

**Gerontological Health Section
Leadership Conference Call
June 6, 2008**

Attendees: Steve Albert; Pat Alt; Cindy Bryant; Miriam Campbell; Gerry Eggert; Caryn Etkin; Allan Goldman; Daniel Meng; Nancy Miller; Susan Miller; Karen Peters; Rachel Seymour; Steve Wallace; Jan Warren-Findlow

I. Welcome and introduction: Nancy Miller opened the meeting and welcomed all.

II. Minutes from 4/18/08: The minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Update on Annual Meeting:

A. Program:

Jan reported that we have done what we can in planning the program until we know which abstracts are selected for awards. Sessions have been set up, etc.

B. Research Awards:

Caryn reported that notification went out and the papers are due at the end of June. They will be reviewed by the end of July.

C. Archstone Awards: Allan Goldman reported that there will be one winner and two runners-up. In order to appear in the program, each awardee will need to send in an abstract through Caryn by late July for the APHA program. The awards will be \$1,000 to the winner and \$250 to each of the runners-up.

D. Conference arrangements: We'll have a conference call in August to make sure all the final information gets in. Nancy reminded the group that the hotel is filling up fast.

We have a good location again for the booth, and may want to decorate it to celebrate our anniversary? Or hand out low-cost promotional items? Stickers for badges, at least. Possibly the Section Councilors could help?

E. Leadership Awards: Letters have been sent to the awardees.

F. Local Arrangements: Steve Wallace suggested Anthony's Fish Pier for dinner after the Sunday business meeting. Allan and Susan are working on a list of restaurants.

IV. Policy Committee: Karen reported.

A. APHA is seeking nominations for legislator of the year. We discussed Kennedy? Boxer? Karen volunteered to submit some ideas by 6/21.

B. APHA is pushing for a public health action campaign this summer, including visiting legislators during the summer recess.

C. We discussed how to increase support for funding for aging programs at CDC? It is too late for a policy position this year. We could perhaps do a "late breaker" session. (Karen will explore this option). If nothing else, we should send a letter supporting this funding to the CDC itself. There was a motion, approved, that Allan Goldman and Susan Hughes will follow up on this, beginning with Alan Baker at APHA.

D. APHA is using blast emails to members to contact their legislators quickly and easily. So far, it has been used to urge support for Mental Health parity, Head Start reauthorization, and Smoking Prevention.

E. New Medicaid regulations are coming, which may need attention.

F. The GHS policy committee has not been convened. Karen said that she'll be in touch, as there are 13 aging-related APHA policies to review. If we want new policies to be considered, we need to propose them to APHA by early January of 2009, working with the Governing Council.

G. The Death with Dignity policy has been revised with more support than this past November.

H. There are a number of APHA policy resolutions but fewer follow-throughs.

V. Membership update:

Daniel Meng reported that the membership committee had its first conference call on March 14. The action plan for this year is to do a membership survey online, with a mailed supplement. The question was raised about whether to use the APHA listserv or Steve Wallace's larger list serve (or perhaps both). The question will be explored, along with the cost of Survey Monkey, etc. Cindy Bryant and Steve Albert volunteered to look at the instrument. It was also suggested to involve Jim Swan, who worked on the previous survey.

At present, the section has 458 members (as of March). It has 230 lapsed members in the past two years. The hope is that the survey will help to follow-up and perhaps regain some of those members.

There was some discussion about whether APHA as a whole is declining in numbers, but no one had the answer.

VI. Election status: Voting is open now.

VII. Newsletter: The newsletter is almost ready for submission to APHA.

VIII. "Positive Aging" Award (Erickson Foundation): It was agreed that Connie will flesh out the definition of this award, and work with Gerry and Dana to develop the proposal for the Erickson Foundation. It would be announced as a new award at the October Annual Meeting.

IX. Retirement Research Foundation Funding: Nancy announced that the Retirement Research Foundation has given APHA funding to continue support of student research for the next 10 years.

The meeting was adjourned with thanks to all.