**Dear Members,**

Much has happened in our world over the past year. We hope you are adjusting to the changes and finding ways to live, work and play for continued health and wellness. The MN SOPHE board held their April meeting last week and are provide the highlights below. *Enjoy Spring!!*

**Meeting Summary:**

**Mission-Vision-Values**

A sub-committee has completed the work of revising the MN SOPHE Mission, Vision and Values statements, which serve as guideposts for our chapter. The final document is being completed for board and membership approval. Watch for more details.

 **Home Office Wellness Challenge**

During the month of April, the Membership and Communications Committee, is promoting a competition among our membership. How have you incorporated “wellness” into your work-from-home space as we have faced the challenges of COVID 19? Here is how you can show off your wellness savvy:

1.    Take a picture of your office space (there’s no limit as to what you can add or take away from your space before you take your picture).

2. Open your email, attach your picture, and let us know what dimension of wellness this helps you with, as well as your  name and any other information you would like to share about your work or yourself.

3. Send your final response to sopheminn@gmail.com

MN SOPHE membership will vote to feature four office spaces based on the following categories: 1) most innovative 2) most aesthetic / organized 3) most relatable and 4) most unique office decoration / decor.

Each submission will be entered into a **prize drawing**. <https://mnsophe.wildapricot.org/Home-Wellness-Competition>

 ***Looking Toward the Future: A New Decade in Public Health***

The theme for the 2021 MN SOPHE Health Education Summit has been selected. Mary Kramer, President-elect has gathered a committee for ongoing planning. There is still time to get involved with ideas on topics or speakers that would fit with this year’s theme. What public health topics are emerging for your work in the new decade? Contact Mary at: sopheminn@gmail.com

**Elevating the status of Health Educators (CHES/MCHES)**

Certified Health Education Specialists will need MN legislative action to elevate their status for cost reimbursements to be on par with Community Health Workers. The value of our work impacts many sectors of community health and deserves to be recognized. If you are interested in getting involved with the ground work on legislative action, please contact Derek Hersch at: sopheminn@gmail.com

**March 30 Student Social Hour a Success!!**

Thanks to Sia Xiong and Kayla Rinderknecht, Student Representatives along with Taylour Blakeman and Cecelia Schaefer for the impressive line-up they provided at the first virtual student social hour held on March 30. The presentation on student research assistants and the panel featuring a discussion about approaching graduate school were a hit! If you have ideas for other topics and speakers at future social hours please connect with Sia or Kayla at: sopheminn@gmail.com

 **Congratulations!**

Cecelia Schaefer, MN SOPHE Communications Chair, was recently selected to be part of the State Tobacco Advisory. Way to go!!

**MN SOPHE meetings** are held virtually each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 14, 2021. If you are invested in attending, please contact us at sopheminn@gmail.com

Submitted by: Jean Streetar, Secretary