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*Protect, Prevent, Live Well*

December 2011

Thank you for being an APHA member. I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on several changes at the American Public Health Association that will go into effect in early 2012.

First, at the 2011 Annual Meeting, APHA's leadership approved several changes to the current membership structure. Our structure was unnecessarily complicated and confusing. We believe the result of these changes will better reflect the public health field and the natural evolution of many public health professionals. As you renew your membership in 2012, you will notice several differences in the membership categories:

- Two categories were expanded to include broader definitions of qualifications.
  - Student membership will include part-time students who are taking at least 6 credit hours.
  - The Transitional member category is now Early Career Professional and will offer more opportunities to new public health professionals. The category is open to anyone who has graduated in the last 24 months and you can stay in this category for three consecutive years.
- Three membership categories have been discontinued: Consumer member, Contributing member and Premium Student member.

As of January 1, 2012, a new member will have to select from this revised menu of member types. All existing members will have to confirm their existing category, or select a new category, as their current membership expires in 2012.

Second, with approval to index dues from the Governing Council last year, the Executive Board voted in July 2011 to adjust dues by 2.38% in 2012. This adjustment, like cost of living, is intended to off-set the current economic landscape. The APHA website and all marketing materials will reflect the new dues amounts beginning January 1, 2012.

Member type	Current price	New 2012 price
Early Career Professional (formerly Transitional)	\$110	\$113
Regular	\$195	\$200
Retired	\$80	\$82
Special Health Worker	\$80	\$82
Student	\$60	\$61

APHA staff and leadership will continue to evaluate APHA's membership model over the next few months and propose additional changes to the Executive Board and Governing Council in early summer. We will keep you updated on our progress through webinars and articles in *The Nation's Health*, *Inside Public Health*, Section/SPIG newsletters and other communication tools.

Again, thank you for being an APHA member and for partnering with us to create a healthy global society. If you have any questions about the membership changes, please contact our Membership department at [membership.mail@apha.org](mailto:membership.mail@apha.org) or 202-777-2400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Alan Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Alan Baker, MA  
APHA Interim Executive Director

P.S. The *American Journal of Public Health* launched a new website earlier this month. The site provides new functionality, a more robust search engine, and access to thousands of articles including material not included in the print copy of the Journal. In early 2012 members will be able to download apps to their smart phones, the iPad and other mobile devices to access the Journal. Registrants can also customize content based on personal and professional interests. We encourage you to login today and explore the many benefits of AJPH's new website (<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/>).