

Questions for Candidates for Executive Board

- 1) **Describe your past experiences serving in a volunteer leadership role (in APHA or another organization) in the areas of governance, fundraising, budget management, and policy development.**

I've served in several leadership roles for APHA and other voluntary organizations that have provided experience in governance, resource development, budget planning and management, and policy development. During the past year, I've worked as chair of the APHA Action Board, co-chair of the Joint Policy Committee (JPC), ex-officio member of the APHA Board, member of the finance committee, and member of the Council on Affiliates (CoA). Prior to this year, I've served two previous terms on the Action Board and JPC, along with two terms on the CoA. This current and previous service has provided a well-rounded background enabling me to serve as a prepared and effective board member from day one. APHA has made meaningful strides in the past year, including stabilizing association finances following budgetary challenges arising during the height of the COVID pandemic. I will work with association staff and leaders to sustain APHA's fiscal accountability, as well as its priority work to advance diversity and inclusion among association membership and leadership.

In past years, I have provided leadership service on five other non-profit boards, including the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), the Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing (now the Association of Public Health Nurses, APHN), the Kansas State Nurses' Association, Episcopal Migration Ministries, and the Greater Kansas Chapter, March of Dimes. Additionally, I've served as President and Board Chair for four of these five organizations.

In all volunteer leadership roles, my priority has been to collaborate closely with association staff and other members of volunteer leadership to build a shared vision for increasing organizational strength by promoting active engagement from all levels, inclusiveness, and continuous improvement and innovation.

My board leadership experience spanning more than two decades has given me a solid foundation to build on in performing APHA Executive Board functions in the areas of governance, resource development, budget and policy development. I'll build on that foundation with a commitment to be open to new ideas, and seek out and promote new leaders from throughout APHA.

- 2) **How do you envision growing and promoting APHA in the next 5 years? From your perspective, what are the key priorities and the emerging issues facing the membership, and how will you address them as a member of the APHA Executive Board?**

First, I would become fully informed about the membership development efforts that are currently underway and collaborate with those involved to explore how we might expand the strategies that have proven most effective to date. From that basis, I'd work with staff, board members, and APHA organizational units to explore additional strategies and innovation for membership development,

emphasizing the potential role of the sections, affiliates, and other units. I believe it will be essential to listen to our current members to better understand the value that APHA membership provides for them, and also to identify the areas of new opportunity to meet additional member needs and expectations.

I am motivated to help grow APHA's current member base of "traditional" members, as well as expanding membership recruitment efforts to new groups. As the public health system expands its reach to include those in emerging areas of practice impacting the social determinants of health, including public health-adjacent fields, we should actively outreach to these new potential members. Additionally, the new public health system transformation effort presents opportunities for membership expansion, by bringing new public health workers leading system transformation on board as APHA members and leaders. Likewise, it's critical that we actively engage our student membership in association priorities to assure they have meaningful experiences as student members that motivate them to continue their membership as early career professionals and beyond.

My commitment to membership development has led to significant membership gains in another organization I'm involved in, the Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN). During my time as a leader in the association, we've increased our membership more than ten-fold by outreaching to new potential members from varied roles and organizations and actively seeking diversity in membership, as well as creating new membership categories to make membership accessible to more individuals and organizations. Similarly, the recruitment, development, and retention of a diverse membership will be a top priority during my service on the APHA board.

There are many emerging issues facing the APHA membership in coming years. I believe the most urgent is the need to assure strong advocacy for public health issues and for the public health system. The COVID experience put public health in the spotlight in ways we've never experienced before. While public health professionals served their communities with skill and integrity, they faced much adversity due in large part to the lack of informed constituents who were able to serve as champions for public health, and advocate on behalf of public health and public health workers. At the same time, attacks on public health authority have become pervasive across the US. These challenges clearly demonstrate the imperative for strong, coordinated public health advocacy efforts, by and for public health professionals along with public health champions from the community. Advocacy for effective public health policy has become more critical than ever. It is a critical priority that APHA engage and empower all members with the ability to promote change through public health advocacy. Development of an even stronger base of public health advocates must be a primary goal and outcome of increasing APHA membership.

