



The Pulse of MAPHN



"Making a difference to improve and protect the health of our communities."

Winter 2023

maphn.org

Volume 7, Issue 1

BIG NEWS

Save the Dates!!

25th Annual MAPHN Conference

May 3 – May 4, 2023

Holiday Inn & Suites/ Marlborough

265 Lakeside Avenue, Marlborough, MA 01752

Our Conference Planning Committee is firming up plans for our Annual MAPHN Conference!!

A block of rooms planned for us will be available soon. The discounted rate for overnight lodging at the hotel will be available through April 6. Stay tuned to your weekly News This Week (NTW) email for how to make your reservation at the discounted rate.

Future NTWs will have the Conference Registration information too!

The Conference Planning Committee has been working tirelessly to provide an incredible plenary for both the Afternoon/Evening Program on May 3 and the Full Day Conference on May 4. There will be something for everyone including opportunities for new PHNs and new MAPHN members!

A really exciting conference is planned for us in 2023!

Leila Mercer, The Pulse of MAPHN Editor

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gail Johnson, MAPHN President



Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I Hope that 2023 brings you health, joy, and happiness. We have so many great things planned for this upcoming year, and we already started off the new year with our

kickoff presentation provided by Cheryl Sbarra and Mike Hugo, “Legal Authority of Local Boards of Health,” held on January 19 via webinar, which is now on our maphn.org website, for you to view at your leisure.

Our annual conference is being held on Wednesday, May 3rd -Thursday, May 4th, 2023. It’s our 25th Anniversary! **“The PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING”** The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn & Suites Marlborough. It’s a wonderful way to meet other public health nurses from around our Commonwealth, and a great way to see old friends and meet new ones. In addition, you will leave informed, relaxed, and hopefully, you will leave with great memories. Our conference planning committee is hard at work, trying to provide all of us with a terrific, jam-packed experience, and we encourage all of you to sign up for both conference days, as we would love to see all of you there.

Some of the board members are currently working with the Local Public Health Institute (LPHI) and the Office of Local and Regional Health (OLRH) on workforce development. Our goal is to provide our members with quarterly live webinars, that eventually will be put on the LPHI website and offer CEU's, so stay tuned for that in the upcoming months.

If you need any assistance with resources or have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your fellow local public health nurses, chapter representatives, president@maphn.org, or info@maphn.org. Our maphn.org website is filled with information and resources, so feel free to look at that too.

It's a true privilege being the President of this organization, and I look forward to our continued partnership. I thank you for your support and encouragement.

Take care,

Gail

Gail Johnson, BSN, RN

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your Officers are elected by the membership to serve 2 year terms and vote on issues at the BOD meetings. Officers who are filling a vacancy are appointed by the BOD and serve for the remainder of the designated term.

Feel free to contact any of them about anything MAPHN!

Officers:

President: Gail Johnson (2022-2023) president@maphn.org

President-Elect: (open)

Immediate Past President: Ruth Mori mjm3mom2003@yahoo.com

Vice President: Sara Harris (2022-2024) vicepresident@maphn.org

Treasurer: Angela Kramer (2022-2024) treasurer@maphn.org

Secretary: Caitlin Pettengill (2021-2023) secretary@maphn.org

Chapter Presidents:

Chapter Presidents are elected by each chapter to attend and vote at BOD meetings.

Metrowest/Central Chapter: Taylor West twest@southboroughma.com

Northeast Chapter: Gail Johnson gjohnson@westfordma.gov

Southeast Chapter: Tiffany Zike tzike@needhamma.gov

Cape & Islands Chapter: Maurice Melchiono maurice.melchiono@barnstablecounty.org

Western Chapter: Anne Mistivar amistivar@hcc.edu

Boston/Cambridge: (open)

Other Non-Voting Leaders who attend BOD meetings:

Communications & Webmaster: Kitty Mahoney kittymahoney@maphn.org

Executive Aide: Caroline Kinsella executiveaide@maphn.org

Administrative Assistant: Leila Mercer admin@maphn.org

MDPH PHN Liaison: Glynnis LaRosa glynnis.larosa@state.ma.us

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

It is time to prepare for our annual elections! This year we are seeking nominees who are willing to serve in the offices of **President-Elect and Secretary** of our organization. These are 2 year terms (2023-2025). The Job Descriptions are attached for you to review. Generally your responsibility involves attendance and voting at our quarterly meetings.

Seeking Election to serve on the MAPHN Board of Directors in one of these positions is a valuable experience we hope you will consider. It is an opportunity to play a key role in planning and implementation of the many crucial issues MAPHN faces. Your voice will be heard, and it will have an impact! This is your chance to develop and demonstrate your leadership skills!

If you decide to run for Secretary or President-Elect of MAPHN, you will need to complete the **Consent to Serve Form**. Instructions and the Form will be forthcoming in your weekly "News This Week" email.



Please note: Fellow Members can encourage one another to run for office, but it is the Member who wants to run for office who must complete the Consent to Serve.

Following Nominations, Election ballots will be sent out to all current, paid Regular Members via email (Per our By-Laws, only Regular Members are eligible to vote; Associate, Retired and Student Members are ineligible).

Feel free to contact one of our current Board Members or your Chapter President (previously listed in Meet Your Board of Directors) with questions!

Below are descriptions from the MAPHN By-Laws of the Offices up for election in 2023:

President-Elect. The President-Elect collaborates with the President to learn the role of the President, to become familiar with the programs of the Association and its governance, and to develop and facilitate officer transition. The President-Elect assists and supports the President as an Ex-Officio Member of all committees with the exception of By-Laws and Nominating Committee. The President-Elect assists as needed and plans for transition to their Presidential year. The President-Elect shall automatically become President at the end of the term of President-Elect.

Secretary. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping all records and the minutes of the association meetings and its Board of Directors. The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping records suitable for future filing.

Please consider running for one of these offices!

MAPHN needs you!





New Members since our Summer 2022 PULSE Issue

Metrowest/Central

Laura Duff, Great Meadows PH Collaborative

Penny Giacobbi, Northborough BOH

Katherine Mayer, Great Meadows PH Collaborative

Northeast

Sandra Brown, Wakefield HHS

Teresa Kirsch, Beverly HD

Julia Lobel, Tri-Town Public Health

Malorie MacDonald, Reading HD

Jennifer Pereira, Wilmington HD

Anita Wright, Groveland BOH

Southeast

Elizabeth Bennett, Brookline HD

Virginia Chacon-Lopez, Needham HD

Maureen Couture, South Hadley PH

Deb Deery, Quincy DPH

Teresa Flynn, Marshfield HD

Desiree Harding, Swansea/Somerset BOH

Diana Hillery, Norwood BOH

Kristy McMillen, New Bedford HD

Liza Rebello, New Bedford HD

Western

Lauren Blakeley, Westfield HD

Kelly Hughes, Northampton DHHS

Elliot Ezcurra, Northampton HD

Olivia Lara-Cahoon, Amherst HD

Tricia Sedelow, Southwick Regional District

Christine Southworth, Southwick BOH

Boston/Cambridge

Cape & Island

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

APHA Annual Meeting, Boston MA Highlights



Lauren Hewitt and Jeanine Murphy, Western Chapter PHNs from Wrentham, had a great time at the APHA conference in November! It was great to hear all the speakers. They were so passionate about all aspects of public health!

APHA Public Health Nursing Section held their annual Luncheon at the Convention in Boston in November. Among the MAPHN members attending were: Gail Johnson (MAPHN President and Northeast Chapter president); Phyllis Schilp (Metrowest/Central Chapter); Taylor West (Metrowest/Central Chapter President); and Jessica Tracy (Southeast Chapter)



Congratulations to the AIM 2022 Immunization Champions!

Submitted by: Laurie Courtney, MetroWest/Central Chapter

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) has taken over what was previously known as the CDC Childhood Immunization Award and the HPV Vaccine is Cancer Prevention Award to create the new immunization award program, Immunization Champions. This award revitalizes opportunities for recognition while honoring the previous program and highlighting the fantastic work that has taken place in the last two years of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Immunization Champions have gone above and beyond in their work in either flu, COVID-19, HPV across the lifespan, or childhood routine vaccination.

In August, it was AIM's pleasure to announce the winners of the 2022 Immunization Champion Award. The awardees are a diverse array of pharmacists, providers, nurses, and community leaders that have made a significant impact on improving public health through immunization in their communities. Congratulations to all 28 awardees, and thank you for the incredible work that you do!

MAPHN wants to especially extend congratulations to Massachusetts recipient **Kate Kelly (Western Chapter) !!**



AIM Supports the Nation's Public Health

Immunization Leaders

The Association of Immunization Managers (AIM) is dedicated to establishing a nation free of vaccine-preventable disease. AIM members are the leaders of state, local, and territorial immunization programs—directing the public health efforts designed to keep children and adults vaccinated and protected against disease. Since 1999, AIM has provided a national voice for immunization programs and a forum for program managers to learn from each other, confront challenges, and achieve success. Since its inception, AIM has

gathered and shared information with its members on policy implementation, legislative issues, programmatic successes, and more.

2022 Immunization Champions

Arizona: Dr. Sean Elliott

California: Dr. Alex McDonald

Connecticut: Gregory McKenna

District of Columbia: Elizabeth McDermott

Georgia: Dr. Jane Wilkov

Hawai'i: Dr. Lee Buenconsejo-Lum

Idaho: Dr. Patrice Burgess

Illinois: Dr. Douglas Carlson

Kentucky: Jill Keys

Maine: Sara Noel

Maryland: Gregory Branch

**Massachusetts:
Katherine Kelly**

Michigan: Christine Plummer

Minnesota: Kelly Robinson

Missouri: Michelle Yarnall

Nevada: Teresa Praus

North Dakota: Sonia Takacs

New York City: Dr. Zhao Wang

Ohio: Tara Dahal

Oklahoma: Jennifer Gilley-Brooks

Oregon: Sandy Le

Pennsylvania: Lauren Grantz

Puerto Rico: Johanna Cruz

Rhode Island: Eugenio Fernandez

South Carolina: Youlanda Gibbs

Texas: Dr. Mary Healy

Washington: Ahmed Ali

Wisconsin: Mohammed Anwar

The Metrowest/Central Chapter had a field trip to the Public Health Museum in Tewksbury in December. Members were treated to an indoor tour of the Museum, led by Dr. Al DeMaria; and also an outdoor tour of the grounds of the Tewksbury State Hospital. The day ended with enjoying their annual holiday luncheon at a nearby Tewksbury restaurant.



Caitlin Pettingill, our MAPHN Secretary, was recently featured in MDPH School Health Unit's "Who's Who"!

Who's Who at SHU and BU!

Caitlin Pettengill, DNP, RN
Assistant Director of School Health Services

Hello Massachusetts School Nurses! I am Caitlin Pettengill, the Assistant Director of School Health Services at MA Dept of Public Health.

I want to share with you all a little bit about my family. I live a mile from where I grew up, my wonderful parents still live right up the street. Both of my parents were public school teachers for 30+ years, my father is still working as a Physical Education Teacher and Lacrosse Coach. My son, Jackson, is a first grader at Framingham Public Schools (shout out to the Framingham School Nurses!). My daughter, Emma, just started preschool. My husband, Jeff, is an Electrician in the IBEW Local 103. Jeff and I are looking forward to bringing Jackson and Emma to Disney World. It will be our first family trip outside of New England!

I hope you and your families have a wonderful December break filled with rejuvenation and joy.

Sending tons of love and much appreciation for all that you do ~ Caitlin





JUNE 5-8, 2023

DoubleTree by Hilton Mission Valley San Diego, CA

Submitted by: Glynnis LaRosa, Western Chapter

The Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN) annual conference "**Bridging Academia & Practice**" will be held June 5-8, 2023 in San Diego. This year the conference will be a joint conference with the Association of Community Health Nursing Educators (ACHNE). This will be a wonderful conference where the members of the practice (APHN) and education (ACHNE) national PHN organizations will meet together. This joint conference only happens every few years.

In the past, MAPHN has offered scholarships to eligible interested MAPHN members to attend. Also, Chapters may also have funds to help support their members to attend. If you are interested in applying, contact Gail Johnson at president@maphn.org, or your Chapter President.

For more information about this joint conference, go to the APHN website: <https://aphn.memberclicks.net/> ; or get in touch with Glynnis LaRosa, our Senior PHN Advisor at glynnis.larosa@mass.gov

In December 2022, MAPHN brought on board **Leila Mercer** as the new Administrative Assistant. Leila is a currently a Retired member, having served in various leadership roles in MAPHN over the past 25 years. You can reach her at admin@maphn.org.

Welcome, Leila!

NEXT ISSUE OF THE PULSE: Summer 2023
Send submissions anytime to newsletter@maphn.org

[Check out our Website!](#)



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