

2014/2015  
Annual  
Report

**Report Highlights:**

Policy & Advocacy	2
Membership	3
Communications	4
Leadership	5
Global Health	5
History	5
Activities	6
Financials	8
About MPHA	9



## Message from the President

Dear MPHA Members,

Thank you for another year of active membership in MPHA to improve the health of Minnesotans! As an all-volunteer organization, we could not achieve our goals without the efforts of our members and committees.

### Key MPHA accomplishments for 2014-2015:

- Partnered with the Minnesota Community Health Worker Alliance to organize and jointly hold our annual conferences in June 2014 with over 400 attendees.
- Increased social media followers to over 1,200 people on LinkedIn!
- Completed a successful membership drive with communications campaign which added 26 new members and increased total membership to over 400!
- Formed a new MPHA Global Health Committee which has already initiated partnerships with public health professionals in Cuba.
- Hosted a Policy Forum series, with over 160 attendees. The series entitled, "Where you live Matters", aligned with MPHA's policy priorities and the 2015 annual meeting theme.
- Revised and updated the MPHA Operations Manual and Financial Policies and Procedures which now better reflect how MPHA operates.
- Partnered with the Minnesotans for Healthy Kids Coalition for a Day on the Hill with over 200 participants advocating for public health funding, active transportation, and physical activity in schools.
- Collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Health and local public health leaders on an APHA Advancement of Health Equity grant. The grant allowed MPHA to convene a strategic planning session and conduct key informant interviews to build a statewide collaborative approach to coordinate and sustain community health and health equity initiatives and goals.
- Co-hosted the State of Public Health Forum, on April 6, 2015, with the Minnesota Department of Health and Local Public Health Association. The forum on "Working Toward Health Equity", included opening and closing remarks by MPHA, a keynote, by Dr. Ed Ehlinger, Commissioner of Health, and a panel discussion on health equity in action.
- Engaged greater Minnesota partners and members in holding the MPHA Annual meeting and APHA Great Lakes Public Health Coalition meeting in Duluth in 2015.

Thank you for joining MPHA and being the independent voice of public health in Minnesota. Together we can create a healthier Minnesota through effective public health practice and engaged citizens.

Kristen Godfrey Walters, MPH, MPHA President 2014-2015

## Policy and Advocacy

The Policy & Advocacy Committee has continued its work on key public health policy issues this year. Laura Klein and Annie Halland continue to co-lead the committee. The Policy & Advocacy committee surveyed members and identified policy priorities in the Fall of 2014. These priorities included restoring funding to the Local Public Health Grant, protecting key public health funding such as the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), including e-cigarettes in the Minnesota Clean Air Act requirements, advocating for the passage of a physical education requirement in Minnesota schools, expanding access to free breakfast for all school-aged children, and advocating for passage of comprehensive transportation legislation, including active transportation funding.

**Bringing voices together:** The monthly Policy & Advocacy Committee meetings continued to be an avenue for collaboration and information sharing between public health advocates, organizations, and coalitions. The committee continued relationships with the SHIP Coalition, Healthy Legacy, Raise It for Health, ISAIAH, and the Minnesotan for Healthy Kids Coalition. The Policy & Advocacy committee also has representatives on the nascent Health Impact Assessment Coalition led by the Department of Health, and the Move MN Coalition. Members of the committee served as representatives to these coalitions and they participated by coordinating advocacy efforts and facilitating communication between the coalitions and MPHA.

**Advocating for key public health issues:** MPHA sent out action alerts to members regarding funding for Safe Routes to School, active transportation, and several alerts about SHIP funding. We have also been active through work with our coalitions, signing on to letters supporting a comprehensive transportation funding package at the state level. Areas of MPHA support includes active transportation, SHIP funding, maintaining truck weight restrictions at current levels, immunization exemption limitation, and supporting the Toxic Free Kids Act of 2015 and Children and Firefighter Health Protection Act to protect Minnesota's children from unnecessary exposures to harmful chemicals. We also signed on to a support letter and case before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on the "True Costs of Pollution." MPHA also proudly co-sponsored a press conference with ISAIAH in which the Commissioner of Health, Ed Ehlinger, released his department's study of the link between health and paid family and sick leave.



Photo by Rebecca Zenefski, Rebecca Studios

This year we joined forces with the Minnesotans for Healthy Kids coalition for a very successful lobby day. Thanks to the resources shared by all the partners, including American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and Minnesota SHAPE, we offered members extensive training on the issues, as well as legislator meetings. We joined our voices with over 200 other public health advocates to lobby for strengthening physical education requirements in Minnesota schools, significant new funding for active transportation as a part of a statewide comprehensive transportation bill, and maintaining SHIP funding.

MPHA also advocated on federal issues this past year. Members of the committee met with Senator Amy Klobuchar's staff to discuss the benefits of the Public Health and Prevention Fund. We also sent a thank you letter to Senator Al Franken for sending a "dear colleagues" letter to fellow ranking members of the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Subcommittee in support of the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

**Resolutions:** This year committee members drafted three new resolutions on behalf of the committee. They are: Encouraging Foodstuffs Produced Without the Use of Medically Important Antibiotics, Earned Sick and Safe Time, and Paid Family Leave.

## Membership

Congratulations MPHA members! We are now over 400 individual members strong! Increasing our membership numbers to this level has been a long-term goal, and we look forward to continuing our growth and value offered to each of you. The majority of members reside in the Twin Cities metro area, while about 8-10% live in Greater Minnesota. The individual membership is comprised of 24% students, 4% retirees, and 68% individuals (including community health workers and lifetime members). Currently there are five organizational members.

The Membership Committee is charged with recruiting and maintaining MPHA members who are representative of the diverse community of public health professionals and partners in Minnesota. The Membership Committee priorities for 2014-2015 were:

### *Membership Recruitment*

- Recruit and nurture new members to MPHA from a diverse array of Minnesota public health sectors including: the Minnesota Department of Health, students, APHA members in Minnesota and Community Health Workers
- Conduct an MPHA membership drive and evaluate the results

### *Membership Development*

- Focus on enhancing membership value to current members through networking events and activities
- Explore the creation of topic or geographic focused special interest groups, specifically in non-metro areas including Rochester and Duluth
- Identify activities that increase racial geographic and professional diversity of members

The Committee's membership growth strategies in 2014-2015 built upon progress from the previous year, with attention to growth of student memberships, public health professionals in non-governmental settings, and members outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Activities included participating in the University of Minnesota School of Public Health's (UMN SPH) new student orientation and mentorship programs. During National Public Health week the Committee participated in the Minnesota Department of Health's State of Public Health Forum and the UMN SPH film festival. Other highlights included a presence at conferences in the non-metro area (Brainerd and St. Cloud), the Minnesotans for Healthy Kids Coalition Lobby Day, a volunteer food-packing event at Second Harvest Heartland, and partnership with the League of Women Voters Minneapolis annual conference. Overall in 2014-2015, the Membership Committee facilitated the presence of MPHA recruitment with an information table at 15 events.



*MPHA volunteers at the UMN-SPH new student orientation August 24, 2015.*

Organizational members include two academic institutions, a health plan, a health system and a non-metro county. Efforts are ongoing to standardize organizational membership options and recruit additional organizational members, with an emphasis on large and small organizations, both within the metro-area and in greater Minnesota.

The Membership Drive, the first one in recent history, was very successful. Jointly planned and executed with the Communications and Membership Committees, the campaign was held the last two weeks of March, 2015. The content of messages, mode and frequency of delivery, and referral contest helped create a successful campaign. Twenty-six new members joined, and thirty-three new/current members took advantage of

the promotional two-year membership rate. Future membership drives may be scheduled for the fall, with special attention to referrals, former members, and students.

The Committee's membership development strategies in the past year focused on increasing MPHA visibility at events and conferences and improving the membership experience for non-metro members. As mentioned above, MPHA was represented at two non-metro conferences, in addition to this annual meeting in Duluth, and the related annual meeting with the Great Lakes Public Health Coalition.

Based on suggestions from the 2014 member survey, the Global Health special interest group was established and is growing under the leadership of John Oswald and Julia Lorenzana Peasley. Survey data also reported a request for more networking opportunities. Thus a series of social volunteering events was created: a food-packing event was well attended, and future activities include an environmental cleanup and Ronald McDonald house dinner.

Kim McCoy and Merry Grande were Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee over the past year, assisted by committee intern Grant Bowers. The Membership Committee seeks new members who are energized to raise awareness about the benefits of membership with MPHA or to plan opportunities for members to deepen their connections and involvement in the public health community. Connect with Merry or Kim if you are interested!



*MPHA volunteers at Second Harvest Heartland, Golden Valley, MN on March 24, 2015*

## Communications

Ken Bence and Nancy Franke Wilson were Co-Chairs of the Communications Committee, with leadership over the general communications of the association. As a “virtual” organization with no physical space for people to come to, our proactive messaging and timely responses to inquiries are how we make good first impressions with our stakeholders and reinforce our reputation as a professional organization.

The Co-chairs were responsible for overseeing the administration of our web site, editing and distributing the monthly electronic newsletter, and managing our presence on social media. We have a very active LinkedIn page, which features frequent discussion posts and all the job notices received from external partners. The LinkedIn page has over 1,250 connections. We also monitor and maintain our pages on Facebook (361 likes) and Twitter (810 followers).

The Communications Committee looks forward to partnering with the Membership Committee in order to maximize our potential to reach likely new members as well as current members. We encourage all public health professionals and those interested in public health to follow us on social media. As always, being an MPHA member is the best way to connect with public health information, jobs, events, legislation/policy and trends.

## Leadership Development

Erica Fishman and Cherylee Sherry were Co-Chairs of the Leadership Committee. In this role they coordinated MPHA Awards nomination and Governing Council election processes. The MPHA Awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting in May 2015 as will the announcement of the newly elected candidates for the Governing Council open positions. Awards presented at the May 2015 Annual Meeting were:

- MPHA Student Achievement Award: Charlotte Allison Bolch, BA, MS
- Paul and Sheila Wellstone Public Health Achievement Award: Jamie Harvie, PE
- Harvey G. Rogers Award: Paula Goodman Maccabee, Esq
- Albert Justus Chesley Award: Kenneth Bence, MHA, MBA

The Committee also convened a meeting with representatives from Local Public Health Association, Minnesota Department of Health, and other interested parties to explore re-establishing a public health leadership training program.

## Global Health

The Global Health Committee was formed in September, 2014 with over 30 MPHA members expressing interest to participate. Some of the initial activities of the committee have been:

- Supporting the collection and use of “Clearinghouse” information of Minnesota organizations involved with global health or immigrant/refugee health
- Sharing information about recent or upcoming meetings/conferences related to global health being held in Minnesota
- Building partnerships with universities and colleges involved with global health
- Exploring involvement with national/international public health organizations such as APHA, World Federation of Public Health Associations, or Other Countries’ Public Health Associations



*2015 APHA Cuba visit, Courtesy of John Oswald.*

A specific interest has been MPHA’s participation in the strengthening of ties between APHA and the Cuban Society of Public Health. As a follow-up to the committee’s Co-chair John Oswald’s participation in a trip to Cuba in March, 2015 with a group of APHA’s Affiliate Members, future opportunities will be pursued for MPHA to participate in professional exchanges with Cuban public health professionals.

## History

Donna Anderson continues to focus on MPHA history, overseeing the MPHA archival materials located in temporary space at the UMN SPH. The master index of the record collection will be updated as additional materials are incorporated into the files. The Social Welfare History Archives of the UMN Elmer L. Andersen Library remains an option as a permanent home for the MPHA materials.

The MPHA History Task Force will be re-activated in fall 2015 to provide guidance and recommendations to the Governing Council on issues such as: 1) collection, integration, and digitizing of paper and electronic materials; 2) policies and guidelines to maintain and access documents by members, researchers, and the public; 3) strategies for communicating historical perspectives; 4) evaluating options to secure a permanent location. A SPH graduate student will be engaged to assist in these efforts.

# Organizational Activities

---

## Policy Forums

The Policy Forum committee (Angie Carlson, Chair; Lindsey Fabian; and Jean Streetar) lead the development of forums to position MPHA as leaders on important public health issues and develop strategies for increasing policy and advocacy. From November 2014 through May 2015, MPHA hosted a series of policy forums that showcased "Zip Code Matters!" Public health and community leaders explored the impact that zip code plays in important areas of our lives.

- October 24, 2014, "Where we work": Panelists and forum participants explored the intersection of zip code and work. How does zip code affect transportation, the location of industries and job opportunities, and occupation health?
- January 23, 2015, "Where we play": From topics related to green space, recreational opportunities and community planning, our forum panelists and participants focused their discussion on how zip code affects our opportunities for play.
- March 13, 2015, "Where we learn": At this third forum panelists and participants explored and discussed issues related to zip code and our schools.
- May 8, 2015, "Where we eat": The last forum explored zip code and food access. What progress have we made in addressing food deserts, providing access to fresh produce through local community farmer's markets, and addressing farm worker health concerns?

Each forum began with a breakfast of locally produced and healthful foods. Forum costs (suggested donations) were \$8 for members, \$15 for non-members and \$5 for students. Attendance at each forum ranged from 40-60 people. Summary notes are available for each forum on the MPHA website, and video recordings from the 2014-2015 forum series will be posted as they are available.

## Past Presidents Group

The purpose of the MPHA Past-Presidents Group (PPG) is to continuously engage the wisdom and experience of the group in the service of MPHA and its members. Dave Golden (MPHA Past President 2012-2013) currently represents the Past Presidents on the Governing Council. The PPG is convened at least once annually; 15 past presidents convened at the 2014 MPHA annual meeting for a PPG dinner.

### *PPG strategies:*

1. The PPG is recognized as an MPHA 'committee' as this gives a voting seat on the Governing Council.
2. Provide a member to the MPHA Governing Council (GC). This member is considered the chairperson of the PPG being nominated by the PPG through a process determined by the current MPHA President and confirmed by the GC. The chairperson serves a two-year term.
3. The PPG chairperson facilitates the process to select leadership from within the PPG for the following four PPG functions
  - a. Provide a member liaison to each of the MPHA committees.
  - b. Be available to mentor and coach GC members and committee chairs.
  - c. Meet at least two times per year, one of which would be in association with the MPHA annual meeting.
  - d. Serve as a resource to MPHA GC for the identification and/or contact with potential funding sources as needed.

## American Public Health Association (APHA)

Each year the MPHA President and the Affiliate Representative to the APHA Governing Council (ARGC) attend the APHA Annual meeting, the Great Lakes Public Health Coalition meeting and the APHA Council of Affiliates meetings. The ARGC attends the multi-day APHA Governing Council meetings. These meetings focus on affiliate development and official APHA business. At the 2014 APHA Affiliate reception in New Orleans, LA, Kristin Voltzke won the Outstanding Student of the Year Award for her significant student leadership and effectiveness in her efforts within our Minnesota Affiliate.

The MPHA President-Elect also annually attends the Affiliate Presidents-Elect meeting at APHA headquarters in Washington, DC in June. In 2014, Kristen Godfrey Walters attended this meeting and was able to visit the office of Minnesota's congressional delegation to discuss MPHA and APHA positions on pending legislation.



*Carol Berg, Kristen Godfrey Walters, Kristin Voltzke, Lindsey Fabian, Nancy Shapiro, Cherylee Sherry, Ann Bajari, 2014 APHA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.*



*Kristin Voltzke accepting award at 2014 APHA Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. Pictured with Kristen Godfrey Walters*

## Great Lakes Public Health Coalition

MPHA is part of The Great Lakes Public Health Coalition (GLPHC) - the group of Region V state affiliates from APHA. These six state public health associations (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) came together in 1983 for the purpose of mutual support and shared learning. Over the past 32 years, the GLPHC has been recognized by APHA as a model for other states.

The GLPHC held their spring meeting in May 2015 in Duluth, MN as part of the Minnesota Public Health Association Annual Conference. As part of Minnesota's conference, all six ARGCs participated in a panel session geared towards shared policy priorities and joint policy issues (such as Health in all Policies and climate change and health). Policy and advocacy lessons learned were discussed from each state's perspective.

At the Coalition meeting, participating leaders (the ARGCs and Presidents/Executive Directors from each state) reviewed progress on the GLPHC's strategic plan; discussed future collaborations with the Cuba Public Health Society; and discussed their joint policy project on the impact of climate change on health.

Lindsey Fabian is Chair of the GLPHC until a leadership changeover at the 2015 APHA Annual meeting. See the GLPHC website for more information: <http://www.mipha.org/glphc.php>. The GLPHC holds monthly conference calls to discuss ongoing activities and to plan for future meetings.

# Financials

## Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2014

January 26, 2015

Accrual Basis

Dec 31, 14

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

1010 · Checking 46,552.40

1020 · Money Market 17,756.86

Total Checking/Savings 64,309.26

##### Accounts Receivable

1100 · Accounts Receivable 370.08

Total Accounts Receivable 370.08

##### Other Current Assets

12000 · Undeposited Funds 3,891.92

Total Other Current Assets 3,891.92

Total Current Assets 68,571.26

TOTAL ASSETS 68,571.26

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Liabilities

##### Current Liabilities

##### Accounts Payable

2000 · Accounts Payable 665.17

Total Accounts Payable 665.17

##### Credit Cards

2500 · US Bank Credit Card 15.00

Total Credit Cards 15.00

Total Current Liabilities 680.17

Total Liabilities 680.17

#### Equity

3000 · Unrestricted Net Assets 28,651.40

32000 · Retained Earnings 26,593.45

Net Income 12,646.24

Total Equity 67,891.09

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 68,571.26



## Minnesota Public Health Association

PO Box 14709  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

E-MAIL:

[info@mpha.net](mailto:info@mpha.net)

LinkedIn:

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

Search for Minnesota Public Health Association

Twitter:

[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

Search for MNPublicHealth

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)

Search for Minnesota Public Health Association

Get involved with MPHA!

Find out more at:

[www.mpha.net](http://www.mpha.net)

## About MPHA

**MISSION:** The mission of the Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA) is to create a healthier Minnesota through effective public health practice and engaged citizens.

**VISION:** Our vision is to be an active, independent voice for public health in Minnesota.

**ABOUT MPHA:** MPHA is an all-volunteer organization that represents a broad public health spectrum:

- Public, private, community organizations;
- Professionals at different stages of their careers: entry through retirement; and
- Multiple disciplines and topics, such as environmental health, public health nursing, community health education, and public health administration.

**CORE VALUES:** Our core values are:

- To inspire effective public health leadership by offering opportunities for enhancing learning, skills, and practice;
- To advocate for public health policy that is grounded in science-based evidence and social justice principles; and
- To effectively impact public health in Minnesota.

## 2014/2015 Governing Council Members

President:	Kristen Godfrey Walters
Immediate Past President:	Carol Berg
President-Elect:	Aggie Leitheiser
Secretary:	Holly Magdanz
Treasurer:	Ann Bajari
Affiliate Representative:	Lindsey Fabian
Members-At-Large:	Emily Dale, Holly Kostrzewski, Ray Lewis, Alvine Kentska Siaka, Ann Zukoski
Member-At-Large (Greater MN):	Amy Roggenbuck
Student Representatives:	Kristin Voltzke, Guillaume Onyeaghala
Communications Committee Co-Chairs:	Ken Bence, Nancy Franke Wilson
Membership Committee Co-Chairs:	Merry Grande, Kim McCoy
Policy & Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs:	Annie Halland, Laura Klein
Leadership Committee Co-Chairs:	Erica Fishman, Cherylee Sherry
History Committee Chair:	Donna Anderson
Past Presidents Group Chair:	Dave Golden
Global Health Committee Co-Chairs:	John Oswald, Julia Lorenzana Peasley