

Summer 2005

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President's Message



The Summer is Heating Up and So Is KPHA

Can you believe the heat? Guess we were all spoiled by the more mild summer last year, I know I was. But, the weather is not all that is heating up. The excitement within the Kansas Public Health Association is heating up as well.

The annual Kansas Public Health Conference is just around the corner and all the final pieces are falling into place. This too is a very different feeling from last summer as we have a great Executive Director in place (we were in the final hiring stages a year ago), which is making the process much smoother. Janice McCoy and her conference planning committee have been working hard for months putting together

what I believe will be one of the largest conference offerings we have ever had.

Heather Fuller and her committee did a great job planning the annual Spring Training held in June in Salina. Attendance was not what had been hoped for because we ran into a scheduling conflict with another state conference, but the lower numbers did not impact the quality of the training. I believe if speak with anyone who was there they will tell you it was an incredible experience, well organized and very informative, not to mention a beautiful and unique setting at the Rolling Hills Wildlife Refuge.

We are also about to enter a new agreement with the Kansas Health Foundation to do some exciting work with them in partnership. We are starting a planning process for an educational campaign targeting the public health workforce of Kansas to define what public health means in Kansas. This is a great opportunity for KPHA to use the resources of the entire membership with significant diversity and widespread interests to lead the way to a unified understanding of public health. Watch for more news about this at the annual conference as well in e-news and other announcements from KPHA.

Watch your mail for the annual mailing that will include your ballot for the board elections. This year we will be electing a new President Elect, a Secretary to a year term and one At-Large Board member to a two-year term. I believe we have an excellent slate of candidates that will help continue the momentum

and lead us to even greater horizons in the future.

With the annual meeting approaching that also means we will be saying good-bye (at least for now) to some leaders who have served the association tirelessly for many years. Marv Stottlemire has chosen not to run for re-election to the board. His wisdom has served us well and his humor has made many meetings much more fun. Marv has served the association in multiple ways over the years and I am sure he will always be there for us when he is called upon for help.

Janice Dunwell will be completing her final term as the American Public Health Association Affiliate Representative at our annual meeting. I want to personally take this opportunity to publicly thank her for her many years of dedicated service. She has represented us well for two full terms as our representative and has given KPHA a place of respect at the APHA level. In this her final year as our affiliate representative, she has also been serving as the regional representative for the area of Nebraska, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. This is a role that is elected each year among the peers of state representatives. Clearly, her leadership will be missed, but I am also sure that Janice will continue her commitment to KPHA as she always has and we will see her volunteering to help in many new ways.

It has been such an honor and humbling privilege to serve as the association president this year. I will share many fond memories with you at the annual meeting as I formally pass the gavel to Janice McCoy at that time, but I want to say now that you, the members and board of the association along with Elaine as our Executive Director have truly made this a job worth having. It is easy to take leadership roles when you know you are surrounded by so many dedicated and committed individuals who are passionate about our common cause. Thank you for this great opportunity.

I hope to see you all at conference September 20 - 22 at the Hyatt in Wichita. Let's finish this year with having record attendance at the conference. I promise it will be an event you will regret missing if you are not able to attend. [Back to menu](#)

From the Executive Director



Time Flies When You're Having Fun!

Spring sprang and summer's soon to end . . . with Back to School items being sold in the stores, it's a sure sign that time is moving on. The middle of August will be my one year mark, and it has gone so quickly. Based on my 40 years of employment, it's because I am enjoying the job. I've always said, "I'd rather be busy, than bored!"

The Spring Training was a success, thanks to Heather Fuller, and crew. But, with the low turnout the KPHA Board willingly said "yes" to Shirley Orr when she asked if we would be interested in combining efforts with the KDHE and the KU School of Medicine, for next year's spring training. Heather Henke, and Janice Dunwell volunteered to help and are already involved in the planning!

My spring and summer have been busy with lots of activities, writing grants. We got favorable word from the Sunflower Foundation on our grant titled, "Uniting Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Health in a Crisis Response Network" Through this proposal KPHA's membership of

researchers, academia, state and local health agencies, and public/private organizations and foundations would strengthen their capacities in emergency preparedness (especially in environmental health), for identification, understanding, and control of environmental problems resulting from disasters, by creating a KPHA Crisis Response Network. This is a capacity building process within KPHA. And, we have been working with the Kansas Health Foundation on another grant called, Public Health - A Common Language (Planning). This grant prepares a deliverable definition of what public health is with strategies for informing the Kansas public health workforce of the common language. Phil Griffin will be the lead on this project, and the big picture will be to help the workforce understand what all public health entails and what it means to be a part of this great effort in their community, in the state, and in society in general.

Another effort has been my work with the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute and the Capstone I'm developing called, "A Unified Legislative Voice for Health in Kansas". I've had the opportunity to visit at length with people in the state about organizing an effort to represent health with one entity, much like what New Mexico does. They've had a coalition called the "Human Needs Coordinating Council" for the past twenty years that has 1500 members. Besides the in-state survey, I am doing an out of state survey and the response has been tremendous. There will be more to come on this front!

We also had a Board meeting in June. Getting ready for that and making stacks of information is a bit overwhelming, but going to the actual meeting becomes sort of an "old home week" seeing face to face those who we all consider friends and comrades as participants. The KPHA Board is certainly a friendly, outgoing, hard working group of individuals. I just feel like I've gotten to know most of them and now it's time for the annual meeting and those names and faces may change . . . but hopefully many will stay the same!

And with that, as Phil said, the annual Kansas Public Health Conference is just around the corner. The registration packets are being printed and soon mailed, as I type. Just in case they hit a snag with an old address, etc. please [click here](#) for the brochure. Please plan to attend the conference! It is a financial boost to the association and helps to secure the future!

We also need your help with the Memorial Service part of the annual conference. Here are last year's comments that were read during the annual business meeting about members who had passed on the previous year.

Jerry Frantz, Sedwick County Health Director

Jerry Frantz was the interim director of the Health Department in Sedgwick County from May 2002 to March 2004. He was assigned here in addition to his duties as the County Appraiser. Never having had any background in public health of any kind, he learned quickly and immediately became one of the most energetic, persuasive, and visionary advocates for public health in Sedgwick County. After hearing the opening session at his first APHA convention in Philadelphia in 2002, he was completely converted. "I've found my home!" he exclaimed. "I never dreamed there were so many people who think like me!" He continued to believe in public health, in Health Department staff, and in what public health could accomplish in Sedgwick County up until his death from cancer on March 15. Because he was a newcomer to public health and was here for such a short time, he wasn't well known outside the

County. But for such a short time with us, he will be remembered for a long, long time. - **Comments by Cindy A. L. Burbach, RN, DrPH, Dir., Health Surveillance & Disease Control, Sedgwick County Health Department in Wichita**

"Ditto for me . . . the man did far more to improve public health in Sedgwick County in two years than any health director in at least the previous decade and a half." - **Comments by Bill Farney**

"I would echo those opinions about Jerry Frantz." - **Comments by Doren Fredrickson MD PhD, FAAP FACPM, Health Officer, Sedgwick County Health Department, Associate Professor, Dept of Preventive Medicine & Public Health Univ of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita**

"That's right ... he had a passion for this work and his leadership set a standard by which all others will be measured . . ." - **Ted Jobst, Director, Integrated Family Health Division, Sedgwick County Health Department**

Judy Richey, ARNP, Administrator, SEK Multi County Health Dept. , Iola, Ks.

"Judy Richey was the Administrator for SEK Multi County Health Dept. in Iola, Ks. from 2000-2003. She passed away on Nov. 12, 2003. She is missed by many. I worked with Judy from 1979-1995 at SEK Multi Co. Health Dept. When I worked with Judy we were both public health nurses and she had not taken on the position of Administrator. Judy worked in public health in Butler County before coming to Allen Co. Public Health was Judy's baby and she was a fantastic public health nurse. She was funny and alot of fun to be with. Judy could find humor in all she did." - **Comments by Diane Bertone, MSN ARNP, Administrator SEK Multi County Health Dept. Iola, Ks.**

I first met Judy when she first came to Allen County as the nurse at the Health Department in Iola. I worked with Head Start at the time and we quickly formed a solid friendship, going to meetings, having lunch at times and going to garage sales at noon. She always "told it like it was", and when I went to work for the Health Department she was an excellent teacher, and expected her nurses to do their jobs. I miss her every day, and know that her influence has helped Public Health in many ways. - **Comments by Collene Ellis, RN, SEK MCHD**

"Judy always thought of "safety first". Whenever the weatherman forecasted incimate weather, Judy would call us to say not to try to make it to work if it looked like it was going to get bad. If we were already at work, (crossing our fingers for snow), we could count on Judy telling us to get home even before the ground got a good dusting. I'll never see another snowflake without hearing Judy say "Let's get out of here before it get too bad." I miss Judy and I miss the "snowdays." - **Comments by Chardel Hastings, RN, SEK Multi-County-Allen**

"I remember Judy as a happy, high spirited person, always ready for fun. But also, a very skilled, caring person with great concern for her patients. She was a thoughtful administrator and helped her staff in any way possible. I miss her." - **Comments by Elaine Shroyer, RN**

If you know of a member who had passes away since the Conference last September, please send your "In Memory" comments to me at director@kpha.us.

Hope to see you all in September!! Again, please feel free to email me anytime you have questions or concerns! [Back to menu](#)

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