This year has been rich with opportunities to interact with APHA and Affiliate public health professionals. I participated in a number of state affiliate meetings covering the nation from east to west and north to south with a focus on expanded evidence-informed practice and practice-based research. States visited include: Arkansas, Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Washington. While each affiliate has its own personality, all were keen on providing a forum for education of its membership, for discussion of critical state issues, and for celebrating exemplary work through affiliate awards. Early career professionals and seasoned public health professionals exchanged perspectives and identified opportunities for collaboration. The energy in our state affiliates is palpable! How exciting it was to interact with students across the country, many of whom presented or had a poster at the affiliate meeting. Whew, it was work to come up with thought-provoking questions as we have an articulate, poised cadre of students readying to join the public health workforce. And what a special joy to speak to public health nurses across the country as this is the role that launched my passion for and career in public health. I detail more of what I observed during affiliate visits in the President’s Column in the November/December 2019 issue of *The Nation’s Health*.

Additional activities:

- Moderated a panel at the 2018 Annual Meeting Closing Session. Panel participants included Debra Joy Perez, Simmons College’s Senior Vice President; Linda Goler Blount, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Black Women’s Health Imperative; Cynthia Lamberth, Co-Executive Director and Founding Board Member of the Kentucky Population Health Institute; and Michael Lu, Senior Associate Dean for Academic, Student, and Faculty Affairs, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health (now Dean, UCLA-Berkley). The panel explored the many facets of why women are dying too soon.

- Co-moderated session, *Public and Population Health and Health Equity*, at Academy Health Policy Institute, February 5, 2019 with Lisa Simpson, Academy Health’s President and Chief Executive Officer with panelists Gloria Wilder, Vice President for Innovation and Preventive Health, Centene Corporation; Garth Graham, President, Aetna Foundation; and Kimberlydawn Wisdom, Senior Vice President of Community Health & Equity, Chief Wellness & Diversity Officer, Henry Ford Health System.

- Represented APHA at the American College of Surgeons Summit on Firearm Safety in February, 2019 in Chicago where 42 organizations, at the conclusion of the summit, supported the following statements:
  - Firearm injury in the US is a public health crisis
  - Public health and medical approach is required
Research needed to better understand the root causes of violence, identify people at risk, and determine the most effective strategies for firearm injury prevention

- Federal and philanthropic research funding must match disease burden
- Engaging firearm owners and populations at risk is critical in developing programs and policies
- Healthcare providers should be encouraged to counsel patients and families regarding firearm safety and safe storage
- Screening for the risk of depression, suicide, intimate partner violence and interpersonal violence should be conducted across all healthcare settings
- Healthcare systems must engage the community in addressing social determinants of health which contribute to structural violence
- Our professional organizations commit to working together and continuing to meet in order to ensure the health and well-being of our fellow Americans. [Next meeting to be hosted by ABA in Washington, DC in November 2019]

- Attended National Academy of Medicine’s meeting, *Engaging Allies in the Culture of Health Movement*, March 11-12, 2019. The NAM Culture of Health Program, a multiyear collaborative effort to identify strategies to create and sustain conditions that support equitable good health for all Americans, has four aims:
  - LEAD: identify a set of consensus study topics that build upon one another, leading to a solid knowledge base that can inform a set of actions and partnerships to advance health equity,
  - TRANSLATE: bridge science to action for impact on health equity and optimal health for all,
  - ENGAGE: strengthen capacity in communities to continue to advance progress in achieving optimal health for all and inform legal, policy, and system reform, and
  - SUSTAIN: transform culture in the United States to sustain progress made and to accelerate progress in areas that still have significant health disparities.

- Participated in the inaugural Public Health Innovation Summit and Showcase on March 26-27, 2019 in Philadelphia, a first-of-its-kind national meeting to help advance innovation in governmental public health practice. Presenters discussed innovations in a number of areas including economic growth, equity, technology in communicating with individuals within a health department’s jurisdiction, and criminal justice reforms. Participants concluded that innovation not only requires that initial idea but also an organizational culture that fosters bringing the innovation to fruition in governmental public health.

- Assisted in launch of Public Health Week April 2019 that included a presentation by Joia Creed-Perry, MD, noted reproductive justice expert and advocate and a panel of grassroots public health advocates:
  - Carma Lewis, Flint Neighborhoods United, shared that their Tool Shed project in Flint, MI has increased safety and strengthened neighborhood pride by providing resources for community residents such as borrowing a lawn mower to mow a vacant lot’s grass or securing solar lights to deter vandalism.
  - Deborah Thomas-Sims and her colleagues established the East End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Pop-Up Market and Café in Bridgeport, CT to end the food desert in their community. In addition to the availability of nutritious foods, jobs were created for local residents.
  - Reverend Jordan Boyd and Cheryl Emmual, spoke of the work their church is doing in Charlotte, NC; training health ambassadors through Village HeartBEAT to promote positive health behavior within congregations.
Javier Lopez described the Red Hook Initiative, which is Brooklyn, New York’s largest urban farm. The produce grown on the farm is sold to help with sustainability and distributed to those in need. The positive engagement of the community’s youth in farm operations and learning life skills is central to Red Hook’s mission.

- Delivered a talk at the National Association of Local Boards of Health annual meeting in July, 2019 in Denver which provided an opportunity to interact with individuals who sit on the boards of local public health agencies, many of whom are not health professionals by background.

- Represented APHA at the NIAID and Scientific Societies Meeting in Rockville, MD in September 2019, along with Lisa Carlson, President Elect, focused on how we might best develop high performing researchers, scientific leaders, and a diverse workforce prepared to address NIAID’s research mission of leading research to understand, treat, and prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases.

- Penned ten (10) columns for the Nation’s Health
  - Improving health of the public through evidence-based practice: Get to know APHA’s new president (January)
  - Science and public health: Taking ownership of our evidence base (February/March)
  - Taking action: You have a role to play in public health policy (April)
  - Progress on gun violence prevention constrained by unanswered questions (May)
  - Lessons from National Public Health Week: The importance of grassroots public health work (June)
  - Countering vaccine hesitancy with evidence-based decisions (July)
  - Next steps for addressing adverse childhood events (August)
  - Foodborne illness: New partners, ideas can protect public health faster (September)
  - Applying public health tools to our crisis of hate and violence (October)
  - Parting notes from APHA’s president: Thanks, public health professionals (November/December)

And a guest editorial for the *American Journal of Public Health, Science and Industry: Let’s Agree on Goals and Shared Wins* (July, 2019)