WELCOME

AFFILIATE LEADER

A guide to helping you understand APHA and Affiliate Affairs

FEBRUARY 2024
Congratulations on being selected to lead your state or regional public health association. You have an exciting term ahead of you.

Since 1910, the American Public Health Association has been working with our affiliated associations to share expertise and resources, set priorities and collaborate for greater influence on policies at the local, state and federal levels.
**WHAT’S INSIDE?**

This guide will introduce you to APHA’s mission, history, goals and priorities; acquaint you with APHA’s governance model; familiarize you with the role of Affiliates within APHA; and detail the variety of APHA benefits, resources and services available to Affiliates. You may want to keep it handy for easy reference.

**WHO WE ARE**

We champion optimal, equitable health and well-being for all. We speak out for public health issues and policies backed by science. We are the only organization that combines a 150-year perspective, a broad-based member community and the ability to influence federal policy to improve the public’s health.

**OUR VISION**

Optimal, equitable health and well-being for all

**OUR MISSION**

Build public health capacity and promote effective policy and practice

**OUR WORK**

Our work focuses on convening the leading annual gathering of public health professionals, facilitating discussions on the latest research and sharing best practices across all disciplines. Through our research journal, monthly newspaper, reports, meetings, webinars and social media engagement, we aim to foster collaboration on diverse public health issues. Additionally, we advocate at the federal level for laws and regulations supporting public health, securing funding for crucial programs and providing educational opportunities for professionals. We are committed to advancing health equity and universal access to care and we collaborate with diverse sectors through initiatives like “health in all policies” and emphasize prevention as a cost-effective route to enhanced well-being.

**VALUES**

Our values reflect our members from all disciplines of public health and over 40 countries. Those values are:

- Community
- Science- and evidence-based decisionmaking
- Health equity and justice
- Prevention and wellness
- Measurable progress in improving health
- Fortitude to persevere

**APHA’s work is moved by its motto: For science. For action. For health.**

To ensure our effectiveness, APHA frames its work to reflect the goals of public health leaders today.

- **For science** — Together, we will leverage cutting-edge research and promote best practices.
- **For action** — Together, we will advocate to put innovative policies and programs into practice.
- **For health** — Together, we will improve the health of all people and all communities.
The success of this framework rests upon strong communication between APHA, our partnerships and affiliations, and sharing that work and those partnerships with the public. APHA has developed guidelines specific to affiliated associations on how to best communicate your affiliation with APHA.

**APHA AT A GLANCE**

- 501c3 charitable organization
- 50,000 members
- National office located in Washington, D.C.
- Hosts largest annual public health conference
- Publishes award-winning research journal, newspaper and online communication channels

**APHA LEADERSHIP**

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director

James Carbo
Chief of Staff

Susan L. Polan, PhD
Associate Executive Director of Public Affairs and Advocacy

Mighty Fine, MPH, CHES
Associate Executive Director of Public Health Policy and Practice

Ella Greene-Moton
APHA President (2023-2024)

Deanna J. Wathington, MD, MPH, FAAFP
APHA President-Elect (2023-2024)

**ALL ABOUT APHA AFFILIATES**

According to APHA’s Bylaws:

A state or territorial public health association, or similar association including more or less than a state and organized for the same general objectives as the American Public Health Association, may be elected by a three-fourths vote of the Governing Council as an affiliated association. No more than one such association shall be admitted from the same area.

Today, APHA has 52 Affiliates. Each is an independent, nonprofit organization, but all Affiliates are members of APHA.

Affiliates play a vital role in APHA. They serve as the largest voting bloc on APHA’s Governing Council, helping to elect our leaders and set policy statements that determine APHA’s priorities. They are the boots-on-the-ground public health workers who share local and state priorities with APHA and help ensure APHA’s work and resources reach communities around the country. Both Affiliates and APHA benefit from this relationship!

**BENEFITS OF AFFILIATION WITH APHA**

A vote on APHA’s Governing Council

**Resource and leadership development opportunities, including:**

- A complimentary APHA membership list from your state to help promote your annual meeting and increase your membership.
- Complimentary lists of APHA Annual Meeting attendees from your state,
agency members from your state and student members from your state.

- Opportunities for grant funding to increase Affiliate capacity.
- An all-expense-paid orientation at APHA headquarters for your Affiliate’s president-elect.
- A visit from APHA’s president at your state annual meeting once every three years with airfare expenses paid by APHA.
- Advocacy training and resources.
- Access to the Affiliate Online Community, where you can communicate with other state public health association leaders.

Opportunities at the APHA Annual Meeting, including:

- Access to technical assistance and training, including Affiliate Day.
- Networking opportunities with other state Affiliate leaders.
- Participate in Council of Affiliates-sponsored scientific oral and poster sessions to help build Affiliate organizational development skills.
- Consideration for Council of Affiliates (CoA) awards:
  - Award for Excellence
  - Chair’s Citation
  - Outstanding Affiliate of the Year
  - Outstanding Student of the Year
  - Outstanding Affiliate Staff
  - CoA Award for Innovation in Public Health
- Consideration for APHA Affiliate Award for Advocacy

Access to APHA publications:

- Complimentary access to The Nation’s Health newspaper.
- Complimentary access to the American Journal of Public Health.
- APHA monthly legislative updates.

Advocacy Resources and Opportunities

- Protecting Public Health Authority & Advocacy Toolkit
- PHERN
- Advocacy vs Lobbying webinar
- Participation and support from the Alliance for Disease Prevention and Response

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN APHA AFFILIATE

As an Affiliate of APHA, each state or regional public health association must pay dues to APHA, as well as participate in annual reports on advocacy and overall organizational function. Affiliates that do not pay their dues are not able to vote on the Governing Council. This is outlined in the APHA-Affiliate Memorandum of Understanding.

Current Assessment of Affiliate Dues

Affiliates are assessed $2.50 for each member and credited $1 for each member who is also a member of APHA. Affiliates with organizational memberships are also assessed 2% of the total revenue from their organizational membership. This rate is established by the APHA Executive Board, subject to approval by a two-thirds vote of the Governing Council.

Understanding the Process

When does Affiliate dues collection to APHA begin?

The annual dues collection process for Affiliate membership in APHA typically begins in May.
Does APHA provide documentation to assist with the Affiliate dues process?

Affiliates will receive a roster of APHA members in their state as well as the APHA assessment invoice. States with more than one Affiliate will receive the membership roster for the entire state.

How does APHA notify Affiliates?

The Affiliate president, executive director and Affiliate representative to the APHA Governing Council will receive an email notification regarding the dues assessment.

COUNCIL OF AFFILIATES

The Council of Affiliates is the bridge between APHA and the Affiliates. CoA leadership oversees the coordination of Affiliate and APHA activities (i.e., mid-year meeting and Affiliate Annual Meeting sessions) to help strengthen your state public health associations.

The CoA is your Affiliate’s voice at APHA and nationwide! The council advocates for Affiliates’ interests, needs and members. Its members come from the Affiliates themselves.

The primary purpose of the CoA is to:

- Promote efficient and effective APHA-Affiliate coordination;
- Identify and resolve concerns and issues; and
- Maintain working relationships with the APHA Intersectional Council, Executive Board, Membership Committee, Action Board and Governing Council.

Responsibilities of the CoA include:

- Maintaining communication with and seeking guidance and input from constituent states on APHA-Affiliate matters;
- Communicating ideas, concerns and issues related to APHA-Affiliate matters to the CoA chairperson;
- Ensuring that Affiliate Representatives to the Governing Council (ARGCs) from constituent states understand their functions and responsibilities;
- Promoting intra-regional sharing of mutually beneficial operational or programmatic information; and
- Facilitating the identification and resolution of public health problems requiring interstate or regional action.

The CoA includes 10 regional representatives who serve two-year terms and 10 at-large seats. One ARGC from each of the 10 federal regions is elected or designated for CoA service. CoA members must be current members of APHA and their Affiliate. At the end of odd years, the terms for odd regions expire. At the end of even years, the terms for even regions expire.

Of the 10 at-large representatives:

- Four are elected by CoA members to the CoA Leadership Team (chair, chair-elect, immediate past president and secretary).
- Two serve as representatives to the APHA Action Board.
- One is a representative from the APHA Student Assembly.
- Two are appointed by the APHA president and serve two-year, staggered terms. These positions do not have to be an ARGC. One at-large position is designated for an Affiliate executive director or staff.
- One is named by the CoA to focus on Affiliates’ policy efforts.

The CoA also has non-voting liaison positions. These include an early-career professional, a representative from the APHA Intersectional Council, a representative from the APHA Caucus Collabo-
rative, a representative to the APHA Committee on Social Responsibility, a representative to the APHA Committee on Membership and a representative from the APHA History Project.

The 2023-24 Council of Affiliates:

Denise Strehlow, MPH, MSW, RD, LD
Chair
Sarah Mayberry Rines
Immediate Past Chair
Rebeca Nevedale
Chair-Elect
Kaye Reynolds, DrPH, MPH
Secretary

Regional Representatives

Randy Domina, MPH
Region I (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Denise Tahara, PhD, MBA, MPHil
Region II (NJ, NY, PR)

Sue Ann Sarpy, PhD, MS
Region III (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA)

Rich Timmons, MPA, CGFM
Region IV (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

Alexandria Jones
Region V (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)

Quinyatta Mumford, MPH
CHES Region VI (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)

Jessica Seberger
Region VII (IA, KS, MO, NE)

Teresa Garrett, DNP, RN, APHN-BC
Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY)

Dominik Sturz, DrPH
Region IX (AZ, CA, HI, NV)

Lauren Jenks, MPH, CHES
Region X (AK, ID, OR, WA)

Other 2023-24 CoA members

Kristine Gonnella, MPH
At-Large — Affiliate Staff

Adrianna Boulin, MPH
At-Large

Christian Williams, DrPH, MPH
At-Large

Preet Kukreja, MHA
Action Board

VACANT

Lauren Ray, MPH
Student Assembly Representative

Nonvoting members

Karl Cooper, JD
CHES Intersectional Council Chair-Elect

Pam Aaltonen, PhD, MSN, BSN
Advisory Member – APHA Committee on Social Responsibility

Engage with the CoA

- Get to know your CoA leaders: Your regional representative will be your main point of contact. Introduce yourself and maintain close communication with them.

- Attend CoA monthly meetings: While not a requirement, come join our monthly CoA meetings (third Tuesday of every month, noon-1:30 p.m. ET). You’ll get to hear more about what CoA leaders are working on. Email us for a calendar invite.

- Connect with the CoA through the Affiliate Online Community.
• Join a workgroup: We’ve got four workgroups that you can sign up for that lead the work of that the CoA does each year.

APHA EXECUTIVE BOARD
The Executive Board consists of the APHA president, president-elect, immediate past president, treasurer, speaker of the Governing Council and 12 members who are elected by the Governing Council from the Association membership for terms of four years each. The chairs of the CoA, Intersectional Council and Student Assembly serve as members of the Executive Board ex officio with a vote. The APHA executive director and the chairs of APHA’s Action Board, Science Board and Education Board serve as members of the Executive Board ex officio without a vote. Voting members of the board elected by the Governing Council serve staggered, four-year terms.

Functions of the Executive Board
• Act in an advisory capacity to the APHA executive director and direct the administrative work of the Association.
• Act as trustees of Association properties.
• Coordinate and review recommendations of standing committees, as well as the Action Board, the Science Board, the Education Board, the Council of Affiliates and the Intersectional Council.
• Act on technical standards on behalf of the Association, as the official accrediting body for the Association publications and designate the time and place for the Annual Meeting.
• Establish Special Primary Interest Groups and Forums and recognize Affiliates and Caucuses.
• Carry out Association policies and adopt interim policies, which remain in effect until the next Governing Council meeting.
• Authorize the establishment of, appoint members to and designate the chairs and vice chairs of all Association boards and chairs of Association committees; and appoint special Association committees and task forces with specific functions to be accomplished within a specified time frame.

APHA GOVERNING COUNCIL
The primary role of the Governing Council as set forth in the APHA Bylaws is to:
• Establish policies for the Association and for the guidance of the Executive Board and the officers; amend Association Bylaws and adopt rules for the conduct of its own business.
• Receive and act upon reports or recommendations from any organization constituent, the Science Board, the Action Board, the Education Board, the Standing Committees and the Executive Board.
• Elect the Executive Board, Association officers and honorary members.

The Governing Council also recognizes new Affiliates. Its role is to represent the priorities of APHA members, including Affiliates.

APHA AFFILIATES AND THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
Each state or regional public health association elects an Affiliate representative to the APHA Governing Council — also known as an ARGC. This person is the liaison between your Affiliate and APHA and should be an organized com-
communicator. The ARGC represents your Affiliate's needs, wants and concerns on the national level and casts votes during Governing Council meetings. Your ARGC is key to the APHA-Affiliate relationship. They have the opportunity to elevate your Affiliate's work to the national stage.

The ARGC is expected to assist the Affiliate president and the Affiliate in supporting and facilitating the APHA-Affiliate relationship by:

- Ensuring APHA is informed on a timely basis of all changes in Affiliate leadership;
- Encouraging and promoting Affiliate leadership participation in APHA activities specifically designed for Affiliates (i.e., Affiliate Presidents-Elect Meeting, Affiliate Day, CoA poster and scientific sessions, etc.);
- Working with the Affiliate president or staff to ensure timely payment of annual APHA dues;
- Staying informed and prepared with the policy direction of the Affiliate to effectively represent the Affiliate on the APHA Governing Council;
- Assisting APHA, in cooperation with the Affiliate president and policy chair, with policy, advocacy and implementation of approved APHA policies and resolutions;
- Encouraging Affiliate participation in the development and submission of grant and project proposals to APHA;
- Attending Affiliate Day, ARGC meetings and the Governing Council preceding and during the APHA Annual Meeting; and
- Maintaining ongoing communication with other ARGCs and the CoA's regional representatives.

**APHA STRUCTURE**

In addition to the Executive Board and Governing Council, APHA is comprised of 33 Sections, 17 Caucuses, five Forums, the Student Assembly and the 52 state and regional Affiliates.

**Sections**

- Aging and Public Health
- Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs
- Applied Public Health Statistics
- Chiropractic Health Care
- Community Health Planning and Policy Development
- Community Health Workers
- Disability
- Environment
- Epidemiology
- Ethics
- Food and Nutrition
- Health Administration
- Health Informatics Information Technology
- HIV/AIDS
- Injury Control and Emergency Health Services
- Integrative, Complementary and Traditional Health Practices
- International Health
- Law
- Maternal and Child Health
- Medical Care
- Mental Health
- Occupational Health and Safety
- One Health
- Oral Health
- Pharmacy
- Physical Activity
- Podiatric Health
- Public Health Education and Health Promotion
- Public Health Nursing
- Public Health Social Work
Forums
- Breastfeeding
- Cancer
- Genomics
- Human Rights
- Trade and Health

Student Assembly
APHA's Student Assembly is the nation's largest student-led organization dedicated to the development of the next generation of professionals in public health and health-related disciplines, with approximately 7,000 student members.

- Vision: A network of students for a healthy global society.
- Mission: To improve the future of public health by promoting excellence and professional development for students in public health and related disciplines.

Since 2004, the Student Assembly has had a Section-like affiliation with APHA and works closely with issues and projects pertinent to developing the public health workforce. The Student Assembly strives to enhance students' education experiences and professional development by providing information, resources and opportunities through communication, advocacy and networking.

Leadership Pathways: Stories from the CoA
Taking on a new leadership role within your Affiliate can be overwhelming, especially if you’re new to APHA. By reaching out to other Affiliate leaders, not only will you grow stronger within your own organization, you might also find new opportunities for leadership and career advancement. Below, current and former CoA leaders share their stories:

Denise Strehlow (2023-2024)
My current work is a culmination of previous professional and personal experiences. I have many colleagues, leaders, mentors and friends who have helped me in my path to leadership in APHA as the current Council of Affiliates Chair. The CoA is a wonderful group of dedicated individuals who along with the Affiliate Affairs team promote the work of Affiliates and provide a communication channel for all Affiliates to APHA as well as for APHA to Affiliates.

I began my professional working career as a registered dietitian in Illinois and later moved to Missouri. Changes in the health care environment led me to the
St. Louis County Department of Public Health and my introduction to public health. I was volunteered for a newly developed grant writing team and encouraged to enroll in a grant writing workshop at St. Louis University in the School of Public Health. The class was great, the grant writing team worked well and I was introduced to the MPH/MSW program. I had always thought I’d pursue an MSW to complement my RD and the joint degree program fit my professional and personal interests.

A mentor and professor introduced me to the Eastern Missouri Chapter of the Missouri Public Health Association (one of the MPHAs). I got involved in St. Louis University hosting the public health meetings and I was hooked on the diversity of potential opportunities to improve our community. During the public health meetings, I met many wonderful friends, leaders and mentors. One of the leaders, mentors and now friend is Pat Parker. She was the ARGC for MPHA for 12 plus years and she was extremely passionate about public health, MPHA, APHA and sharing her ties and talents. Pat invited me to share her hotel room for the APHA 2008 Annual Meeting and Expo in San Diego and my interest in all things APHA began.

Through Pat’s mentorship and friendship, I attended my first CoA Affiliate Day and CoA Awards Reception (now the PHMC/CoA Awards Reception) as well as sat in on the APHA Governing Council sessions. I continued my involvement with MPHA and attended each APHA along with my forever roommate Pat Parker. When Pat completed her last term as ARGC, she nominated me as the next ARGC. I served as MO ARGC for several terms and as the Region VII Representative on the CoA. During my MPHA work, the region began our collaboration as MINK (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas) with an annual conference bringing the region together. I served as the CoA Secretary before the CoA Chair-elect and currently Chair.

Sarah Rines, CoA Chair (2022-2023)

When my public health career began in 2007, I was fortunate to have colleagues and mentors who were active members of the Maine Public Health Association (MPHA) and the American Public Health Association (APHA). When landing in my first position addressing tobacco prevention at a community coalition in rural Maine, I didn’t have a background in public health or connection to the broader work. Eager to learn more and get connected, I joined my local association and started my journey to be an enthusiastic, public health advocate.

Having mentors active in the public health community provided me an important avenue into get connected. I was encouraged to participate in the MPHA and APHA Annual Meetings. I have had the opportunity to present tobacco control strategies multiple times at the APHA Annual Meeting with the first being in 2011. Attending that meeting was really valuable (and overwhelming) and left me wanting to get more connected.

After participating in work groups and events, I was invited to join the Maine Public Health Association Board of Directors in 2017. This appointment has led me on a wonderful journey to discover and get connected within the American Public Health Association. MPHA invited me to join the role of Af-
filiate Representative to the Governing Council (ARGC). I didn’t know much about the ARGC role other than it required participating in specific sessions at the APHA Annual Meeting.

I am so glad I accepted the Maine ARGC role – it has created leadership opportunities, allowed me to build connections (and friendships), and provided an opportunity to learn more about APHA as an organization. I love serving as the ARGC role, including regularly meeting with my fellow New England ARGCs and participating in Governing Council. That position has also provided pathways to leadership positions at both my local affiliate and within APHA.

I have had the opportunity to serve as President of the Maine Public Health Association. From the ARGC role, I was able to serve as the Regional Representative for Region 1 (New England states) on the Council of Affiliates (CoA). The CoA is a wonderful group to be involved with, the participants are engaged and fun, leading to meetings that are action-based and collaborative. After serving on the CoA for a few years in the Regional Representative role, I was appointed to the Leadership Team – serving as chair for 2022-2023.

Each role I’ve had the opportunity to serve in has provided an opportunity to further engage, find my voice, learn more about the efforts of APHA. The CoA Chair is an ex-officio member of the APHA Executive Board. Providing an opportunity to share the affiliate perspective and voice at this level.

It can be hard to know where to begin when you start your journey with APHA. Each level of involvement peels back a layer and helps to build the full picture. Enjoy the journey, relationships you form, and find your pathway.

**Jessica Boyer, CoA chair (2021-2022)**

In May 2000 I graduated from college with the path I had set for myself slowly becoming harder to navigate. I spent four years in college studying communication and political science with the intention of becoming a political reporter for the New York Times. So naturally I thought public interest law would be perfect for me. However, I needed a job with benefits (way back before the ACA was even a notion and dependents could stay on their parents’ insurance plans) and to pay the bills while I studied for the LSATs and applied to law schools.

I began to search for jobs at non-profits which could use the communication skills I honed during college. I applied for a job as a communications officer at a public health non-profit. I didn’t know anything about public health, but I knew how to write so I got the job. Working in communications gave me the opportunity to learn so much about the work of the organization and the communities it served. I was hooked!

Within two years of taking that job, I was enrolled in an MSW/MPH program, taking classes at night while working my full-time job. Around that same time, I was encouraged to become involved with my State Affiliate, the Pennsylvania Public Health Associ-
Richard Cohen (the name may sound familiar to some) was and still is the president/CEO of the organization I worked for, PHMC. Richard was very active in PPHA and strongly supported my participation in PPHA in which I have since served as treasurer, president-elect, president and ARGC. It was a great opportunity to develop my leadership skills in a tangible way and to further apply what I was learning in graduate school and on the job. It also opened my eyes to the diversity of public health sectors across the Commonwealth, recognizing that the role of public health in the rural counties in Pennsylvania could be very different than in Philadelphia or Pittsburgh.

It seemed only natural that my involvement with PPHA led to APHA. Again, with Richard’s encouragement, I began attending APHA Annual Meetings and Affiliate Days. I loved being able to connect with other public health folks from across the country. It was fascinating to hear about their work and how they were addressing the pressing public health issues in their states. Getting involved with the Council of Affiliates has been one of the highlights of my career. The CoA has provided me with the opportunity to hone my leadership style in a safe and collaborative environment, learning from great leaders around the country. I truly value the close professional and personal relationships I have developed through the CoA.

I encourage all Affiliate Leaders to approach their leadership with intentionality, don’t think of it as time bound, but rather on a continuum. Everything you do for your Affiliate will have a greater impact on your day-to-day work and your community. Please feel free to reach out to me directly to discuss the CoA and how our work can further support Affiliates.

ACCESSING THE AFFILIATE ONLINE COMMUNITY

The Affiliate Online Community is your resource to connect with other Affiliate leaders, collaborate and share resources. If you’re a new leader within your state public health association and NOT already a member of APHA, you should have received an email from the Affiliate Affairs staff providing you with your login information to access your account. APHA’s Affiliate Affairs Department is here to support you throughout your journey as an Affiliate and APHA leader. This guide gives you a general overview of APHA and Affiliate Affairs, but you’ll pick up much more along the way. For
additional information, or if you have any questions, please contact APHA Affiliate Affairs at:

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IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Use the Affiliate Online Community as a tool to reach other Affiliate leaders, let APHA and other state and local Affiliates know about your success, and update information when your leadership changes: Affiliates.APHA.org
- Reach out to your regional representative on the CoA or to APHA staff if you have questions. They’re your support system.

DATES AND ACTIVITIES

April 1-7, 2024
National Public Health Week

May 2024
APHA sends membership dues assessment information to Affiliates

June 3-4, 2024
Council of Affiliates Mid-Year Meeting (virtual)

June 17-18, 2024
Policy Action Institute in Washington, D.C.

July 14-16, 2024
Affiliate Presidents-Elect Meeting in Washington, D.C.

July 31, 2024
Deadline for Affiliate dues to APHA

August 2024
Affiliate Annual Report Survey distributed by APHA (due end of August)

September 17, 2024
Get Ready Day

October 26, 2024
Affiliate Day at APHA’s Annual Meeting in Minneapolis

October 27-30, 2024
APHA Annual Meeting and Expo in Minneapolis

November 2024
Affiliate Policy and Advocacy Survey distributed to Affiliates