**Dear MN SOPHE Members,**

The year is coming to a close and board members extend wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season. Here are the highlights from the December meeting. Thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you in 2021!

**Participant Survey-Time to provide comment and input!**

We want to hear from YOU on what you want out of a MN SOPHE Membership, whether you are a member or not. Check your email messages for the link to the survey. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. By participating in this survey, you are helping contribute to the chapter  goals and identifying 2021 priorities. The survey will be open until **December 23, 2020.** If you choose to complete the survey you are also invited to submit your name for a $20 gift card drawing. Survey responses will remain confidential.

 **List serve Transition-December 15, 2020**

The Yahoo list serve for the chapter will transition to Google Groups. You will still be invited to post your information by using the following address to members: mnsophe@googlegroups.com

Sharing job announcements, grant or workshop opportunities or other resources is one of the most popular benefits of being a member of MN SOPHE. Questions?  Please contact communications chair, Mary Kramer at mary.kramer-1@mnsu.edu  or 2021 Communications Chair, Cecelia Schaefer, at cecelia.schae@gmail.com

 **Derek Hersch Attends National SOPHE Advocacy Summit-October 2020**

MN SOPHE Advocacy Committee chair, Derek Hersch, received a scholarship to attend the October 2020 National SOPHE Virtual Summit. The focus was on climate change…and so much more. Derek was asked to write a report for SOPHE and is sharing some of the learnings with our MN SOPHE chapter. Here is a quote from Derek’s report:

*“As someone relatively new to advocacy, as a field and a practice, I gained a considerable amount of knowledge and understanding. I learned practical skills for both being an advocate myself and teaching others how to advocate, and had the opportunity, for the first time in my life, to directly advocate to my elected officials. My attendance was made possible by the support of the 21st Century Practitioner Scholarship, and I would like to thank the SOPHE Awards Committee for the opportunity to attend this conference.”*

Keep an eye out for advocacy-related continuity education opportunities in the near future, and please reach out if you have any suggestions. The full report can be viewed on our website. Thank you, Derek for representing our chapter and sharing your experience.

<https://mnsophe.wildapricot.org/National-Advocacy-Summit>

**Support for MN Smoke-free Generation**

At the December 2020 MN SOPHE board meeting, members approved a motion to support MN Smoke-free Generation (SFG) and their upcoming legislative priorities. As a supporting organization MN SOPHE will endorse tobacco policy priorities; be listed on SFG materials; and will spread the word through campaign messaging. These activities align with other tobacco work through the chapter Advocacy Committee. Please see more at the website below.

<https://www.smokefreegenmn.org/>

**MN SOPHE Student Representative to be announced in January 2021**

Incoming President, Kelly Kunkel will be naming the new student representative at the start of the new year. This is a chapter board position appointed for a one year term. Students working toward health education degrees gain experience in leadership, planning, outreach and networking. The current term for student representative, Madeline Anderson-Sarno will be completed at the end of December. The board has enjoyed working with Maddie and we send best wishes as she prepares for her internship and graduation.

 **Chapter By laws Update, Approval and Member Vote**

Many thanks to Past President, Joe Visker for the work completed on reviewing and revising the chapter by-laws. As our organization grows and matures these by-laws are a necessary guide. The work is drawing to completion and the next step will be board approval of the edits and changes. From there…members will be asked to approve the new set of by-laws. Watch for the chance to review and support via your VOTE in 2021.

 **Next meeting**

MN SOPHE Board meetings are held on a monthly basis. All members are welcomed to join in the phone/teleconference calls. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 8, 2021. Contact Kelly Kunkel, President for more information at:

sopheminn@gmail.com

Submitted by: Jean Streetar, Secretary