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## President's Message



### Funny How Time Flies . . .

As the old saying goes, "time flies when you are having fun". Well if that is the case, I must be having fun. I cannot believe that my year as KPHA President will be half over next month. It seems

like just yesterday we were all together in Topeka at the annual meeting and everyone was getting acquainted with Elaine as our new Executive Director.

I am so proud of all that KPHA is doing right now and I want to take this opportunity to share some of that pride with you, our members because you are responsible for our successes. I am most proud of the number of members who are stepping up and taking an active role in our association.

The new sections are off and running with great ideas and multiple activities planned. I have been on the board for almost five years now and this last board meeting was one of the most exciting ones I have ever attended. As we went around the room receiving section reports, many of the old timers on the board sat in near amazement at the level of enthusiasm being shared by section leaders. If you are not a member of a section at this time, you are encouraged to consider joining one or more sections. The KPHA website (<http://www.kpha.us>) has information about each section for your information.

Kim Richter is chairing our Legislative Action and Affairs Committee this year and is doing a great job working with Elaine and the board on monitoring activity at the statehouse. KPHA has provided testimony on a couple of health bills and is monitoring many others. Kim has established an internship project that some of her med students are working with to assist in this process. Not only does this approach help on the office workload, it is also serving to bring public health policy issues to the minds of our future physicians. Kim is also working with partners outside of KPHA to evaluate and strategize about the approach we are using to address public health policy advocacy in Kansas.

Heather Fuller has taken on the challenge of the Spring Training planning committee chairperson and is doing a great job. This year's training will happen in Salina and will be held at the Rolling Hills Zoo Conference Center. This will be a beautiful and unique location for the training. The theme this year will deal with chronic disease and public health but will also include sessions on non-chronic areas of public health. A feature event of this training will be a dramatic presentation portrayal of Dr. Samuel Crumbine that is being supported by the Kansas Health Foundation. Watch for more details, but mark your calendar for June 2 - 3, 2005.

Janice McCoy is serving as the Kansas Public Health Conference chair and is well on the way to producing one of the best annual conferences ever. The conference will be in Wichita at the Hyatt Hotel and Century II Convention Center. The theme this year will be dealing with extending the partners of public health. This is the year we share our sanitarian friends, so that means the bi-annual pork chop feed. Janice and her committee are working a very special pre-event that will include the pork chop feed and maybe even hayrack rides. Watch for more information in the months to come, but mark your calendars now for September 20 - 22, 2005.

Shirley Orr has agreed to serve as the Awards Committee Chair. Sue Bowden stepped down from this role after serving for many years and doing a great job. We all owe Sue a great big thank you for a job well done. Shirley is very excited about doing this task and as always will need your help. It is not too early to begin thinking about deserving individuals for the awards. If you are not familiar with the annual awards given by KPHA, you are encouraged again to check out the web site (<http://www.kpha.us>) for full description.

Scott Voss is working with APHA on a possible presentation about KPHA for the Annual APHA meeting this fall. This is a result of the success we have had in Kansas with our association. Are you aware that you are a member of one of the largest state Public Health Associations in the country? Well you are and we feel it is time we shared some of our secrets with the others. APHA is excited about this possibility as well, so stay tuned for more develops in this area as well.

So there you have it, just a few examples of what is going on with KPHA and why I am so proud to be serving as your association president. It is really an easy job when there are so many great members willing to step up and take an active role. On a quick personal note, I want to express my appreciation to so many of you that sent notes, cards and well wishes upon hearing of my heart attack on January 3rd. I am doing great now, in fact I was only away from work for a couple of days and have completed cardiac rehabilitation now. I saw my cardiologist this week and was given a great report and told to continue what I was doing and to see him in a year. You will never know what your kind expressions of concern meant to me.

Until next quarter, thanks for being the public health servants that you are and thanks for your support of the Kansas Public Health Association. [Back to menu](#)

## From the Executive Director



### New Beginnings

Hello to each of you from the KPHA office! By now, everyone should have recovered from the holiday season, settled into the winter season, but you are really ready for Spring! With it comes a lot of "NEW BEGINNINGS". One in particular is the beginning of a new Health Director for the State of Kansas, Dr. Howard Rodenburg.

But, my schedule has been way too full just learning the ropes, which I'm still doing. So, please forgive my errors and mistakes. I promise after 6 months to a year, I'll know better how to do things in and out of the KPHA office. Please stop by, or call, if you have any questions or concerns. I feel a bit as I did when I was a legislator in the Kansas House of Representatives, and believed I worked for my constituents. As the Executive Director of KPHA, I work for you, the members.

This is a personal invitation to you to attend Dr. Howard Rodenburg's "Good Luck" and open house, welcoming reception sponsored by KPHA, KDHE, KALHD, KHI, KHF, KHI, KHA, KPHLI, KSNA, KUSM, and WUSN on March 16, 6:30-8:30 at the Topeka Public Library. It will be a great opportunity to meet with him! Several who are attending are bringing a plant or something else for his new office from their organization. You are also welcome to do the same, or you can have them delivered to the Library in the afternoon on March 16th to the Marvin Auditorium at 1515 SW 10th Ave in Topeka, if you can't attend.

The legislature, as Phil mentioned, is in town, but things currently are rather slow in the passage of anything of great public health interest at this point in the session. Never underestimate the legislature, though, as anything can happen at any time. It was a rare feeling to be in the capital these past few months as a "Lobbyist", since I served there as a legislator for eight years, but I have truly enjoyed it, and look forward to being there more often as the pace quickens.

One of the new tasks I took on in September was to become a "Scholar" in the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute sponsored by a Kansas Health Foundation grant and developed by the Workforce and Leadership Development Center (WALD). I have attended 2 sessions in Wichita and have come away with so much knowledge, camaraderie, new acquaintances and great public health friends. We each have a capstone to work on. Below is mine for KPHA. Keep in mind that in the interview process for my job I learned that the association was interested in having the Executive Director spend less time at the capital and more time in the KPHA office during the legislative session. I'm working with the KPHA Legislative Committee Chair, Dr. Kim Richter on this capstone:

### 2005 Capstone Project

Currently there is a semi informal and somewhat disjointed approach to effecting policy change for public health in Kansas with many players and some, but very minimal collaboration. This frequently results in mixed messages to legislators and confusion among public health partners. Much of the burden for sorting out the issues and carrying the water for the public health community in the legislative process has been assumed by the Kansas Public Health Association by default, causing an undue burden on the infrastructure of KPHA. In order to present a legislative unified voice for Public Health in Kansas in the state legislature, a process needs to be developed to:

1. Determine what entities and organizations should be involved in public health policy, regulations, and statutes.
2. Invite those identified to introduce the concept of a collective and unified voice.
3. Meet to establish a formal process for developing a proposal and to name the new collaborative alliance.
4. Develop a plan to monitor legislation and determine the position of the collaborative alliance and how and to whom that position will be disclosed.
5. Investigate the option of employing a lobbyist to represent the alliance.

As you can see, it will be a lofty ideal to actually achieve, but with the help of many KPHA members and partners, we can, should, and will have a better public health voice in public policy in the years to come! As this year's Legislative Chairman for KPHA, Dr. Kim Richter conducted the first meeting to discuss this big undertaking, it went very well, and we all agreed that public policy making and supporting governmental advocacy on public health issues has to be a priority.



*Here are my fellow KPLHI scholars listening intently in class at the Spiritual Life Center, in Wichita. More pictures to come on our website.*

I'm so excited about this year's National Public Health Week, April 4-10, 2005, focusing on seniors! With my background as a Nursing Home Administrator and working at KDOA, I've reached out to many of my "aging" acquaintances to help us make it a very public event in Kansas this year. At the local level, we need your help to make it so. Below is information from APHA. AND, if you are interested in participating in the photo opportunity with the Governor at the proclamation signing, please let me know. The more we have in the picture, the better the support will be for public health. I'd also suggest you submit articles to your local newspapers for the week. You can use the Fact Sheets already put together by APHA! There are enough for the month before, too! And, don't

forget to get with your Aging partners in your communities. You can find them at: <http://www.agingkansas.org/>.

Under another topic, I want to publicly thank Candace Taylor, KDHE, a very special KPHA member, and also a KPHLI scholar for giving and teaching me how to use an Access Phone Log that she developed for incoming calls in the Epidemiology Section of KDHE. I now can track, electronically, the calls and all pertinent information KPHA receives, via the phone and phone messages. It will be a phenomenal tool. And, Candace has agreed to share it at our training and annual meetings if those planning committees so desire.

In the upcoming months I know I'll be very busy with the legislative process, helping with Spring Training and the Fall Conference, writing some grants, working on recruiting members, and doing the other important work of association management. Being an office staffed with an "army of one", I do need your help and encourage you to get involved. For example, Ed Garner, has taken the History file for KPHA and has agreed to write a summary for 1970-2005. We found the [history from 1920 up to 1970](#), you may view it by clicking on the previous link or view it under the [About Us](#) page the next time you are visiting our site. Thanks, Ed!

In closing, I still feel "new and making mistakes", but I love the job, and the people! Thanks for making me feel so welcome, much appreciated and supported in my role as your new Executive Director! Since we are electronically sending the Newsletter to membership, Phil and I have talked about writing a KPHA newsletter bi-monthly, so be looking for another one in May! [Back to menu](#)

## Association News

### KPHA Board Meetings



The KPHA Board meets every other month and has an Executive Committee Phone Conference Call in the in-between months. To see the minutes and Executive Director's Report, be sure to visit [www.kpha.us](http://www.kpha.us). The minutes for the January meeting have not yet been approved-they will be at the March meeting, but a draft of those minutes will be in the next eUpdate, along with the Executive Director's Report. [Back to menu](#)

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## [Meet Your 2005 KPHA Board](#)



*Left to right: Scott Voss, Ida Nesmith, Allison Alejos, Cindi Treaster, Janice McCoy, Shirley Orr, Janice Dunwell, Timothy Swindoll, Eldonna Chestnut, Phil Griffin, Ed Kalas*

**Phil Griffin, President**, TB Control and Prevention Director, KDHE, Topeka, Kansas

**Special Skills:** Fund Raising, Personel/Human Resources, Finance/Budgeting, Business/Management, Membership Recruitment, and Marketing

**Professional background:** For-profit business, Government, and Non-profit organization

**Education:** Undergraduate college degree and some graduate coursework

**Other affiliations and service:** APHA, Kansas Unity and Pride Alliance Board Treasurer, National TB Controllers Association Board Member, Metropolitan Community Church of Topeka Board Vice Moderator, KPHLI Fellow, Certified Public Manager, Ks Society of Certified Public Managers member, American Academy of Certified Public Managers member, State Systems Leadership Initiative member

Public Health areas of interest: Infectious Disease, Leadership and Administration

Previous KPHS Board service: At Large member 01-02, At Large Executive Committee 02-03, President Elect 03-04

**Janice McCoy, MPH, President-Elect**, Administrator/Health Officer, City-Cowley County Health Department, Winfield, Kansas

**Special Skills:** Business/Management

**Professional background:** Government

**Education:** Graduate degree

**Other affiliations and service:** APHA, Cowley County Interagency Coalition, Chair of South Central Metro Regional Bio-terrorism group, Cowley County LEPC

Public Health areas of interest: Community Health, Maternal, Child Health

Previous KPHS Board service: Section Chair, Conference Breakout session Chair

**Allison Alejos, RN, BSN, Treasurer**, Adult Field Services Division Mrg, Shawnee County Health Agency, Topeka, Kansas

**Professional background:** Government

**Education:** Undergraduate college degree

**Other affiliations and service:** KHCA, KAMU&, KSNA, NACH Public Health areas of interest: Public Health

Areas of Interest: aging, tuberculosis control

Previous KPHS Board service: At Large, Treasurer

**Holly Whitlock, Secretary**, Human Sexuality Programs Coordinator, Johnson County Health Department Overland Park, Kansas

**Special Skills:** Fund-raising, Finance/Budgeting, Marketing, and Membership Recruitment

**Professional background:** Government

**Education:** Undergraduate college degree and some graduate coursework

**Other affiliations and service:** American School Health Association, American Red Cross Health and Safety Board

**Public Health areas of interest:** HIV/STD, TB, Teen pregnancy, Human sexuality, Child Development, Prison Health

**Previous KPHS Board service:** Health Promotion Section member, Conference Planning Committee

Other pertinent information: Community Health degree from University of Kansas

**Janis Goedeke, ARNP, Director At Large (elected to serve on Executive Committee)**, Health Officer, Crawford County Health Department, Pittsburg, Kansas

**Special Skills:** Business Management-local county viewpoint

**Professional background:** Government-local health department

**Education:** Some post-secondary education/training, ARNP

**Other affiliations and service:** Crawford County Children's Coalition, PACO, FACT Inc.

**Public Health areas of interest:** strengthening public health at the local level (I live, breathe, and die public health)

**Previous KPHS Board service:** filled a vacant position on the board last year and was elected as director at large this year.

**Other pertinent information:** Married for 32 years, 3 children: Darren-chemical engineer, Mary-lawyer, Stacy-KSU student; Husband, Darrel is a teacher and farmer. I enjoy spending time with family. Hobbies include sewing, quilting, gardening, and working with daughter training dogs and serving as a 4H dog judge. Love to do "Special" Things for my family.

**Cyndi Treaster, Director at Large**, Ks Farmworker Health Program Manager, KDHE, Topeka, Kansas

**Special skills: Personnel/Human Resources**

**Professional Background:** Government

**Education:** MSW MA Lain American Studies, 2004 KPHLI Fellow

**Heather Hicklin-Henke, RN, Administrative Section Chair,** Administrator, Barber County Community Health Department, Medicine Lodge, Kansas

**Special Skills:** Membership Recruitment

**Professional background:** Government

**Education:** Undergraduate college degree

**Other affiliations and service:** La Leche League, KALHD, APHA

**Public Health areas of interest:** Breastfeeding, Education

**Eldonna Chestnut, Child Family, and Community Health Section Chair,** Division Director of Adult and Child Care Facilities, Johnson County Health Department, Olathe, Kansas

**Special Skills:** Management

**Professional Background:** For-profit business and Government

**Education:** Graduate degree, KPLHI Fellow

**Other affiliations and service:** Sigma Theta Tau, Alpha Sigma Tau Alumae,, Elder Needs Assessment Committee

**Public Health areas of interest:** Children's health and safety, daycare safety, elder care and elder abuse prevention

**Other pertinent information:** married, one son (Justen) age 7

**Ellen Averett, PhD, MMSA, Education and Research Section Chair,** Research Assistant Professor, KU School of Medicine, Department of Health Policy and Management, Kansas City, Kansas

**Professional background:** For-profit and Nonprofit organization

**Education:** Graduate degree

**Other affiliations:** APHA

**Public Health areas of interest:** health communications, disease prevention, health promotion, program evaluation, child development/health

**Other pertinent information:** clinical psychology and health systems/policy background

**Ed Kalis, Environmental Section Chair,** Environmental/Consumer Protection Officer, Shawnee County Health Agency, Topeka, Kansas

**Special Skills:** Finance/Budgeting, Management, Public Relations

**Professional Background:** Government and Nonprofit Business

**Education:** Graduate degree

**Public Health areas of interest:** Limited English Proficiency, investigation and enforcement standards, children's environmental health and safe homes issues

**Previous KPHA Board service:** 2002-2004 Environmental Health Section Chair

**Ida Nesmith, Infectious Disease Section Chair**, Disease Containment Program Manager, Johnson County Health Department, Mission, Kansas

**Special Skills:** Personnel/Human Resources, Business Management

**Professional Background:** For-profit business, Government, and Nonprofit organization

**Education:** Graduate degree

**Other affiliations and service:** KS Immunization Action Coalition, KIAC, Metro Imm Action Committee, TB Coalition, KC Metro TB Coalition (Past President) to be on KC APIC board this year, MAIC, Mid American Immunization Coalition-on steering committee for metro area

**Public Health areas of interest:** Infectious Disease

**Dawn McGlasson, Oral Health Section Chair**, Oral Health Consultant, KDHE, Topeka, Kansas

**Professional Background:** Government, Clinical Dental Hygienist, Public Health Dental Hygienist

**Education:** Some graduate coursework

**Other affiliations and service:** ADHA, OHK

**Public Health areas of interest:** Oral Health

**Timothy Swindoll, Student Section Chair**, KUMPH, KUMC, Kansas City, Kansas

**Special Skills:** Membership Recruitment and Technology

**Education:** Undergraduate college degree, Masters Student

**Other affiliations and service:** Research Assistant for KUMC Health Policy and Management

**Public Health areas of interest:** Infectious Disease

**Heather Fuller, Tobacco, Substance Abuse & Mental Health Section Chair**, Public Health Educator/Outreach Coordinator, KDHE, Office of Health Promotion

**Special Skills:** Fundraising (previous job) Membership Recruitment

**Professional background:** Have worked for hospitals, previously

**Education:** Graduate degree or higher, MS

**Other affiliations and service:** Clay Center Chamber of Commerce

**Public Health areas of interest:** obesity, physical activity, nutrition, tobacco prevention

**Other pertinent information:** KPHLI fellow. Married to Jason, daughter-Karter Kathleen [Back to menu](#)

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**2005 National Public Health Week - April 4-10, 2005**

**Empowering Americans to  
Live Stronger, Longer!**



## **EMPOWERING AMERICANS TO LIVE STRONGER, LONGER**

### **NPHW Materials are Available**

Materials to help our partners promote NPHW are now available on the NPHW Web site at <http://www.apha.org/nphw/toolkit/05-toolkit1.cfm>. Materials available include:

### **Suggested Activities for NPHW**

As part of the "Live Stronger, Longer" campaign, we are encouraging our partners to host health assessment events and/or townhall meetings during NPHW.

### **Health Assessment Event**

A health assessment event is an effective way to demonstrate your commitment to helping older adults in your community live healthier lives. APHA is asking its partners to use The Living to 100 Healthspan Calculator developed by [Thomas Perls, MD, MPH](#) and brought to you by the [Alliance for Aging Research](#) in hosting this event. This tool is the only comprehensive electronic tool that we found that asks individuals comprehensive questions regarding their health. This five-minute health assessment looks at all aspects of an individual's health. This tool would be effective at health fairs, senior centers, and community events with the intention that Americans may supplement their assessment by visiting tables that offer information on health areas in which they might need to improve. The [Living to 100 Healthspan Calculator](#) has received national attention and we are happy to partner with Dr. Perls and the Alliance for Aging Research. We need your help to ensure that we screen as many older Americans as possible during the week.

The White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) occurs once a decade to make aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress. This year, APHA wants local partners to help provide information to the WHCOA on the barriers communities face in providing services and resources to older Americans. To do this, we are asking for our partners to hold "town hall meetings." A town hall meeting provides a public forum for policymakers, community leaders and others in the public health arena to discuss the barriers to healthcare older adults face. You will find resources on how to develop such forums in our toolkit.

### **Become a Partner**

Join in observing NPHW as a partner. There is no cost to being a partner, because we know the success of NPHW will depend on the energy of our national and local partnerships. APHA will provide partners with outreach materials to accomplish this goal. All partners are asked to link their organizations' Web sites to the NPHW Web site. Each partner will be recognized on the partner page of the NPHW Web site. In order to become a partner, please complete the partnership form at [http://www.apha.org/nphw/sponsors/05-partner\\_form.cfm](http://www.apha.org/nphw/sponsors/05-partner_form.cfm).

## **Post your NPHW Event on the NPHW Calendar**

(Special note-Heather Henke has already done hers!)

Please post your local National Public Health Week events on the interactive NPHW calendar. You can electronically **submit** your events. Your event will be posted in your state on a virtual map of the United States. This list of events will be used by the public and the media to find out what NPHW events are taking place in their communities.

As you can see, much has already gone into the activities for the week, and it's not too late to get in on the action. Don, (our student intern) has been working, too, on NPHW. If you have any questions, give us a call. **[Back to menu](#)**

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## **2004 September Poster Winner's describe their experience at APHA meeting in November**

I submitted a scientific research poster at the Kansas Public Health Association's 2004 Annual Conference held in Topeka. Upon winning the student poster category, I was provided a trip to attend the APHA conference in Washington D.C.

This trip allowed me an opportunity to represent the state of Kansas, KPHA, and KDHE at a national public health conference. It was a chance for me to learn from experts in the public health field, listen to cutting-edge researchers and discover the latest public health services and products. Information and knowledge gained from this national conference is an extremely valuable asset. I met and networked with other public health professionals from around the country, and was able to review others work through the poster sessions and paper presentations. Attendance of this conference has increased my desire to become more knowledgeable of public health issues both locally and nationally. I thank KPHA for allowing me the opportunity to attend this very informative conference.

### **Michael S. Kopf CFSP**

Medical Investigator

Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

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Attending the APHA National Conference was an excellent opportunity for professional development. While at the conference, I was able to attend many exciting workshops. These workshops were a benefit as they directly relate to efforts happening here in Kansas; Tobacco Use Prevention, Coordinated School Health, Community Organizing and many others. Valuable information was also provided on working with the media and developing advocacy skills.

APHA also provided an opportunity to network with other public health professionals and organizations, such as the American Legacy Foundation. After attending the "Funding for State and Local Tobacco Control Programs", I was able to connect with other professionals doing the same work as myself. It was great to hear their ideas and to

share experiences.

The National Conference was a wonderful experience. I appreciate the opportunity to represent KPHA and KDHE by attending. Thank you.

**Heather H. West**

Public Health Educator  
KDHE/Office of Health Promotion  
Tobacco Use Prevention Program

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The opportunity to attend the APHA conference was an exciting professional experience. This opportunity contained many benefits that enhanced both my morale and knowledge. The first benefit was being able to attend the moderated sessions and poster sessions. By attending these sessions, I was able to learn what other states are doing to improve the health of their communities. I obtained a vast amount of information in the form of handouts and notes. I brought back this information, and have been doing my best to integrate these new ideas into the activities I am associated. Some of the information I have been able to share with others whom I hope might benefit from the project examples or contacts from other states. The second benefit was being able to meet other public health professionals and discuss directly with them the challenges and successes they have had. These relationships have increased my network of professional contacts for collaboration and information seeking efforts. I also attended the Public Health Rally on Capital Hill, which was a very exciting event.

My experience at APHA was a wonderful and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to attend. Thank you.

**Julie Oler-Manske, MS**

Research Analyst  
The Kansas Chautauqua Informatics Project Manager  
Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health  
University of Kansas School of Medicine [Back to menu](#)

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## Coming Events

Please attend the welcoming reception for Dr. Rodenburg, and watch your emails for details on the Spring Training and Fall Conference:

- Welcoming Reception for Dr. Howard Rodenburg, Topeka Public Library, March 16, 2005, 6:30pm to 8:30 pm
- Spring Training 2004 - June 2nd and 3rd in Salina at the Rolling Hills Zoo Conference Center. Heather Fuller is Chairing this year's Spring training
- 2005 Annual Statewide Public Health Conference, September 20-22, Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Janice McCoy is this year's Conference Chair.

## Made A Change? Let KPHA Know

Have you changed your contact information? Help KPHA continue to keep in contact with you by letting us know your new mailing address, e-mail, or phone number. [Back to menu](#)

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