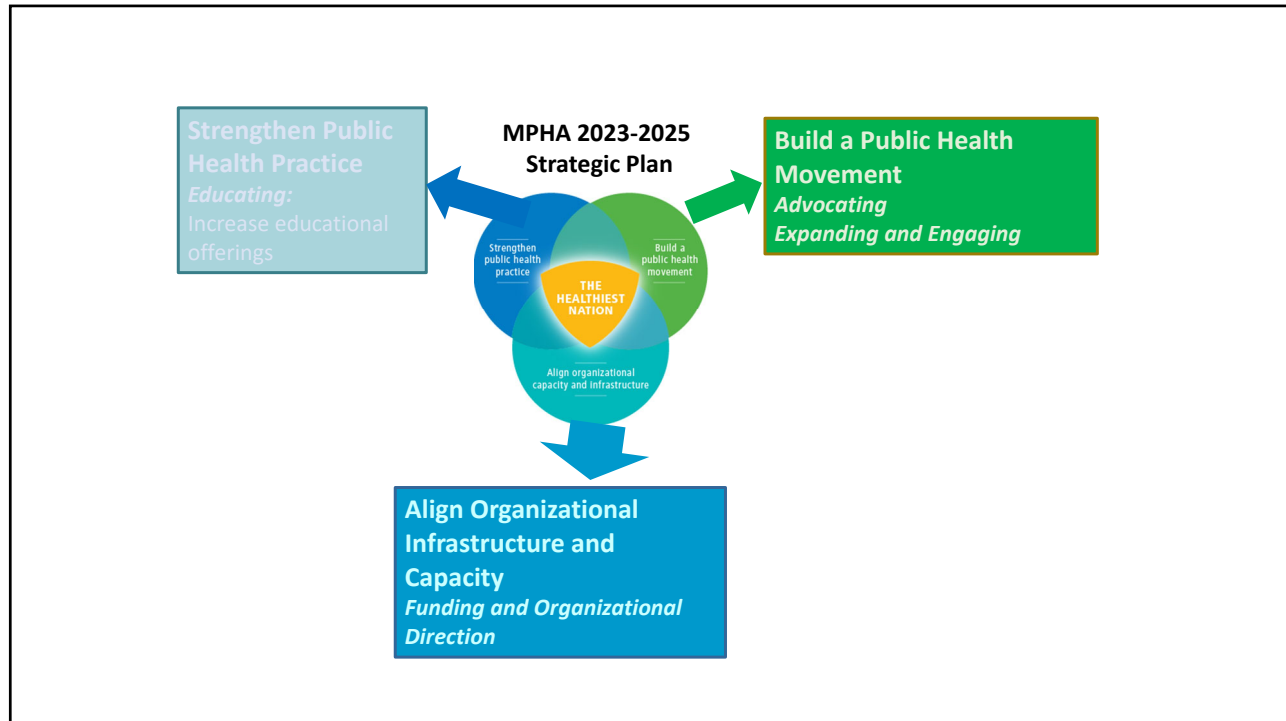
**Mississippi Public Health Association (MPHA)**  
**2023-2025 Strategic Plan**  
**Approved January 2023**

# MPHA

# Strategic Plan

---

20



21

## Are you ready to vote in the MPHA 2025-2026 elections?

**2025 Elections**

**CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**Keltra E. Chandler, MPH, CHES**  
Program Manager, MSU

**Jameshyla Ballard, PhD, RDN**  
State Director, Nutrition Program

**CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY**

**Hayli Sweigart**  
Executive Director

**Ora Williams**  
Executive Director

The 2025 MPHA elections are open.

Elections for the 2026 MPHA Board of Directors will be open December 2-9, 2025. This year we are voting electronically and will elect a president-elect and a secretary. The president-elect will serve 3 years on the MPHA board (Year 1 as president-elect, year 2 as president, year 3 as past president). The secretary position is a two-year position.

Jameshyla Ballard and Keltra Chandler are running for the position of president-elect. [Please click here to read more about each president-elect candidate.](#)

Hayli Sweigart and Ora Williams are running for the position of secretary. [Please click here to read more about each secretary candidate.](#)

**Voting Procedure**

When you are ready to vote, please click [here](#) it will take you to an electronic ballot. The election will be open until 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Lydia West at [execdir@mpha.org](mailto:execdir@mpha.org)

**About MPHA**

- About Us
- Executive Director Message
- Organization
- History & Achievements
- Sections
- Partnerships
- 2025 Elections

22

# Are you ready to vote in the MPHA 2025-2026 elections?

Scan the blue QR code to read about the candidates



Scan the green QR code to cast your vote



23

[www.mspha.org/membership-support](http://www.mspha.org/membership-support)

The screenshot shows the MPHA website's 'Membership & Support' page. The header includes the MPHA logo and navigation links: Home, About Us, Policy & Advocacy, News & Resources, Contact Us, and Membership & Support. Below the header is a secondary navigation bar with links to 2025 NPHW, Annual Conference, Journal of Public Health in the Deep South, Health and Racial Equity, Pine Belt Chapter, and Age-Friendly Mississippi. The main content area is titled 'Membership & Support' and features a section for 'Your MPHA Member Benefits'. This section includes a paragraph about the benefits of joining and a list of nine benefits, each with a brief description. On the right side, there is a green sidebar with a 'Membership & Support' heading and links to Member Benefits, Why Join?, Join or Renew - Individual Members, Donate to MPHA, Join or Renew - Organizational Membership, and Become an MPHA Sponsor. At the bottom left, there are two buttons: 'Join Online Today!' and 'Complete Paper Application'.

**MPHA**  
MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Home About Us Policy & Advocacy News & Resources Contact Us Membership & Support

2025 NPHW Annual Conference Journal of Public Health in the Deep South Health and Racial Equity Pine Belt Chapter Age-Friendly Mississippi

## Membership & Support

### Your MPHA Member Benefits

By becoming an MPHA member, you join a community of professionals and advocates committed to strengthening Mississippi's public health system. Not only will your professional network expand, but you will also help build a stronger voice for public health in Mississippi. Join Mississippi's first line of defense today, and you can:

- ▶ **Participate in MPHA's advocacy efforts.**  
MPHA is the collective voice of public health in Mississippi that advocates for public health issues and promotes policies that improve the health of all Mississippians.
- ▶ **Advance the public health profession.**  
Be a part of raising the public health profession's status by increasing awareness of its role in advancing a culture of health in our communities while developing your personal leadership and professional skills.
- ▶ **Receive ongoing communications on public health issues.**  
Monthly E-News and ongoing legislative updates and action alerts provided to your inbox with an active social media presence to keep you updated.
- ▶ **Expand your professional networking opportunities.**  
Whether you're looking to network with other public health professionals in your area or in your field or a student trying to connect, MPHA provides a great place to start.
- ▶ **Attend the MPHA annual public health conference.**  
Receive reduced fees to attend this premier conference which brings together more than 350 public health professionals from across Mississippi annually for keynotes and concurrent sessions on contemporary public health topics with continuing education access.
- ▶ **Engage peers by presenting your research and project work.**  
Academics and student can submit research and project work for opportunities to publish in our online Journal of Public Health in the Deep South or a poster or research presentation at our public health conference or other educational venues.
- ▶ **Receive professional recognition.**  
A nomination and awards process allows your peers to recognize you for your achievements and years of public health service.

Join Online Today! Complete Paper Application

**Membership & Support**

- Member Benefits
- Why Join?
- Join or Renew - Individual Members
- Donate to MPHA
- Join or Renew - Organizational Membership
- Become an MPHA Sponsor

24

## Giving Tuesday

Our advocacy work  
is supported by  
donations.

Scan the QR Code or visit  
[www.mspha.org/membership-support/donate-to-mspha](http://www.mspha.org/membership-support/donate-to-mspha) to make a donation



25

## 2026 Events

- New Strategic Plan
- National Public Health Week – April 6-12, 2026
- Leadership Symposium and Annual Conference
- Communication Skill Building



26

# Questions

---

