



Happy New Year MN SOPHE!

Things are heating up for our chapter, just like the January thaw! Take a look at the meeting highlights and other information below. Consider the new year the opportunity to become more involved with MN SOPHE.

Welcome New Board Members

President Liz Heimer opened the first board meeting by welcoming the new and returning board members. Those added to the board this year are: Katie Stapleton, treasurer (past student representative); Wendy Schuh, National Delegate; Nuri Nudrant and Zhanna Dunagan, student representatives. Others on the board are: Mary Kramer, Past-President; Jean Streetar, Secretary; Lauren Witt, Advocacy Chair; PH Moua, Awards and Recognition; Sia Xiong, Communications; Taylour Blakeman, Membership Chair. We are looking for a President Elect to join us for this year. The first meeting included review of past goals for the chapter, discussing new goals and a fun activity on Jamboard to help set new expectations. Reach out to any board members if you have questions or ideas for the chapter.

Advocacy and Bill Tracking

With the MN Legislature in full swing for this year there are many bills being discussed that can have impact on health, education and the wellbeing of Minnesotans. Tracking bills and their status can be confusing. If you know the number of the bill you can search for an overview (see sample below) for either the House or the Senate.

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/bill.php?b=house&f=HF0271&ssn=0&y=2023>

Another great resource is the MN Local Public Health Association. This link has fact sheets, position statements and links to the MN Legislature for tracking the status of bills.

<https://www.lpha-mn.org/index.php>

If there is something you are passionate about....consider writing a short email to your senator or representative or joining Lauren Witt, the MN SOPHE Advocacy Chair, to be involved with timely health issues. Being an advocate does not take much time and can have big impacts.

Staying Connected

The Membership and Communications committee are here for YOU! They are starting the year off with the following updates:

New website posts, new messaging ideas, keeping you informed with relevant information.

Thanks to those that filled out the recent Membership Survey. This is what we heard:

Increase networking opportunities

Continue focused / quality efforts on Health Education Summit. Potentially more volunteers from membership to assist with planning

In Person Events

Continue to offer webinar opportunities for topics of interest

Congratulations to Andrea Gierock who won the \$25 Caribou gift card for completing the survey. Taylour Blakeman and Sia Xiong welcome all members to become and stay connected.

Local and National Conferences

Minnesota Public Health Association: Annual conference dates are May 22-23 in Moorhead, MN at Concordia College. The theme is “Raising the Public’s Health: Becoming Better Ancestors through History, Hope and Action.” In person and virtual options along with CHES credits will be available. <https://mpha.net/events/annual-conference>

National SOPHE: Annual Conference in Atlanta, March 21-24. Annual Advocacy Summit will be in October and held in Washington , DC.

American Public Health Association: “Creating the Healthiest Nation: Overcoming Social and Ethical Challenges.” Held in Atlanta Nov 12-15.

Looking Ahead to 2024

Want to experience a national level conference right in your own “backyard”? The American Public Health Association conference for 2024 will be held in Minneapolis! Watch for more information when available.

MN SOPHE Thanks Retiring Commissioner

A letter of thanks and gratitude will be sent to retiring MN Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm. In Addition the chapter will also send a note of welcome to the new Commissioner, Brooke Cunningham. We appreciate the great leadership for public health in our state.

Input and comments are always welcomed: sopheminn@gmail.com

Submitted by: Jean Streetar, Secretary

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