



ALABAMA  
PUBLIC HEALTH  
ASSOCIATION, Inc.

December 2003



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ALPHA Web Site:

[www.alphassoc.org](http://www.alphassoc.org)

**Annual educational conference to proceed as planned – April 28 - 30**

The Alabama Public Health Association board voted unanimously to proceed with plans for holding its annual educational conference at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa April 28 - 30. The lovely conference center is located on the University of Alabama campus.

The conference is being held in conjunction with the Alabama Rural Health Association and other organizations. The Anne Smith Seminar will again be held as a part of this meeting.

The theme of the conference is “Working Together Today for a Healthier Tomorrow.” Educational sessions will focus on working with communities, public health and professionals. Vice President Ashvin Parikh and others are working to line up speakers. Among them will be Dr. Max Michael, dean of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health, who will address the E. Kenneth Aycock Breakfast.

**Diversions planned to add to the fun!**

Local Arrangements Co-chairpersons Marilyn Archibald and Angela DuBose and their committee are working to plan a number of fun events for conference attendees. Among them is a silent auction which will feature some great get-away packages and signed team footballs and basketballs.

Items will be displayed for viewing on Wednesday and Thursday, with the auction to end at the afternoon break. You can come by the special room which will be designated for the auction, view all of the “goodies” and write down your bid for the items in which you are interested. You probably will want to check back periodically to see if someone else is interested in the same item and trying to outbid you! A time will be designated as the “cut off” time for making bids. At that time the people who were the last to make a bid on each item will be the winners.

You’ll have an opportunity to bid on some of the useful, valuable and entertaining items which will be available, such as jewelry, week get-away vacations, food, pottery, clothes, gift certificates and much more.

The more items we can have donated, the more fun this will be! If you wish to donate an item, or know an individual or company/business interested in donating an item to benefit ALPHA, please contact Marilyn Archibald (205) 391-5400 or e-mail at [marchiba@adph.state.al.us](mailto:marchiba@adph.state.al.us).

Social events are still tentative, but a tailgate party complete with music is being mentioned as a possibility for Thursday evening. Arrangements are being discussed for optional activities such as a Riverboat cruise, and campus tours. Make your plans now to attend this year’s conference.

**We must adapt and rethink in light of political realities**

The failure of Governor Riley’s tax package this fall severely threatens the integrity of our state’s public health infrastructure, including fundamentally important prevention programs. At the School of Public Health a very strong research program should help mitigate our anticipated cuts, at least in the short run.

Between the teeth gnashing and hand wringing is the painful opportunity to re-think our institutions to ensure the integrity of our missions @ the health and well being of the public. Absent a sea change in attitudes by the public about state finances, we are in for future years of fiscal distress coupled with increasing demands for services. And, perhaps most importantly, so many of those who rely on the services of our public health institutions are voiceless.

We are challenged to pursue new levels of efficiency and effectiveness, asking hard questions about what works and what seems to work. At the School we are beginning to look very hard at how best to provide an outstanding educational experience that meets the needs of public health professionals – future and current.

We must be willing to adapt our educational strategies to the technologies and political realities of the early 21st century. By so doing we assure the continued responsiveness and maturity of our profession and its many vital disciplines. We also assure that those who rely on the services of our public health institutions do in fact have a voice.

If nothing else public health is infused with and is historically bound to a tradition of creative thinking and hard work. Among us is the next John Snow who is fiercely undaunted by the seemingly relentless assault on public health services, who will see in the chaos a solution for these 21st century challenges.

John, are you listening?

Max Michael, M.D.,  
Dean  
School of Public Health  
University of Alabama at Birmingham



# AIPHA Award Nominations due February 27, 2004

Now is the time to begin thinking about a group or coworker who should receive the recognition of an ALPHA award. Nominations should be based on the criteria for the respective awards. The following award descriptions are intended to help you identify the right award for that special person.

The **D.G. Gill Award** was established to honor the memory of Dr. Gill, ALPHA's first president and Alabama's State Health Officer from 1947-1962.

**Criteria:** The D.G. Gill Award is presented to an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to public health in Alabama. In completing the nomination form, the nominator should relate the nominee's activities which constitute an exceptional statewide contribution to public health.

The **Guy M. Tate Award** honors Mr. Tate who served the Jefferson County Department of Health for 40 years and was Deputy County Health Officer at the time of his retirement. He contributed much to advance public health associations in the state and the region.

**Criteria:** The Guy M. Tate Award is presented annually to a public health employee, group or agency with 10 years or less of outstanding current or recent service to public health. The service should be beyond the job assignment and be one which promotes and protects public health in Alabama. The nominator should give examples of specific activities which the nominee has performed beyond the job assignment to promote or protect public health.

The **Virginia Kendrick Award** was established in 1978 upon the retirement of Mrs. Kendrick after 30 years of service. She was director of Health Personnel.

**Criteria:** The Virginia Kendrick Award goes to an individual who has provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supportive position in public health. This person should exemplify such qualities as loyalty and dedication to public health; friendly, unselfish cooperation with co-workers, enthusiasm and conscientiousness in job performance; and expertise in the practice of effective public relations. The nominator should give specific examples of how the nominee exemplifies these qualities.

The **Frederick S. Wolf Award** was established to honor Dr. Wolf who was director of the Personal Health Services Administration prior to this retirement.

**Criteria:** The Frederick S. Wolf Award is presented to an individual who has been active in public health at the local level for more than 10 years. During the period of employment, the recipient must have demonstrated efficiency, dedication and professionalism in the delivery of public health services to the public at the local level and have provided unselfish community services in areas unrelated to public health. The nominator should give specific examples of the nominee's delivery of notable public health services in the manner described above as well as examples of contributions through community service.

The **Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence** was established in 1986 to honor Dr. Myers for his 23 years as State Health Officer and for his dedicated public service to all Alabamians. At the time of his retirement, Dr. Myers had served in this position longer than any other State

Health Officer in United States history. He served from 1950-55 as epidemiologist with the Public Health Service, attaining the rank of senior surgeon of the United States Public Health Service. As the chief epidemic intelligence officer at the Communicable Disease Health Service (now the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), he participated in field studies of polio epidemiology and field trials for Salk polio vaccine.

**Criteria:** The intent of this award is to honor Dr. Myers for his accomplishments by recognizing an individual, group or organization who, through excellence in work, has made a significant impact on some aspect of public health in Alabama. Nominees are not required to have a direct affiliation with or represent any specific discipline, group or organization. Rather, they should represent excellence in effort and a significant achievement toward the promotion and protection of public health. The nominator should carefully and thoroughly describe the activity or achievement for which he or she believes the nominee should be recognized. The Awards Committee has the discretion of determining whether this award will be given each year and may, in fact, search out individuals, groups or organizations upon which to bestow this award.

## Officer Nominations Needed

The ALPHA Nominating Committee is seeking members interested in serving as officers for 2004-2005.

Please take time to review the list of positions below and consider taking an active role for the upcoming year.

If you know of qualified persons or are interested in serving yourself, please respond to Chairperson Sara M. Bradley at 256-539-3711, extension 226, e-mail SaraBradley@adph.state.al.us.

- Vice President - Serves as chairperson of the Programs and Meetings Committee. Serves as an aide to the president. Serves as a member of the Scholarship Fund Committee. Ascends automatically to the office of President Elect.
- Recording Secretary - Records the minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Board. Compiles and distributes the roster of the new Executive Board.
- American Public Health Association Alternate Delegate (Three-year term) - Represents ALPHA at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in those instances where the delegate cannot attend, provides a written report at the meeting of the Executive Board immediately following the affiliated meeting. Succeeds to the position of delegate after the completion of the current term.

# Alabama Public Health Association Award Nomination



- \_\_\_\_\_ Gill Award
- \_\_\_\_\_ Tate Award
- \_\_\_\_\_ Kendrick Award
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wolf Award
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ira L. Myers Award

Date Nomination Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

I.

Name of Nominee		Position now held, if any		
Address	Street	City	State	(Zip)

II. List positions previously held relevant to the proposed award:

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III. Relate specific incidents, accomplishments or attributes which illustrate the extent to which the nominee's performance relates to the eligibility criteria for the award.

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IV. All nominations must be signed: (by current ALPHA member)

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address of Nominator	City	State	Zip	Daytime telephone
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Please submit nomination and up to 10 letters of support by Feb. 27, 2004, to:  
Kimberly Parker, Chairman • ALPHA Awards Committee  
RSA Tower, Suite 818 • 201 Monroe St. • Montgomery, AL 36104

This form may be duplicated for other nominations. Please attach extra paper to the back of this form if added space is needed.



# Involvement can play important role

**W**I would like for each of you to think about the word “Involvement” and how it can play an important role in your membership in ALPHA.

growIng  
uNity  
Vision  
YOU  
Leadership  
Vitality  
rEcycling  
Mission  
unsElfish  
frieNdship  
communicaTion

1. ALPHA can keep growing and get bigger and better and accomplish more with your involvement.
2. ALPHA cannot succeed without unity. Members are the lifeblood of the Association. With member involvement, we will have continued unity.
3. ALPHA has a vision of increasing our membership. Your enthusiastic recruitment involvement can help.
4. ALPHA needs YOU and your enthusiasm for getting the job done!

5. ALPHA presently has great leadership, but remember the new members you bring this year will be the leaders of tomorrow.
6. ALPHA needs your vitality, your energy, to continue to grow and develop.
7. ALPHA knows that recycling is the “in thing” to do these days of shortages; so don’t forget to get in touch and recycle those former members or “absent” members.
8. ALPHA has as a mission the goal of linking individuals and organizations in addressing public health issues. Join and become a part of this mission.
9. ALPHA needs unselfish individuals to come share the fun, involvement, and networking with others.
10. ALPHA offers many opportunities for friendship ? just become involved and you will find this out!
11. ALPHA provides a communication network by which you can share what is going on in public health in Alabama and nationwide.

Remember: Your involvement means not sitting on the sideline hoping things might change. You can have a piece of the action in helping bring about constructive public health changes.

For ALPHA membership information, please contact Anita Lewis (205-554-4500) or Michael Jones (334-206-5264).

By CHARLOTTE DENTON

## ***Southern Health Association meeting focuses on infectious diseases/bioterrorism***

The Southern Health Association annual meeting was held in conjunction with the Tennessee Public Health Association from Sept. 16-19 in Franklin, Tenn. The meeting focused on emerging infectious diseases and local preparedness for bioterrorism.

The budget adopted for 2004 included significant reductions because of reductions in income, especially from corporate fund raising. This includes exhibitors and corporate sponsorships. The budget was reduced from \$17,810 in 2004 to \$13,850 in 2004.

The meeting was very successful with 700-800 participants. The evening entertainment and dance was especially impressive. The silent

auction raised \$3,190.50 and was a tremendous success.

SHA sponsored a session on bioterrorism preparedness in Southern states. The 2004 annual meeting will be in Louisville, Ky., May 3-7. There will be a midyear meeting in January or February in Atlanta. Corporations are offering to send speakers to meetings but not to pay for speakers chosen by the association.

The association adopted resolutions on obesity in children, alcohol education, and reducing use of tobacco products.

ALBERT WOOLBRIGHT, PHD, SHA Delegate



## *Happy Holidays!*

**Alabama Public Health Association, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 6632, Mobile, Alabama 36660**