“Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities”

Theme for the 2010 TPHA/SHA Joint Educational Conference
Submitted by: David Brumley, Program Committee Chair

Once every eight years, the Tennessee Public Health Association serves as the host affiliate for a joint conference with the Southern Health Association. This year public health professionals from across the Southeast will be joining us for our annual education conference to be held September 15 - 17 at the Cool Springs Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Franklin.

The 2010 TPHA/SHA conference theme is “Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities” – an appropriate title for the times in which we live and work. The conference begins with an opening session at 11:30 AM (Central) on Wednesday, September 15th, and features four plenary sessions, 22 workshops, exhibits, poster session, public health awards, two luncheons, and a Thursday evening reception.

This year’s program committee has been hard at work, and as a result, our 2010 annual educational conference has an outstanding array of speakers. Public health professionals from Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Washington DC, and Wisconsin will share their experience and expertise with conference attendees. Plenary sessions and workshops are scheduled for all three days of the conference.

The opening session will feature an outstanding keynote speaker from Minnesota – Dr. Reed V. Tuckson, Executive Vice President and Chief of Medical Affairs at United Health Group, a Fortune 25 diversified health and well-being company. Dr. Tuckson currently serves on the board of directors for several national organizations and has held other federal appointments, including cabinet level advisory committees on health reform, infant mortality, children’s health, violence, and radiation testing.

Thursday at the conference will feature two plenary sessions, numerous workshops, the poster session, exhibits, awards luncheon and presentations, and an evening reception. Commissioner Susan R. Cooper will speak at the awards luncheon and share her perspective on public health challenges and opportunities. Commissioner Cooper has joined us at our annual education conference each year since her appointment in 2007.

The second plenary session of the day will feature Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director of Health at the (Continued on page 2)
Louisville Metro Health Department and Associate Professor at the University of Louisville School of Public Health. Dr. Troutman has more than 30 years of visionary leadership experience in the diverse fields of public health practice, medical facility operations, and administration and education at the local, national, and international levels.

Friday at the conference will offer numerous workshop opportunities and a great plenary session. The conference will close with a speaker familiar to many of us – Dr. Allen Craig, resident advisor to Zambia in Africa for the President’s Malaria Initiative. Dr. Craig worked for the Tennessee Department of Health for many years and served as the State Epidemiologist from 2001 until he left for Africa in 2008.

The Tennessee Public Health Association celebrated 2010 National Public Health Week in a big way! There were activities and events held in each region and the central office of the Department of Health. Our statewide planning committee was comprised of members from each state Department of Health Region as well as from the Coordinated School Health program. The committee did a fabulous job creating and compiling ideas for each area to make their celebration unique and focused on their local needs. From local health fairs, blood drives, school nutrition program kick-offs, and public health awareness presentations, the committee’s goal was to build a Healthier America: One Community at a Time! Statewide, each region received a copy of the APHA video “A Healthier Nation in 1 Generation” to be shown at local Public Health Week events, in local theaters, in schools, community meetings, and health department lobbies. The video has received wonderful reviews from all public health staff, students, and community partners who have viewed it. It is a tool that will be used throughout the year in Tennessee.

Public Health Week activities included:

- A Public Health Week email was sent to all members of the Tennessee Public Health Association members and Rural Health Association members reaching approximately 2,000 individuals and agencies.
- Community Health Council members in all 95 counties received a thank you letter/email stressing their importance and contributions that they make to their communities healthier each and every day.
- Each Coordinated School Health site across the state received Public Health Week information to share with their schools. Events were held in many school systems throughout the state, including a kick-off of the Slow, Go, Whoa Program in Blount County, Adolescent pregnancy prevention education in Pickett County, Blood Drive and Student Health Fair in Polk County, and presentations to the Teen Health Council in Warren County including careers opportunities in public health, the history and future of public health, and viewing of the “Healthiest Nation in 1 Generation” video.
- Tennessee Technological University partnered to share the APHA website and GenerationPublicHealth.org websites with students in the Health and Physical Education department and School of Nursing students
- In the Southeast, Mid Cumberland, South Central, and Upper Cumberland regions, as well as Metro Nashville, the health departments awarded staff with Un-Sung Hero awards voted on by their peers. Awards included Employee of the Year, Gee I Thought No One Noticed, Group of the Year, Above and Beyond, and Co-Worker of the Year.
- Sullivan County got the word out in their community by conducting 5 radio interviews, 2 television spots, and 2 newspaper articles!
- Distribution of 5,000 car window static clings across the state with the message National Public Health Week: A Healthier America: One Community at a Time.
- Local regions and metros sponsored staff appreciation activities including lunch or desserts, presentation of service awards, and viewing of the “Healthiest Nation in 1 Generation” video. The Northeast Region included demonstrations on using the Wii Fit as part of their staff appreciation.

A special THANK YOU to everyone who participated in making the 2010 Public Health Week such a success!!!
The TPHA Scholarship Committee is funded from the Silent Auction proceeds each year. There are funds for several $1000 scholarships to be awarded in 2010.

Scholarships shall be awarded to workers in Public Health who meet the following criteria:

a) Three or more years of full time employment in Public Health in Tennessee
b) A member of TPHA whose dues are current and who has been a member for at least one year
c) Applicant must have supervisor approval

Scholarships shall be awarded to advance individual knowledge and competence in Public Health. Awards for Public Health training shall be limited to programs which award college credit, continuing education units (CEUs), or certification through a nationally recognized accrediting body or educational institution. Additional information and applications may be obtained from the TPHA website - http://www.tnpublichealth.org.

The deadline for applying is June 30, 2010. Completed applications should be sent to: Melanie Pafford, TN Dept. of Health, Cordell Hull Building – 5th floor, 425 5th Ave. North, Nashville, TN 37243. You may also contact the TPHA Executive office by email at dgspain@tnpublichealth.org with any questions.

The Tennessee Public Health Association is currently accepting abstracts for poster presentations at the 2010 TPHA Annual Conference, September 15 -17th, at the Cool Springs Conference Center in Franklin. All public health disciplines, including individuals at colleges and universities, are encouraged to participate. Submissions are due by June 15, 2010.

Abstracts on all topics related to public health in Tennessee are welcome. You do need to be a TPHA member to submit an abstract. You may join as a new member or renew your membership online at www.tnpublichealth.org. If your poster is accepted for display at the conference, you may be asked to present at one of the workshops this year. You will need to register for the conference and plan to attend.

Abstracts must be typed and submitted in electronic format (Microsoft Word). Use 12-point font, double-spacing, and 250 words or less. The word count excludes the title, authors, affiliations, and contact information.

Please email Beth Allen at Beth.Allen@tn.gov with any questions or call her at 615-650-7023.

Nominate your well deserving co-workers for a TPHA award! Please submit one paper copy and an electronic version of your nomination. Visit the TPHA website at www.tnpublichealth.org to learn how to submit nominations for the annual awards. The link for Awards is located on the left margin of the homepage. The Tennessee Public Health Association presents the following awards each year at the annual meeting:

R.H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Award
Alex B. Shipley, MD Award
Public Health Worker of the Year Award

Public Health Group/Unit/Department Award
PAL (Partners and Leadership) Award
Distinguished Service Award

The deadline for submitting nominations is July 16, 2010.

We also have an opportunity to recognize our valuable veteran employees with the Public Health Service Awards. These awards are presented to individuals who have had 20, 30, 40 or 50 years service in public health and who have been a member of TPHA for at least five years.

If you have questions, please contact the TPHA office at 615 646-3805.
Tennessee has a Strong History with the Southern Health Association

Tennessee has been a strong supporter of the Southern Health Association from the very beginning. SH A began as the Southern Branch of the American Public Health Association (APHA). As quoted from A History of Southern Branch, American Public Health Association, the concept of the Southern Branch was the "brainchild" of the Conference of Tennessee State Health Workers in 1932 and particularly of Dr. E. L. Bishop who was Commissioner of Public Health in Tennessee.

Southern Branch started with a membership of 81 members from Tennessee and 68 members from throughout the 16 states in the Southern Health region and represented primarily public health professionals in the medical, nursing, and sanitation fields. Subsequently, a steering committee composed of seven leading Tennessee state health workers was appointed to initiate further steps in the organization of Southern Branch. Its first official meeting was held in November 1932 in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Bishop was elected as its first President. Southern Branch met jointly with the Southern Medical Association (SMA) until 1946.

After the separation from SMA, sections representing other disciplines increased rapidly. Southern Branch reached its peak in the 1960's and early 1970's with a full-time executive director and office staff, and an affiliate membership of approximately 20,000. However, with a change in leadership in the parent association (APHA), financial support began to decline until 1981 when APHA completely cut all ties with Southern Branch.

The leadership of Southern Branch felt that there was still a need for a regional public health organization to meet the needs in the southern states, and thus the Southern Health Association was chartered in 1981 for the purpose of "bringing together persons interested in public health for the purpose of fostering and stimulating a greater degree of scientific effort in the protection and improvement of public and personal health, and to bring about better understanding, integration, and promotion of public health services."

In order to financially support the organization, affiliate and individual membership fee schedules were established. Affiliate states that joined SHA were: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. In recent years, Georgia has joined as an affiliate. SHA is governed by a Governing Council composed of elected officers, a representative from each affiliate state, members-at-large, and chairpersons of all standing committees.

There have been 11 SHA Presidents from Tennessee: Dr. E. L. Bishop, Dr. G. F. McGinnes, Dr. R. H. Hutcheson, Sr., Dr. L. M. Graves, Dr. Joseph M. Bistowish, Dr. Homer P. Hopkins, Dr. Durward R. Collier, Dr. Fredia S. Wadley, Hugh Barnes, Becky Barnes, and Tammy Burke. Dr. Bishop and Dr. Hutcheson served as Commissioners for 37 of the first 45 years of the Tennessee Department of Public Health. They were very highly respected during the “early years” of establishing public health programs and services in Tennessee and were considered experts in their field.

Many other public health professionals from Tennessee have held various SHA offices over the past 78 years. The very foundation of the Southern Health Association had a strong presence in Tennessee and has been known as having some of their most successful meetings when meeting jointly with the Tennessee Public Health Association.

SHA continues to be a strong supporter of public health issues on the state, regional, and national levels. Each year, SHA holds an annual meeting jointly with one of its affiliate state public health associations. Members of the Southern Health Association (SHA) are excited about being back in Tennessee in 2010!
FOCUS ON PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUES

Our Very Own Healthy Cookbook!
Submitted by: Perrie Hutcherson, MPH, RD, LDN, CDE

Did you know there is an excellent on-line cookbook featuring healthy recipes available on the Tennessee Department of Health’s Nutrition webpage? The recipes were developed, tested, tasted, and evaluated by Registered Dietitians (RD) and a Health Educator from the Department’s Nutrition/Wellness Section, Tennessee State University Cooperative Extension Program Coordinator, as well as the Culinary Arts teacher and her students at McGavock Comprehensive High School in Nashville. The cookbook was reviewed and edited by RDs from the University of Tennessee Extension Program.

The recipes are tasty, economical, easy to prepare and contain no more than the recommended amounts of fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, and sodium. This is a great opportunity to begin a healthy, nutritious meal plan. Bon appetite! http://health.state.tn.us/nutrition/recipes.html

Introducing Best Bones Forever!
Submitted by: Talia T. Thomson
For DHHS, The Office on Women’s Health

Osteoporosis is a pediatric disease with geriatric consequences. In terms of bone health, the stage is set early on: girls build close to 90% of their bone mass by age 18. Once they reach adulthood, it becomes increasingly difficult for them to make it up. Unfortunately, most adolescent girls do not get the calcium, vitamin D, and physical activity they need to grow strong, healthy bones.

That’s why the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office on Women’s Health (OWH) launched Best Bones Forever!, a national bone health campaign for girls ages 9-14. Best Bones Forever! focuses on friendship and fun—and encourages girls to “grow strong together, stay strong forever.”

The new campaign empowers girls and their BFFs (best friend forever) to build strong bones by choosing snacks and foods with calcium and vitamin D, and getting an hour of physical activity a day.

Campaign materials such as journals, posters, magnets, tattoos, book covers and a Web site (www.bestbonesforever.gov) get girls excited about growing healthy bones! Parents can get important bone health information from a brochure in both English and Spanish, and a Web site: www.bestbonesforever.gov/parents.

Help make an impact by encouraging girls and their parents to make bone health a priority. If you are interested in ordering free Best Bones Forever! materials, contact Talia at OWH@hagersharp.com.

REPORT FROM GRAND DIVISION MEETINGS

Middle Tennessee TPHA Meeting
Submitted by: Karen Lynn, Middle Tennessee Vice President

The Middle Tennessee TPHA meeting was held on March 26 at the Williamson County Agriculture Center in Franklin. There were 119 participants this year who were treated to excellent educational sessions, as well as good food and camaraderie. TPHA President Chris Freeman set the tone for the day by addressing our theme, “Middle Tennessee Public Health: Meeting the Challenge” as he looked at some of the challenges that faced public health in the past and that we will face in the future.

The morning sessions began with a look back at the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic by Dr. Lorraine Macdonald, Health Officer for the Mid-Cumberland Region. Her presentation included information about the scope of the pandemic, the immunization campaign in Tennessee and some of the lessons learned. She shared some of the interesting stories and challenges that occurred during the public health response which drew laughter and understanding nods.
The second session of the day was about a very timely topic: earthquakes. Greg Galfano, who is the Senior Bioterrorism Planner for the Department of Health presented information about the New Madrid Fault Seismic Zone and the destruction that might occur if a major earthquake occurred along that fault line. Middle Tennessee public health would be heavily involved in the response to that kind of disaster which would present challenges we have never faced before. Greg also outlined the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) and how that could be utilized to expand the assets Tennessee would have to use for the response.

Lunch was catered by Famous Dave’s BarBQ and after we had eaten our fill, the group divided into teams to play “TPHA Jeopardy”. The teams were Upper Cumberland, Mid-Cumberland, Nashville/Davidson, South Central and Central Office. Doris Spain served as the timer and judge with the final power to rule a question right or wrong. Mark Houser was our emcee and did an excellent job. Each team chose a captain and the competition was on! Mid-Cumberland Region came out on top as the winner of the gold medal. I am pretty sure that the participants in the calf-roping in the arena next door wondered what the noise was all about!

After lunch, as one participant stated, we were energized and ready to learn some more. The first session for the afternoon was titled “Responding to the HIV Challenge” and was presented by panel discussion with questions and answers from the group. Dr. Stephen Raffanti from the Comprehensive Care Center, Tiffinea Jones with Nashville Cares, Lauren Brinkley-Rubinstein with the Metro Public Health Department, and Dennis Davis, a volunteer HIV educator and chair of the Community Access Committee all gave excellent information. At the end, Mr. Davis drew a standing ovation.

Our last session of the day was done by Dr. Gregory Plemmons, Director of the Pediatric Weight Management Clinic at Vanderbilt Children’s Clinic. His session was titled “Childhood Obesity: What Have We Learned in the Past Decade?” Dr. Plemmons gave an excellent overview of the problems that children and their families face with this difficult issue.

The day ended with door prizes and the awarding of CEU’s. I would like to say a grateful thanks to the planning committee who worked so hard to make this day special. From the food to registration to speakers to equipment, they took care of every detail and made my job so easy. Members included Christina Knowles, Blaine Hill, Dr. Lorraine Macdonald, Bart Perkey, Shannon Railling, Deborah Hardin, and Mark Houser. Doris Spain, Jennifer Kozlica, and Chris Freeman lent their expertise to our group and also contributed to making this a great meeting.

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East Tennessee TPHA Meeting
Submitted by: Micky Roberts, East Tennessee Vice President

This year’s East Tennessee Grand Division of the Tennessee Public Health Association Annual Conference theme, “East Tennessee: Responds to the Challenge” is in conjunction with TPHAs over arcing theme of “Great Challenges Bring Great Opportunities.” The take home message from this day-long educational conference was that it is imperative that all of us respond to opportunities to protect, promote and improve the health of everyone who lives, works, plays and visits in Tennessee.

TPHA V.P. for the East Grand Division, Micky Roberts, gave a welcome to attendees and introduced TPHA President Chris Freeman who set the tone for the session and spoke on behalf of TPHA. Next, Dr. Cathy Taylor, Assistant Commissioner, TDOH, Bureau of Health Services, started off the day with the first session titled “Big Picture and Vision.” Among her many salient points were the dual facts that transparency in government and best practices models for environmental approaches to public health are both critical in responding to the challenges ahead as Public Health responds for the future. Then Paula Masters of the Northeast Region introduced Dr. Michael Stoots, of ETSU, who spoke concerning Policies of Environmental Behavior and the importance of perception and perspective in differentiating between the two.

Paula Campbell of the East Region introduced the next speaker, Laurie Anderson CDC assignee stationed in Nashville for her presentation concerning Sexually Transmitted Infections. During the lunch break, local actor and Screen Actors Guild member, David Dwyer, was introduced by Mark Miller of Knox County. David was a hit sharing his experiences acting in many popular films and movies and behind the scenes stories working with movie superstars. After lunch (and the many photos and autographs with Mr. Dwyer) Dr. Kathy Brown with Knox County introduced Dr. Carole Myers, with the UTK School of Nursing who spoke on the topic of “Policy Making and Public Health” including some exercises for group participation. This included an interactive session where participants had opportunities to provide open feedback concerning scenarios for policy formation.

Again this year, in the East, the meeting also emphasized both students interested in and endeavoring to seek professions in the public health field and an opportunity for Public Health Professionals to showcase their work. Art Miller and Erica Wilson both with Anderson County worked with Dr. June Gorski, UTK, and others from the...
committee to recruit students from institutions of higher learning from all across East Tennessee and Public Health Professionals to submit abstracts for poster sessions. As a result, six poster sessions were on display throughout the day ranging from Nutrition to Rural Area Medical Clinics. Mr. Miller (Art), presented the first place student poster session award winner the $50.00 prize. The winner and other students had an opportunity to address the full assembly. The winning synopsis was of a health education program for Girl Scouts aged 11-16 that was planned and implemented by four public health graduate students at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Contributors to the project were Jan Johannesburg, Lacreisha Ejike-King, Laura Young, and Reginald Tooley, II.

The Professional winner was Linda W. Nelms, Ph.D., MPH, CHES, Director Health Promotion, East TN Region. Her poster was entitled: East Tennessee Whooping Cough Campaign: Rural Health Departments Capture the Essence of National Public Health Week.

Bill Ulmer, Hamilton County, wrapped up the conference with closing day summary, door prize drawings and other incentive giveaways. He was assisted by a committee members present in the drawings and distributions and reminded everyone of the State TPHA meeting in September!

A total of 127 members registered for the conference. Various professions were represented from Coordinated School Health, County Health Councils, Academia, Physicians, Dentists, Social Workers, Environmentalists, Health Educators, Nurses, and Pharmacists. As a result, fifty – five (55) individuals have applied for a combined total of 220 continuing education credits from this event.

A special thanks goes to First Baptist Church Knoxville (fbcknox.org) where the conference was held for their gracious hospitality and excellent lunch. Also, special thanks goes to Michael Thomas for all the graphics work; Jennifer Kozlca and her committee for processing Continuing Education applications; Gail Harmon and Melissa Davis for working registration; and Vivian Hatcher, with Blount County for the table center pieces.

Special thanks to the planning committee: Art Miller, Becky Barnes, Bill Ulmer, Carole Myers, Cathy Cowart, Charles Turner, Chris Freeman, Doris Spain, Erica Wilson, Fred Adams, Gail Harmon, Gary Self, Gary Mayes, Glenn Czarnecki, June Gorski, Kathy Brown, Kolleen Kolassa, Lynelle Callender, Mark Jones, Mark Miller, Melissa Davis, Michael Stoots, Michael Thomas, Micky Roberts, Paula Masters

**REGIONAL REPORTS**

**NORTHEAST TENNESSEE REGION**

This year’s National Public Health Week took on a remarkable theme, “A Healthier America: One Community at a Time.” This theme afforded the Northeast Region many opportunities to celebrate Public Health Week and highlight all of our wonderful advocates, partners, and employees in the region. Each of our seven counties developed activities that highlighted each day’s theme; You, Your Community, Your School, Your Workplace, and Your Nation. Static stickers were distributed to each county to share with community partners and public health advocates. Every health council member received a letter of appreciation signed by Fred Adams, Regional Director for their continued support and efforts in the field of public health. These efforts allowed the region the occasion to thank those very important persons that sometimes go unnoticed and unacknowledged.

There were a total of forty-two community activities/events held in observance of Public Health Week. To name a few: free mass vaccination clinics, healthy luncheons, “Nutrition Around the World”, stress and health, creating healthy meals, Mayor Proclamations, men’s health, healthy me, women’s health, Healthy Community Pledge Wall, and many more. The Northeast Region was able to launch these activities through strong partnerships with organizations such as Coordinated School Health, Community Centers, Nursing Homes, Senior Centers, UT Extension Services, Diabetes Coalition, AmeriChoice, Walmart, Youth Centers, and others. The Northeast Region believes that this was one of the most successful Public Health Weeks and received commendations from communities for efforts not only during this week of celebration, but for the work that is accomplished every day in public health. Thanks to all who helped make this year’s public health week such a huge success in the Northeast Region!

Kick Butts Day was observed in March in many community, school, and youth organizations. Several county health educators collected old shoes (1,200 pairs) to demonstrate the number of individuals who die each day from a tobacco related illness. This made an amazing impact on the youth, actually seeing the shoes representing lives lost. Other activities included tobacco prevention puppet shows, educational programs on the cost of tobacco, with an emphasis on the cost of one’s health, contest to guess the number of cigarette butts in a jar, a letter writing campaign to
legislators encouraging them to continue their support for tobacco free legislation, and a “Kick Butts Day Carnival” with interactive stations for staff and students to learn about tobacco and how its use impacts their body and the environment, along with a strong prevention message.

Shown here is a picture of the 1,200 pairs of shoes displayed in Johnson County for Kick Butts Day.

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**UPPER CUMBERLAND REGION**

The Upper Cumberland Region is participating in HRSA’s National Health Disparities Diabetes Collaborative. The county health departments in the Upper Cumberland Region have done an excellent job with the Collaborative over the past year. There are currently 1,295 diabetic patients being tracked in the collaborative. Of these patients, 97% are uninsured.

Each county, as well as the regional office, has a Diabetes Collaborative Team that is comprised of individuals from a variety of disciplines. The teams meet regularly to analyze the data collected from the diabetic patients, to discuss any successes or barriers associated with the collaborative, and to develop strategic plans to improve outcomes for the individual patient as well as the clinic as a whole.

The Upper Cumberland Diabetes Health Disparities Collaborative is required to track several core clinical measures, and report progress on these measures to HRSA. The core national measures come from the American Diabetes Association’s Clinical Practice recommendations and represent standards of care for diabetic patients.

One required measure is the average HbA1c. The national goal is to have an average HbA1c <7.0%. Considering our high risk population, we are very proud that the current HbA1c average for all of our high risk patients is 8.0%. The Upper Cumberland has also made steady increases over the last year in the number of patients having an annual LEAP exam. These improvements came as a result of discussions in team meetings on how to remind providers the patients were due to have an annual foot exam. Another national measure that the Upper Cumberland has made dramatic improvements since the beginning of the Collaborative has been the Retinal Eye Screenings. Thanks to a partnership with the Vanderbilt Ophthalmic Imaging Center, a good majority of our diabetic patients have been able to get this exam free of charge. We are very proud of the work that has been done in the Upper Cumberland Region to improve the health of diabetic patients, and to help them learn to manage their chronic disease.

Congratulations to Martha Watson, Overton County Office Supervisor, for being named Upper Cumberland Employee of the Year for 2010. Martha is known for her positive attitude, knowledge and dedication to public health! Debbie Johnson, Regional Director, presented Ms. Watson with the award at the Upper Cumberland Regional Health Council Meeting on April 7, 2010. Also shown is Andy Langford, County Director.

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Simply cut and paste the link below and you will be directed to the property’s home page with the code already entered in the appropriate field. Enter your arrival date to begin the reservation process.

http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bnacs-franklin-marriott-cool-springs/?toDate=&groupCode=tphtpha&fromDate=&app=resvlink

You may also go online to the TPHA website and click “Annual Meeting” and then “Hotel Information.”
**SOUTHEAST REGION**

**Diabetic Eye Screening Project in Southeast**

The Southeast Region recently participated in a diabetic eye screening program funded by a TN Department of Health grant and conducted by Vanderbilt Ophthalmic Imaging Center. The screenings were coordinated by local health department staff in conjunction with Lawrence Merin, RBP, FIMI, Assistant Professor, and Director of Vanderbilt Ophthalmic Imaging Center.

When diabetes is not well controlled, the circulation in the back of the eye is damaged and leads to diabetic eye disease called diabetic retinopathy. When diabetic retinopathy begins, patients may not be aware of any eye problems. As the condition worsens, vision may become blurry and patients may even notice black spots or shadows in their vision which is caused by bleeding inside the eye. To determine if diabetic retinopathy is developing, primary care patients in the Southeast Region with a diagnosis of diabetes were given the opportunity to have a diabetic eye screening.

Pilot sites for this program have shown that approximately 25% of diabetic patients screened have some detectable changes in their retina and around 7% have an urgent need to seek further evaluation and treatment. When diabetic patients discover that diabetes has already caused mild changes in their eyes, it can be motivation for better blood sugar control.

The longest part of the screening process was allowing time for their eyes to dilate. A special camera and computers were then used to photograph the retinal blood vessels. The photos were evaluated at Vanderbilt and the patients received a report on their eye health. While patients waited, nutritionists were available to educate them about the disease process and how to better control their diabetes.

In the Southeast Region, 272 patients were seen through this program. In Bradley County alone 94 diabetic patients took advantage of the service which set a single day record with the program. On-going challenges include finding follow-up care for patients without insurance along with the rise in the number of people with diabetic retinopathy due to the increase in diabetes.

**MID CUMBERLAND REGION**

**TB Elimination and Diabetes Programs Partner to Screen High Risk Persons**

In 2009, the Mid-Cumberland Regional Tuberculosis (TB) Elimination Team and the Regional Diabetes Program partnered to begin conducting TB screenings on all diabetic patients receiving services in our county health departments throughout the region. Diabetic patients are at high-risk for complications if infected with TB and need to be screened for tuberculosis for the following reasons:

- Persons who are diabetic and infected with tuberculosis have a three times greater risk of progressing from TB infection to TB disease.
- Diabetes may impair the response to TB treatment therefore prolonging the time required to complete TB treatment.

As of April 5, 2010, the Mid-Cumberland TB/Diabetes Target Testing Initiative identified 1,814 diabetic patients currently receiving services in the region. Of these patients, 1,519 were screened using the TB risk assessment tool. The TB skin test was administered to 1,420 diabetic patients. Because of this effort, 85 diabetic patients have been newly identified as having a positive TB skin test.

In order to continue to address the spread of TB in our high risk diabetic patients, staff will conduct an initial TB screening on all diabetic patients receiving services. In addition, staff will annually conduct a TB screening to determine if there has been a new risk of TB exposure and test as appropriate. Last, a medical evaluation and follow-up treatment will be provided for diabetic patients with a positive TB skin test.
MPH Student Involvement in H1N1 Response at the University of Memphis

Submitted by: Marian Levy, DrPH, RD
Associate Professor and Director, MPH Program
School of Public Health, University of Memphis
Email: mlevy@memphis.edu

Two students in the Master of Public Health program played an integral role in the University of Memphis’ preparedness and response to the H1N1 virus by mobilizing non-medical volunteers to assist with H1N1 vaccine distribution on campus. The MPH students, Jennifer Ransom and Chee Lam, had completed their MPH Practicum with the Office of Emergency Preparedness at the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department. As part of their Practicum responsibilities, they developed a mass immunization model for the University of Memphis. Capitalizing on this experience, they initiated a web-based volunteer recruitment format and database for H1N1 vaccine distribution.

Working with University administration, the students used email to recruit approximately 200 students, faculty, and staff volunteers within a four-day period to assist with H1N1 vaccination on campus. Chee Lam constructed the web-based recruitment format and maintains the database. Jennifer Ransom took responsibility for developing the volunteer orientation and training. Both participated in the volunteer training sessions, in which they have trained 103 students, faculty and staff. The University received H1N1 vaccine from the Tennessee Department of Health, and as of January 1, 2010, the University has vaccinated 934 individuals on campus.

A major benefit is that the MPH students have developed the template for future use in recruiting and mobilizing volunteers to assist with emergency response operations at the University of Memphis.

During 2009 the East Tennessee Region saw a drastic increase in confirmed and probable cases of Pertussis. There were nine cases identified in 2007 and ten cases identified in 2008; that number jumped to twenty-eight for 2009.

Because of the increase in confirmed and probable cases and the potentially fatal outcome on young infants, the East Tennessee Region kicked off a Pertussis Campaign during the 2010 Public Health Week. The purpose of the campaign was to increase the awareness of Pertussis in the region despite vaccinations, and to increase the number of vaccinations given to help combat the spread of Pertussis.

The first goal was to speak about Pertussis in a simpler manner in order to spread the message. The average person has never heard of Pertussis while most people have heard of Whooping Cough, so a decision was made to use the more common term in our education efforts. Badges were developed for each local health department employee to wear during PHW with different messages about Whooping Cough. The main goal of the badges was to provide an opening to a conversation on the spread of Whooping Cough and the importance of adults being immunized against the disease. These badges were worn by all staff. Additionally display boards were developed for each health department waiting room that talked about whooping cough and the importance of appropriate vaccination.

The East Tennessee Region will continue to emphasize vaccination against Whooping Cough throughout the year, especially with new WIC mothers and during weeks such as National Infant Immunization Week (April 24 – May 1), National Immunization Awareness Month (August), and National Child Health Day (October 4).

US Public Health Service Partners with the Blount County Health Department and RAM Clinic for their First Partnership Nationwide.

On March 19 and 20 at the Heritage High School, a Remote Area Medical (RAM) clinic was held in conjunction with the US Public Health Service Deployed Forces, the Blount County Health Department and the East Tennessee Region. Federal officials met with county, state and RAM officials on March 22 to recognize the success of the effort.
Roberts said those who attended were recognizing the United States Public Health Service Deployed Forces for the completion of their inaugural deployment in East Tennessee during the RAM clinic at Heritage High School. "This deployment with RAM, the Blount County Health Department and the East Region was the first collaboration for this purpose in the nation and will serve as a model for other communities and RAM clinics held across the Country in the future in partnership with the United States Public Health Commissioned Corps," Roberts said. "This collaborative effort was called 'Operation Nexus' by the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment of the Office of the United States Surgeon General."

Roberts said this collaboration resulted in an effective and unified public health medical expedition in a rural setting. "Some outcomes from the Clinical efforts included 420 one-time encounters; 69.5 percent, or 292 were female; 30.5 percent or 128 were male; and 54.7 percent, or 230, were Blount County residents," he said. "The majority of services utilized were dental at 72.3 percent, or 304, and the rest were vision and general medical."

The Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service was deployed the week before the RAM clinic and provided services in several counties in East Tennessee leading up to the RAM Clinic held at Heritage High School. Officers and members of this commissioned corps provided services from physicians, nurses, mental health professionals, epidemiologists, logistics specialist, environmentalists and others.

Some of the services included surveying communities about their attitudes, beliefs and thoughts concerning flu shots, designing and building pressurized rooms for Tuberculosis (TB) control, testing well water for possible contaminants, providing CPR training for more than 50 medical personnel in partnership with the Blount County Health Department and The Blount County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Activities and events for Kick Butts Day began in February in two West Tennessee counties. Elementary students in Carroll and Henry made “Valentines for Legislators” depicting the harmful effect of tobacco use and second-hand smoke on the heart. The Valentine cards were mailed to State Representative Mark Maddox who shared the cards with members of the state house and senate. This unique approach has proved successful in education at a local level and empowering students to be advocates for health.

March brought about many March madness activities along with the roaring Kick Butts Day motto to “STAND OUT … SPEAK UP … and SEIZE CONTROL AGAINST BIG TOBACCO.” Candlelight vigils were held displaying brown ribbons in memory of those who lost their lives due to tobacco. Students in Benton, Carroll and Henry made school banners about the dangers of tobacco use and secondhand smoke to present to state legislators. Two thousand six hundred students from 11 schools in Carroll County displayed their banners and gathered in their school gyms to call the local radio station (FM109, The Farm). Each school had 3 minutes to present their No Tobacco message. The event concluded with all students from all schools roaring, “My Heart Is In Your Hands. Don’t Smoke”!

State Senator Lowe Finney and Representative Mark Maddox visited the schools for students to present their banners. State legislators talked with the students about KBD and the importance of not using tobacco. Also that day, Sen. Finney, Rep Maddox, County Mayor McBride and local personality, Retro Bill, spoke at the Carroll County D.A.R.E. Rally at First Baptist Church in Huntingdon. 760 students plus teachers and administrators attended the event about tobacco and drugs.
In Decatur County, a teen youth group “For Your Health” at Riverside High School addressed tobacco education targeting middle school students. The students developed a healthy and unhealthy lung display outside of the Decatur County Middle School cafeteria on March 24th. Over 450 5th-8th graders visited the display and signed a pledge to be/remain tobacco-free.

Adamsville Junior/Senior High School, Coordinated School Health and McNairy County Health Department sponsored a two day series about making healthy choices and the physical consequences of engaging in “risky” behavior with Mr. Brent Lambert, Birth Choice Pregnancy Resource Center in Jackson, TN, presenting. In addition, 114 students visited the “Tobacco Hall of Shame” in the school library.

Rabbits were everywhere and it was no April fool’s joke. Hunter Hill (Public Housing) Apartments, U. T. Extension Office and Hardin County Health Department sponsored a “Hopping In for Good Health” event April 1st with 32 children attending. The special focus of the lesson was “Food Labels: Who Needs Them?” Healthy snacks/recipes include burritos and deviled eggs. Children had an Easter Egg Hunt and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Parents received Tennessee Tobacco Program 1-800-QUITNOW cards, “I Quit” CDC cessation booklets, secondhand smoke risks and took the Smokefree Home pledge.

Other teen health issue activities: WT Medical Reserve Corp. recruited 364 high school students from 11 schools.

“West TN Accepts the Challenge” is the theme of this year’s regional TPHA meeting on May 6th at the Madison County Health Department. The day will be a homecoming for TPHA President, Chris Freeman, former Madison County employee and for speakers, Nancy Deere and Myrtle Russell, previously employed by the West TN Regional Health Department. Vice President, Donna Lewis, has hinted that participants “are in for a big surprise”!

West Tennessee is proud to announce the appointments of Pattie Kiddy, RN, BSN and Mica Rudd, RN, BSN, MPH to County Director positions. Congratulations ladies!

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
Submitted by: Marilyn Barnes, Committee Chair

The Nominations and Elections Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers for consideration by the TPHA membership. Ballots will be mailed to each member the first part of August. The ballots may be returned to the TPHA office by mail or they may be dropped in the ballot box provided at the registration desk until 3:00 PM on the second day of the annual meeting.

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<th>President Elect - West Tennessee</th>
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<td>Marian Levy</td>
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<td>Bradley Dodd</td>
<td>Melissa Wolford</td>
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CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT ELECT

Marian Levy, DrPH, RD, is Associate Professor and Director of the Master of Public Health program at the University of Memphis. Dr. Levy received her doctorate in public health from UCLA. A Registered Dietitian, she has spearheaded numerous initiatives to reduce pediatric obesity, promote health equity, and increase access to health care. Since 2005, she has served on NIH special emphasis review panels for the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Dr. Levy has held several leadership posts, including President of the Tennessee School Health Coalition; Chair of the Tennessee Healthy Weight Network; Board Member and Chair, Resolutions Committee of the Tennessee Public Health Association; and Advisory Committee member to the Division of Minority Health and Disparity Elimination of the Tennessee Department of Health. She serves on Tennessee Infant Mortality Core Leadership Group and the Mayor’s Hispanic Affairs Task Force. In 2008, she received the Ruby R. Wharton Outstanding Woman Award for Race Relations.

Her entire career has been devoted to Public Health. She began as a Public Health WIC Nutritionist and later worked on projects related to cardiovascular risk (Bogalusa Heart Study and Heart Smart), tobacco control (Don’t Even Start), obesity prevention (Para los Ninos), prenatal health (Comenzando Bien), cultural competence (Salud para Todos), and environmental sustainability. As a consultant to the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, she coordinated development of the Pandemic Influenza Response Plan for Memphis and Shelby County. Currently, she collaborates with the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department, where University of Memphis MPH students conduct their Practicum field experience. A lifelong public health professional, she strives to build bridges across professions and across the state of Tennessee in order to “prevent, promote, and protect.” She is honored to be nominated for President of the Tennessee Public Health Association.

Bradley Dodd is a 1991 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a B.S. in Environmental Science. While attending UTC, Bradley was a member of the Phi Mu Alpha professional music fraternity, serving as treasurer and social chairman. He marched in the drum corps of the UTC band for four years. It was in the band that he met his wife, Dena, who was a member of the colorguard. They were married at the Central Church of Christ near the campus in 1990.

Following graduation, he worked for Geologic & Environmental Services, Inc. of Chattanooga in underground storage tank bioremediation. There, he managed the data acquisition team monitoring hydrocarbon spills.

In 1995, Bradley began his career with the State of Tennessee and the Department of Health as an Environmental Specialist 1 and is currently serving as an Environmental Health Specialist 3 in southeastern West TN, covering Decatur, Hardin, and Henderson counties. He often responds to calls from home since he is a hometown boy in Decatur County and is known by many.

Bradley finds time in his busy schedule for community service. In 2000, he was elected to the Decatur County School Board. He is a member of the Tennessee School Board Association, currently serving his third term.

As the father of two sons, Bradley restarted the inactive Boy Scout Troop 29 in 2004 and is serving as Scoutmaster. As an environmental enthusiast, Bradley enjoys his time with the scouts—camping, teaching survival skills, and working with them in community service projects. He is also a member of the Order of the Arrow for Boy Scouts, the only honor society whose candidates are elected by non-members as well as members.

Among Bradley’s many hobbies are deer and turkey hunting, trout fishing in Arkansas, skeet shooting, scuba diving, and camping. He loves the challenge of campfire cooking which he and his friends especially enjoy. He has even won some campfire cooking competitions with his scouts.

Recently Bradley became a member of the National Sporting Clay Association and is now shooting professionally. He supports and dedicates his time to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Shoot for a Cure Event in Alcoa, TN. For his commitment and dedication to the State of Tennessee and the Tennessee Environmental
Health Association, Bradley was awarded the Lynn B. Hearn Environmentalist of the Year Award in 2002. He also currently serves as president of the West Tennessee Environmental Health Association. He has been a member of the Tennessee Public Health Association for 15 years.

CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS - EAST TENNESSEE

Dr. Alisa Cade is a 1993 graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry. After coming to Public Health in 2000 and serving as a clinical dentist, she assumed the Regional Dental Director position for the Northeast Region in 2007.

Dr. Cade has been active in TPHA since 2000, serving on several state wide TPHA committees including: Program committee, Fun and Finance and Silent Auction. Dr. Cade has also served on the program committee and silent auction committee for the East Grand Division and as section chair of the Dental Section.

Dr. Cade and her husband, Jason Cade, D.D.S., live in Kingsport TN, and are active members of the local dental community.

Lynelle F. Callender-Henderson, RN was born and raised in Pasadena, California, attended Glendale Adventist Academy from 1st – 12th grade. Following graduation, she attended Loma Linda University where she received a BS degree in Nursing in 1987. She recently received a Graduate Certificate in Public Health Leadership, through the Tennessee Workforce Consortium on May 26th, 2009. She has worked in the field of Public/Community Health for the past 24 years, serving the Prince Georges County (Maryland), Guilford County (North Carolina) and now Bradley County (Tennessee) Health Departments. She has served on the TPHA Nursing Section Board for the past 2 years and has been an active member in TPHA for the past 3 years. She also served on the TPHA East Grand Division planning committee and the TPHA Annual Fun and Fitness planning Committee for year 2009. Lynelle serves on the board of the Cleveland Interagency Committee, the Bradley County Health Council, the Teen Pregnancy sub-committee, and the Ocoee Regional Multicultural Services committee board. She is currently the Nurse Supervisor for the Community programs within the Bradley County Health Department and works part-time for Southern Adventist University as a Nurse Clinical Instructor in Community Health Nursing. She is currently an active member of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing as well as the Golden Key International Honor Society. Married to Brenton Henderson, they share 4 children Rachaun (21), Christopher (20), Jonathan (18) and Jamil (14). She and her family reside in Hamilton County.

Art Miller is county director of Anderson and Scott county health departments. He began his career in public health in 1990 with the East Tennessee Community Health Services Agency. He was responsible for establishing health councils in 15 counties and implemented an indigent care program called Intake and Referral. He was recognized in 1996 with an award of merit from the Board of Directors of the East Tennessee Community Services Agency in appreciation of his work. In 1995 the Community Development programs were moved under the direction of the Department of Health and he became Director of Community Development for the East Tennessee Region. While in that position he was responsible for implemented the community health assessment and planning process called “Community Diagnosis”. He was also responsible for supporting the East Tennessee Regional Health Council. In 2001 he was appointed the Director of Roane County Health Department. He was successful in the purchase of a new health department facility for the Roane County Health Department in 2002. He was awarded Tennessee Department of Health’s 2002 Above and Beyond Award by Commissioner Robinson for his work in securing the new facility. He received the Public Health Worker of the Year award in 2003 from the Tennessee Public Health Association. While in Roane County he secured grants to establish new programs and expand many of the health department programs to improve the services for the citizens of Roane County. He served as the Roane County representative on the East TN Regional Council and was Vice President of the Roane County Health Council. In June 2004 he was appointed the Director of Anderson and Scott County Health Department. He was successful in the purchase of a new health department facility for the Roane County Health Department in 2005. In January of 2007 due to the growth of the Anderson County Health Department, he was reassigned to two counties so that he could spend more time in Anderson County. He continues to serve as Director of the Eastern Tennessee Region.

In 2001 Art returned to school to finish his college degree. He graduated from Roane State in 2002 with an Associates degree in Contemporary Management and in 2004 with a BS in Organization Management from Tusculum College in Greeneville. He serves on the Board of directors of the Rural Health Association of Tennessee and was TPHA regional Vice President. He served as Program Chairman for the Statewide Annual Conference in 2008. He is currently a member of the East Tennessee Public Health Forum and is also a Board member of the Anderson County Health Council. He is active in his home community on Clinton serving on the Antique Merchants Guild, a life time member of the Memorial United Methodist Church and member of the Men’s Wesley Bible Class. There he serves as Chairman of Trustees and serves on the finance and Church Council. He recently was appointed by the County Mayor to serve on the EMS Advisory Committee for Anderson County. Art has been a member of Tennessee Public Health Association for 18 years.
Christen Minnick started work with the Washington County Health Dept. as a Health Educator in December 2004. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from East Tennessee State University in 2004. In the fall of 2009 Ms. Minnick began work on a Masters of Public Health degree at East Tennessee State University with the help of a TPHA scholarship. During her time working as a Health Educator, she has served in the Health Promotion, Tobacco, Rape/Violence Prevention, and Tennessee Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program for Washington County. Ms. Minnick has been a member of the Washington County Health Council since 2005 and is currently serving as the council’s Secretary. Since the beginning of her public health career, Ms. Minnick has been a member of TPHA. She has served on the Membership and Silent Auction committees for the Northeast Region in years past. In 2007 Ms. Minnick and a colleague received the TPHA Group of the Year award for their efforts on a Body Mass Index screening project in the Johnson City School System. Christen currently lives in Blountville with her husband, David, and enjoys reading, sewing, and volunteering in her church when she’s not busy with homework.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT WEST TENNESSEE

Ashley M. Hook was born January 9, 1982 and spent my childhood in Brownsville, TN. I was the first member in my family to attend college. I attended UT Martin for 4½ years gaining a B.S. After graduation I applied for the position as Public Health Educator with the Department of Health. I have now been a Health Educator for 4 years. This has been the dream job for me. I enjoy working with people and planning programs. Since I have held this position, I have received Health Educator of the Year/Grassroots contribution, and American Cancer Society’s Tennessee Volunteer of the Year. I have also served as President of Gibson County Inter-Agency for two years. I have been involved in planning many regional programs for West TN such as Think Pink, Public Health Week, and collecting activities for nationally celebrated days, such as Kick Butt’s Day and Lead Prevention Week. I am organized and a team player. This is why I am interested in West Tennessee TPHA Vice President position. I would like to see our region more active and receiving the full benefits that TPHA can provide for them.

Matt McDaniel is currently the Cities Readiness Initiative Coordinator for the MSCHD. Before this he was the Regional Hospital Coordinator for the WTRHD, and before that he worked as an Outreach Coordinator for TENNderCARE at the MSCHD. Matt is a West TN Board Representative for TPHA, and enjoys participating in the Regional and Statewide activities. He received both a B.S. in Exercise Science and a M.S. in Health Promotion from the University of Memphis, and hopes to complete a M.P.H. in Epidemiology from ETSU this year. Matt has been married to his lovely wife Amanda since 2005, and they have two children, Riley and Cecily, and a third child due in July.

CANDIDATES FOR VICE PRESIDENT MIDDLE TENNESSEE

Dru Potash - Hello, and thank you for your consideration. I attended Brandeis University for my undergraduate career, where I studied biology and fine arts, as well as obtaining my Emergency Medicine Technician licence. I then worked in a cardio-pharmacology laboratory at Vanderbilt Medical Center and obtained my Masters Degree of Nursing from Vanderbilt University. My first nursing job was as a Health Coach, an experience that served me well as a learning experience. I jumped at the chance to work in the Department of Health for many reasons, not the least of which is the opportunity to improve the health and lives of fellow Tennesseans. My position as a Nurse Practitioner allows me to give primary care to individual children as well as help ensure the quality of health for many people statewide. I joined TPHA to expand this opportunity, and have been rewarded by the knowledge and networking it has given me. As Vice President I look forward to expanding this knowledge and bringing more members into this organization.

Shannon Railling is the Nutrition and Health Educator with the Coordinated School Health program in the Warren County School System. Prior to her career with Coordinated School Health, she served as Community Health Council Coordinator and Regional Prevention Coordinator with the Upper Cumberland Regional Health Office in Cookeville. Shannon began her career with the Department of Health in 2001 as Public Health Educator for Putnam County. Shannon holds a BS in Human Ecology/Nutrition and Dietetics from Tennessee Technological University, and an MPH from East Tennessee State University. She has been an active member in the Tennessee Public Health Association for 8 years. She is currently serving as co-chair of the Public Health Week Committee as well as a member of the planning committee for the Middle Tennessee TPHA meeting, and has previously served as a member of the Annual Conference Program Committee and as Chair of the Public Health Week Committee.

Shannon resides in Cookeville with her husband, Michael, and 10 month old son Cole.
Erica Wilson is the TENnder-Care Outreach Coordinator for Anderson, Campbell, Scott and Union counties in the East TN Region. She began her career in Public Health as a Disease Intervention Specialist back in 1999. During her 10 years in the East TN Region, she has worked in 8 of the 15 counties.

Erica earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Public Health from The University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, KY in 1996. Upon graduation, she worked in the Emergency Department at LaFollette Medical Center in Campbell County and later accepted a position in the hospital’s administration office until gaining employment with the TN Department of Health in 1999. Erica received her Master’s Certificate in Epidemiology from the University of TN-Knoxville in 2006. She will receive her Master’s Degree in Public Health in May 2010 from ETSU.

Erica has been an active member of TPHA since 2000. She has served on various committees and has served in diverse positions such as the secretary and president for the Communicable Disease Section for many years. Not only has Erica served on different committees that plan the Annual Regional Meeting, but she has participated directly on committees to plan the East Grand Division’s Regional Spring Meetings.

Erica resides in Jacksboro with her husband, Jeffrey. She is very active in her church and enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Erica says, “I enjoy working in Public Health. It’s not just a job to me, it is a career.”

Missy Wolford has been an employee of the State of Tennessee since 1995. She began her career with the Division of Radiological Health in the Department of Environment and Conservation as a Health Physicist. She worked both in licensing and inspection of Nuclear Medicine facilities and x-ray equipment prior to working under contract with the FDA inspecting mammography equipment. She also worked as a part of the Rad Health Emergency Response Team and participated in the Watts Bar and Sequoyah Nuclear emergency response drills. In 2003 she transferred to the Department of Health, Division of General Environmental Health (GEH), where she works as an Environmental Health Specialist at the McMinn County Health Department in Athens. She works all programs of the GEH Division including plan review, permitting, and inspection. Missy is active in her local Health Department by assisting with the emergency flu clinics and emergency preparedness efforts, training of local businesses and law enforcement in safe food handling and rabies control, and has served the South East Region as a PODD Manager in planning for the H1N1 effort this past year.

She has been a member of TPHA since 2005, and has served on the Continuing Education Committee for the past four years. She has served in numerous positions with the Environmental Section of TPHA and is currently the Chairperson of the TPHA Environmental Section. She was honored with the Lynn B. Hearn Memorial Award as Environmentalist of the Year in 2009, and received the TEHA Annual Merit Award in 2008. Missy currently serves as President of TEHA for 2010, having served as Sec/Treasurer in 2009, as well as Affiliate Chairperson for the Lower East and Sec/Treasurer of the Lower East Affiliate in past years. Missy has served on several committees to prepare for past East Tennessee TPHA meetings.

Missy and her husband Jason and their three children Billy, Frankie, and Dani; live in the Mt Harmony community of Athens, Tennessee. They are active members of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church, where Missy has served as a Sunday School teacher, Church Clerk, and playground committee member.

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Articles for July newsletter
Due to July 2