

December 2009

**Special points of interest:**

- **The second year of the 100- year commemoration continues in Wilmington October 27–29, 2010.**
- **NCPHA Newsletter will be distributed primarily in an electronic format.**

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# NCPHA Quarterly Newsletter



## Message from the President-*Mike Reavis*

Can you believe 2009 is almost over?! It was an exciting and challenging year for Public Health. Many of you (almost 500!) went to Asheville this fall to participate in the kick off to a 3 year commemoration of the birth of NCPHA and 100 years of stellar public health service. The turn out was impressive - especially considering the budget woes associated with a severe economic downturn. My sincere thanks to those who made the 2009 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) happen in such a magical way. Thanks to our sponsors, vendors, speakers, staff, program committee, section officers, executive committee, academic partners, committee chairs, etc., etc.



This year's executive committee has already embarked on strategic planning to keep the momentum going! We pledge (with your help) to ensure that NCPHA continues to enable it's members to improve the public health through political advocacy, public awareness, professional development and the interface of research and practice. Our vision includes expanding membership to our many public health partners (hospitals, community care, mental health, academics, Boards of Health, public sector, etc., etc.) to ensure that NCPHA is the leading professional association for those dedicated to promoting and protecting the health and environment of North Carolinians.

This is your professional organization. I encourage you to get involved. As Dan Shingleton (NCPHA's Historian/Poet Laureate) so eloquently stated during the 2009 AEC Awards Banquet, "...will the true public health folks please stand up!" Please stand up and be counted as a working member of NCPHA! Contact Lynette, any of the Executive Committee or Governing Council or Committee chairs to volunteer. We have over 800 members - up from recent years but down from the not too distant past. We need to be 2,000 strong when addressing the legislature in the up coming Short Session. If all 800 recruit just 2.5 new members we would be there. Each member of Governing Council plans to recruit 5 new members this year. Will you pledge to recruit 2.5? Please answer the bell and stand up for public health!

The 2010 program committee, lead by President Elect, George O'Daniel, is preparing for the 2010 AEC to be held in Wilmington, October 27-29, 2010. The perfect place for our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of commemoration – as Wilmington is packed with Public Health History – you will not want to miss this! Make reservations now by calling the Wilmington Riverside Hilton at 910-763-5900. NCPHA rate \$114.00 per night.

## Epidemiology Section-*Penelope J. Padget, Chair*

The 2009 Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show was a wonderful experience for everyone who was able to participate. There were so many interesting sessions, the food was great and the setting was beautiful. The Epidemiology Section was pleased to once again host an entire afternoon session of workshops and presentations on the first day of the meeting. Our session opened with an overview of the State of Epidemiology in North Carolina given by Dr. Megan Davies, State Epidemiologist. Her talk was followed by a workshop given by Dr. Aaron Fleischauer on Public Informatics and Epidemiology. One of the hallmarks of Epidemiology is gathering information and Dr. Fleischauer talked about developing public health informatics by the systematic application of information, computer science and technology to public health practice, research and learning. Kristen Keathley, a public health graduate student from UNC-Asheville, then presented her Master's research on childhood obesity to the group. She was presented with an honorarium from the Epidemiology Section for her participation. Lastly, the section attendees were treated to a presentation by three former State Epidemiologists, Drs. Marvin Hine, Ronald Levine and Newt MacCormack. The Three Tenors, as they were billed, gave fascinating accounts of some of the major epidemiologic issues that arose during their tenure. The issues covered were polio outbreaks, the phenomenon that was *Pfiesteria*, immunization clinics, improving sanitary conditions in rural areas and tuberculosis. It was a rare glimpse into the past and how it has shaped public health in North Carolina today.

*“The Three Tenors...gave fascinating accounts of the major epidemiologic issues that arose during their tenure.”*

The NCPHA Epidemiology Section is made up of individuals from local and state health agencies, academic centers, students, and other groups. We are also seeking to encourage new recruits into the field of epidemiology, especially young professionals starting their careers in public health. Some of the goals for the coming year are include:

- expanding our membership base and making connections with the Schools/ Programs in Public Health within the state,
- creating a directory of individuals who are willing to become mentors to public health students,
- Increasing the training aspect of our sessions at the Annual Educational Conference and
- improving communications through our newsletter and via email.

We welcome anyone with an interest in epidemiology and preparedness to be an active member of the NCPHA Epidemiology Section. We are excited about the continuing celebration of the first 100 years of the NCPHA and developing a vision for our next 100 years.

**Save the date** **October 28, 2010**  
Annual Education Conference

### Laboratory Section-*Tina Joyner, Chair*

The Laboratory Section is looking forward to a great year. At the NCPHA Conference in Asheville we elected our officers for the coming 2009-2010 year. They are as follows: Chair-Tina Joyner, Vice-Chair-Susan Clark, Secretary/Past Chair-Sherri Felts, Treasurer-Karen Creech, Members at large-Theresa Taylor and Tracey Shives.

We want to congratulate Susan Clark as our Laboratorian of the Year. Just to let our fellow laboratorians know, we are seeing a decrease in the number of members of the Lab Section. We would really like to see those numbers come back up to were they used to be. Please consider joining if you are not currently a member. The Executive committee will be meeting after the first of the year it make plans for the 2010 year. Hope to see many of you in the coming year.

### Dental Health Section-*Debbie Kennedy, Chair*

The Dental Health Section's annual business meeting and continuing education workshops were held on Thursday, October 1, 2009 during the 2009 NCPHA Annual Educational Conference in Asheville. Our section had 37 members in attendance. Our guest speaker, Stacy McCauley, RDH, MS (Manager, Professional Education and e-learning, Philips Sonicare) presented two educational sessions. The first, "Predicting is Preventing! Implementing Risk Assessment for Infants and Toddlers in Your Practice" focused on the importance of being able to predict which children will be more at risk for dental disease and putting preventive measures in place for these children. The afternoon session was entitled "Pre-K! A Crash Course in Kids for the Dental Professional." In this session, Stacy focused on the importance of early dental visits and discussed some of the challenges of working with such young patients and their parents/care-givers. Our newly-elected officers for 2009-2010 are as follows:

**Chair:** Debbie Kennedy

**Vice Chair:** Dr. Larry Myers

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Doranna Anderson

Congratulations are in order for our Section's award winners for 2009. The George Dudley Award was presented to Betsy Hardin. The Becky Bowden Award was presented to Beverly Bizzell. The Ernest A. Branch Award was presented to Dr. Jean Spratt. If you were unable to attend the annual meeting this year, please know that you were missed. We look forward to seeing everyone next year in Wilmington.

### Community Health Assistant / Technician (CHAT) Section

We are planning an open house at Durham County Health Department in February 2010 to provide information about the NC Public Health Association. We welcome all interested participants. As an incentive to join, we will raffle off a ticket for a free year's membership for NCPHA to a "lucky" ticket holder. More information to be provided soon.....

*"Stand up for  
Public Health!"*

*Become an  
active section  
member and  
pledge to  
recruit!*

## HIV/STD Section-*Michael Case & Derrick Matthews, Co-chairs*

As co-chairs, we would first like to thank our outgoing HIV/STD Control section co-chairs from 2008-2009, Lola Houston-Hager and Joseph Lee for their great work over the past year. Thanks to their work, this section has been reinvigorated with many new members over this past year. Because of their work the HIV/STD Control section presentations at the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Education Conference in Asheville a few months ago was a great success. Michael Harney from the Western North Carolina AIDS Project and the Needle Exchange Program of Asheville, spoke about the ongoing work in HIV prevention in western North Carolina, especially concerning innovative approaches to reducing HIV incidence attributable to injection drug use. Derrick Matthews spoke about research with a network study conducted at UNC-Chapel Hill and how the Internet plays a part not only in new HIV infections in the state, but has an important role to play in prevention efforts as well. Finally, Sean Kosofsky spoke about the efforts that NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina had been involved in with the passage of the Healthy Youth Act, the passage of which will allow for comprehensive sex education to be taught in North Carolina public schools.

We'd also like to introduce the members of the HIV/STD Control section executive board. The new co-chairs for the upcoming year are Michael Case and Derrick Matthews. The new secretary is Danielle Laborde and Lola Houston-Hager will continue her involvement with the section, serving as our treasurer.

Several things are in the works for the upcoming year. First, we plan to continue growing the section. If you have friends or colleagues that might be interested in joining, or have ideas for groups or organizations that should be contacted please let us know. Secondly, we'll be working on the most efficient way of communication. We currently utilize a listserv for section members, but will also work to keep our web space on the NCPHA site up-to-date, as well as incorporating online media that will easily allow section members to communicate with each other. Now that our membership is growing, we want to help facilitate the exchange and dissemination of knowledge since so many of our members are doing great work across the state. This space can also be helpful for members to network with one another. Third, we are going to try to plan at least one program this year to either benefit an organization doing HIV/STD prevention and treatment work across the state and will be enlisting help of members in the section with creative ideas. Finally, because of the timing of our transition each year, we'll also be work in advance to increase our presence at the annual American Public Health Association meeting, as well as events relating to World AIDS day.

Finally we'd like to thank you for your continued support of the section. When your yearly membership is up we'll be contacting you about membership renewal to both NCPHA as well as the HIV/STD Control section.

Our section meetings this year will be on the last Friday of January (29), April (30), and July (30) of 2010. The meetings will likely be conference calls, so details will be provided as the dates approach. Our final meeting will be in October at the Annual Education Conference. If you have any ideas for speakers or topics let us know!

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## Social Work Section-*Sylvia L. Wagoner, Chair*

Members of the Social Work Section enjoyed many of the wonderful offerings at this year's Annual Education Conference. Our Section co-sponsored an exciting session addressing strategies for self-care. It was well attended and well received. We presented awards for Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Social Work to Deborah Maxwell of Brunswick County Department of Health and to Vienna Barger, Baby Love Program Supervisor. The Outstanding Contributions to Public Health Social Work Award was given to Jan Wood, Supervisor with Wake Human Services and Kathy Boyd, Executive Director for NC- NASWW. Last but not least, Dr. Teme Levbarg was recognized and honored for her numerous years of service and her retirement. We raised over \$200 for our Student Scholarship Fund as a result of our \$50-\$50 raffle and we were also able to raise funds from a mini silent auction held during our business luncheon.

The 09-10 Officers are as follows:

Chair-Sylvia Wagoner  
 Vice-Chair/Program Chair – Kelly Spangler  
 Past-Chair- Barbara Stelly  
 Secretary – Lois Hinton  
 Member-At-Large – Deborah Maxwell

We are also working on increasing our membership and are working diligently on getting out information to public health social workers. We will begin our fund raising activities early and we are also hoping to sponsor our first student in 2010!

Soon, a packet promoting Social Work Month will be sent out to all, and the Section will provide information about NCPHA and Social Work Section, as well as an application to be included. The packet will be sent out to all list-serve public health social workers on behalf of Social Work Month. We are also hoping to be a co-sponsor of other public health social work education endeavors throughout the year.

***In October, 2010, the NCPHA-Social Work Section will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary-so. . . . SAVE THE DATE for October 28, 2010!***

We will be meeting periodically via conference call to complete our plans. Please see the schedule below:

January 13, 2010:	3:00pm-4:30pm
March 10, 2010:	3:00pm-4:30pm
May 12, 2010:	3:00pm-4:30pm
July 14, 2010:	3:00pm-4:30pm
September 8, 2010:	3:00pm-4:30pm Wrap-Up

As you can see, we anticipate a very busy year and are ***ON THE MOVE!***

*‘The NCPHA-Social Work Section will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. . . . SAVE THE DATE for October 28, 2010!’*

## Scenes from 2009 Annual Education Conference

### *Scholarships Awarded...*

Two Undergraduate/Graduate Education Scholarships...

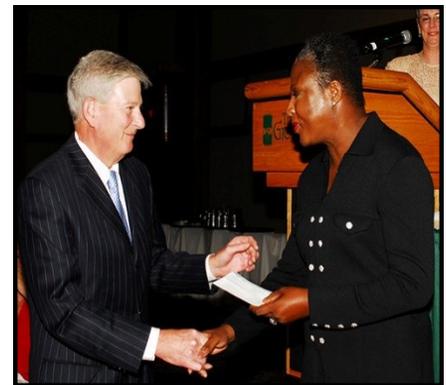


Two (2) \$850.00 scholarships were awarded to individuals pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree with application towards public health practice. Pictured are recipients Robert “Andy” Wilkerson (left) and Terry Hold (top) receiving awards from Teme M. Levbarg, PhD, MSW .



**Robert S. Parker Leadership Scholarship** was awarded to Sharon West (picture on the right) by Robert “Bob” Parker.

Annually, one \$1500 scholarship is given to an individual who has worked in the field of public health for at least five (5) years and is pursuing graduate-level training that would qualify him/her for a leadership position in public health.



*“North Carolina Public Health Association is an association of individuals and organizations working to improve the public’s health through political advocacy, public awareness, professional development, and the interface between research and practice.”*

*-Mission Statement-*

### **2009—2010 Executive Committee**



Left to Right: Brittan Wood (Member-at-Large), Carolyn Moser (APHA Rep.), Gayle Harris (Vice President), George O’Daniel (President Elect), Michael Revis (President), Liz Reeser (Secretary/Treasurer), Tom Bridges (Southern Health Association Rep.), and Mary Jane Sauls (Past President) Not Pictured are Members-at Large: Susan Clark, Steve Smith, Greg Marsh, and Sheila Madison-Reid.

*More Scenes from the 2009 Conference...*



*“The North Carolina Public Health Association is the leading professional association for people dedicated to promoting and protecting the health and environment of all North Carolinians.”*

*-Vision Statement-*

**We need to hear from you...**

In an effort to contain costs, the newsletter will be disseminated electronically to members with email addresses on file, posted on the web and **mailed only** to those **without** email addresses on file.

Help us control costs by sending your name and email address to:  
**[www.ltolson@ncapha.com](mailto:www.ltolson@ncapha.com)**



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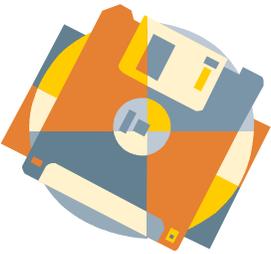
**We're on the web!!**

**[www.ncpha.com](http://www.ncpha.com)**

The Guiding Principles of the North Carolina Public Health Association are: integrity, dignity and respect, pride and commitment, inclusion and education for individuals and communities.

## Southern Health Association

By: Tom Bridges, Affiliate Representative



Please mark your calendar for the SHA 2010 annual conference to be held jointly with the Tennessee Public Health Association in Franklin, Tennessee, September 15-17. The theme for the meeting is ***“Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities.”***

The SHA Governing Council’s mid-year meeting will be held in February in Franklin. The agenda for that meeting will include planning for the annual meeting program and it is anticipated there will be more to report after that meeting.

The SHA website at [www.southernhealth.net](http://www.southernhealth.net) will have updated information on the annual meeting as it becomes available. Please note the website has been updated. It is still a “work in progress”, but you will note that information concerning affiliates is much more prominent and easier to navigate.