The Pulse of MAPHN

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

Spring/Summer 2021
maphn.org
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The Pulse is Back!!!

By Leila Mercer, The Pulse Editor

After a loooooong absence, The Pulse is finally back up and running!

The Pulse is returning once again, eager to communicate and share with our members! As designated Editor of our Newsletter, allow me to affirm the purpose for The Pulse:

- **INFORM:** to keep our members abreast of the activities and undertakings of MAPHN
- **ENGAGE:** to involve our members in the overall functioning of MAPHN
- **CONNECT:** to provide ways to unite our members as they practice and advocate for the specialty of public health nursing

The Pulse is MAPHN’s Newsletter. It is YOUR Newsletter. The Pulse depends on you, MAPHN members, to have a voice and contribute to its content. We welcome any and all ideas to succeed in its goal to Inform, Engage and Connect! Simply send your submission to newsletter@maphn.org anytime.

From here on, you can expect The Pulse to publish two times yearly, in Winter and Summer. We want to hear from you!

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Message
- Meet Your Board of Directors
- Welcome New Members!
- Awards & Acknowledgements
- MAPHN Benefits
- Committees
- Member Contributions
- In Memoriam
- Upcoming Events
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Ruth Mori, MAPHN President

Dear Members,

I appreciate it has been some time since you have received organizational updates. Please know this is not because your organizational officers are not engaged in promoting and supporting Public Health Nursing aspects, it is because we are an all-volunteer organization.

In stating this, we had a full Board Meeting on March 25th. This was the first opportunity we had to meet via Zoom since July and had healthy discussions and votes to support important aspects of our organization.

We have agreed that we must have an Administrative Assistant to support our organization. This is for limited hours but we need to have an additional person to help manage some of the daily needs of the organization that we as volunteers do not have the time to sustain. This will be the third contracted position MAPHN has in place. We have Caroline Kinsella who acts as our Executive Director and works with the Treasurer to manage the finances of the organization. We also have Kitty Mahoney who is our Communications Director and manages the Website as well as News this Week. Now we are searching for an Administrative Assistant to benefit our members and organization ASAP.

We have discussed and voted on updating the role of the Treasurer and overall Organizational Structure. This means we are updating our By-Laws and at our virtual ANNUAL MEETING online sometime late May or early June, we will be asking for the Membership's acceptance through our voting process. We are looking to move our model to that of the Massachusetts Health Officer Association (MHOA) and the Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN).

This would allow for a President-Elect, President and Immediate-Past President. This allows for more time of mentoring and to be mentored for the role of President. The position of At-Large would no longer exist as it has not been a role that ever reached full potential. We would also go back to utilizing the same terminology of positions at the Organizational and Chapter level within the By-Laws. For example, rather than having the organizational President and Chapter Director, we utilize organizational President and Chapter President.

Sincerely,

Ruth
MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your Officers and Directors At-Large 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!

President: Ruth Mori (2019-2021) president@maphn.org
Immediate Past President: Caroline Kinsella executiveaide@maphn.org
Vice President: Gail Johnson (appointed 2020) vicepresident@maphn.org
Treasurer: Jessica Tracy (appointed 2020) treasurer@maphn.org
Secretary: Ann Marie McCauley (2019-2021) secretary@maphn.org
Director At-Large: Debbie Chaulk (2020-2022) dchaulk@natickma.org
Director At-Large: Angela Kramer (2019-2021) akramer@ludlow.ma.us

Chapter Directors: Chapter Directors are appointed by each chapter to vote at the BOD meetings, and to report back to the Chapter.

Merrily Evdokimoff, Metrowest/Central Chapter
Karen DaCampo, Northeast Chapter
Mary Goodwin, Southeast Chapter
Deirdre Arvidson, Cape & Islands Chapter
Deb Schaier, Western Chapter
Boston/Cambridge Chapter (open)

Other Non-Voting Leaders who attend BOD meetings:

Communications & Webmaster: Kitty Mahoney
MDPH PHN Liaison: Glynnis LaRosa
Chapter Presidents
Committee Chairs
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!

WOW!!! We are excited to see the number of nurses entering the field of Public Health Nursing!!!

Welcome to all of you! This is a list of those who have joined MAPHN since our last newsletter in June 2019:

METROWEST/CENTRAL
Emily Amico, Sudbury BOH
Michelle Andrade, Marlborough BOH
Kara Bandstra, Walpole Area VNA
Ashley Denton, Wellesley HD
Susannah Hann, Framingham Public Schools
Alyssa Kaiser, Walpole Area VNA
Kasey Mauro, Hopkinton BOH
Tricia McGeen, Lincoln/Concord/Carlisle BOH
Caitlin Pettengill, Framingham HD
Meaghan Ritcey, Waltham HD
Margaret Sullivan, Westwood HD
Lauren Terzo, Waltham HD

SOUTHEAST
Hanna Burnett, Needham HD
Nicholas Crowninshield, Norwood HD
Emily Field, Mattapoisett BOH
Patricia Fisher, Walpole HD
Mary Fountaine, Needham HD
James Goodrich, Canton BOH
Ann Martin, Randolph BOH
Jeanine Murphy, Wrentham BOH
Taylor Pecoraro, Quincy HD
Katie Pelland, Norwood BOH
Judith Raleigh, Canton BOH
Cassie Ryan, Boston College

NORTHEAST
Jennifer Almonte, Lynn HD
Darcy Beall, Chelmsford BOH
Nicole Chauncey, Lowell HD
Kara Curley, Dracut BOH
Asmae El Alami, Lexington Elder Services
Kristine Harris, Reading HD
Tina LaCourse, Amesbury BOH
Deborah Murphy, Nahant BOH
Terry Riley-Singh, Saugus HD
ShanynToulouse, Haverhill HD
Nancy Zabbo, Methuen HD

WESTERN
Marge Bernard, South Hadley BOH
Evelyn Bristol, Westfield HD
Lida Brown, West Springfield HD
Leslie Drager, Berkshire Public Health Alliance
Amy Hardt, Easthampton BOH
Megan Tudryn, Greenfield HD
Lisa White, Franklin Regional Council of Govts

BOSTON/CAMBRIDGE
Elizabeth Bennett, Student
**RETIRED MEMBERS**

We would like to recognize MAPHN Members who have retired during this past, most unusual year! For several of you, “retirement” has not exactly looked like what you would expect!

We praise you and thank you for your years of dedicated hard work in the field of Public Health Nursing!

Mary Allen, *Western Chapter*

Leslie Chamberlin, *Metrowest/Central Chapter*

Iodiah Henry, *Northeast Chapter*

Virginia O’Halloran, *Cape & Islands Chapter*

Leila Mercer, *Metrowest/Central Chapter*

Sheila Miller, *Southeast Chapter*

Elaine Silva, *Northeast Chapter*

**2020 MAPHN AWARDS**

Although our 2020 Annual Conference was cancelled, nevertheless we are proud to honor our Awardees!

**Champion of Public Health Nurses Award**

Glynnis LaRosa, *Western Chapter*

**Presidential Award**

Caroline Kinsella, *Southeast Chapter*

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

Leila Mercer, *Metrowest/Central Chapter*

**Public Health Nurse Award**

*All Members of MAPHN*
50 Years as Public Health Nurse!!!

Congratulations to Charlotte Stepanian, MSN, RN-BC for 50 years as a PHN!!!

On April 17th, Charlotte celebrated 50 years as a public health nurse!

Charlotte is a past president of MAPHN and most recently chaired our EPRI Committee. She has been recognized with several awards over the years for her tireless work:

- MAPHN PHN Award 2003
- Public Health Nursing Section of APHA Lillian Wald Service Award 2012
- LPHI Fellow 2013
- MAPHN Presidential Award 2017
- MAPHN Lifetime Achievement Award 2018

She is the town of Merrimac PHN and a member of the Northeast Chapter.
Sheila was an active and devoted MAPHN Member and PHN for the Sharon Health Department for many years. She served on the Board of Directors and was a member of the Southeast Chapter. She received the MAPHN PHN Award in 2008 and recognized by the Commonwealth of MA as a TB Hero. Sheila always had an encouraging word to share with everyone, and a gentle and funny sense of humor. She recently retired from public health nursing. We miss you Sheila!
MAPHN BENEFITS

Many of you are new to MAPHN, and may not know about the benefits of your membership. Or you may be a long time member, but never really knew how to access your member benefits. In any case, here is a summary of what you can do with your MAPHN Membership!

**Membership Benefits**

Are you aware of the many benefits available to you as a member of MAPHN? Take a look!

**Get Connected!**

**Chapter Membership:** There are 6 regional Chapters supported by MAPHN, providing public health nursing with information, networking, continuing education, learning opportunities, “field trips”, and regionally relevant programs. $50.00 of your dues paid annually to MAPHN goes toward the support of your selected chapter. Chapters elect chapter officers and a chapter director to attend the quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors. Monthly chapter meetings are posted on our website with date, time, location and special information on guest speakers or programs. Members can select one of the following chapters when they join or renew their membership:

- Northeast
- Southeast
- Metrowest/Central
- Western
- Cape & Islands
- Boston/Cambridge (currently inactive)

**Website:** [www.MAPHN.org](http://www.MAPHN.org) is the portal for members to obtain the latest practice information, access educational products and services, tools to enhance their practice, get the latest news on professional topics, and explore how to access our benefits listed here.
**Membership Directory:** An online directory of all current MAPHN members is available for those looking to connect.

**Member-to-Member Forum:** A place on our website where you can ask, comment or respond to questions or comments with other MAPHN members! MAPHN serves members by providing a dynamic forum for the exchange of new ideas, bringing together members to share their experiences, expertise and friendship. Go to [www.maphn.org/publicforums](http://www.maphn.org/publicforums).

**“News This Week” and “The Pulse”:** “News This Week” is a weekly e-mail update sent to members’ inboxes with important information, advisories and relevant public health nursing news. Electronic newsletters (“The Pulse”) are published twice a year, written for members and by members. MAPHN encourages articles to be submitted by all throughout the year at [newsletter@maphn.org](mailto:newsletter@maphn.org).

**Facebook Page:** Find us under *Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses* and like us!

**Electronic Membership Card:** Located in your Member Profile, which can be downloaded.

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**Get Involved!**

**Committees:** MAPHN always welcomes member participation on our committees, who work on the foundations of our organization. We have committees working in:

- Outreach, Visibility & Membership (OVM)
- Service
- By-Laws
- Finance
- Awards
- Conference Planning
- Nominations & Elections
- Education, Practice, Research & Informatics (EPRI)

**Service Projects**

**Mentoring Program:** MAPHN provides a vital resource to nurses new to the specialty of public health through its mentor program. Experienced PHNs are partnered with new PHNs, providing encouragement, support and guidance. For more information about this outreach, contact your Chapter President or email [info@maphn.org](mailto:info@maphn.org).

**Operation Stand Down:** This is an annual project coordinated by our Service Committee members. Volunteers from MAPHN, area Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and university students provide foot care, diabetic screening and immunizations to at-risk and homeless veterans at the annual Operation Stand Down event in Boston.

**Advocacy:** MAPHN supports a pro-active legislative affairs program through our participation in CLPH (*Coalition for Local Public Health*), LSAC (*Local and State Advisory Committee*), and MPHA (*MA Public Health Association*), where we advocate for public health nursing and public health
nursing practices. MAPHN also partners with other nursing organizations to advocate for issues impacting the field of nursing and public health. MAPHN keeps members abreast of the latest legislative and regulatory developments and often solicits support and assistance from members.

**Get Ahead!**

**Professional Development**

**Educational Support:** MAPHN promotes excellence in continuing nursing education through our annual Spring Conference. It is the largest meeting of public health nurses in Massachusetts. MAPHN also provides educational opportunities at the Chapter level and through relevant webinars in partnership with our colleagues in public health. Many are archived on our website for future viewing. Continuing education hours are provided for conference and educational meeting attendance.

**Savings:** Being an MAPHN member means membership rates and discounts on all of the organization’s conferences, webinars, and online educational materials. In addition, scholarship support is available to attend professional events such as the annual American Public Health Association (APHA) and Association of Public Health Nurses (APHN) conferences. Contact your Chapter President or info@maphn.org for more information.

**Career Development:** MAPHN has an online Employment Opportunities tab which provides information to help members advance their careers, search for jobs, or post an advertisement for career opportunities in public health nursing.

**Professional Resources**

**Free Conference Calling and Zoom® Access:** Instructions are on our website to arrange your conference call or Zoom meeting for up to 100 attendees!

**Survey Monkey®:** Members are eligible to access our Select Level survey platform for questionnaires, evaluations of programs, data collection and more. Instructions on how to access this resource are on the website.
Get Involved! Join a Committee!

The Pandemic has disrupted much of our operation as an organization, including the recruitment and meeting of our Committees. **Our Committees need your ideas and participation!** Many committees meet via conference call and Zoom, no travel required! Contact one of our Chairs listed below!

**Committee Descriptions**

**Awards:** Oversees and conducts the process to select recipients of MAPHN's annual awards.  Chair: Sherry Petrucci  spetrucci@agawam.ma.us

**By-Laws:** Maintains MAPHN organizational foundation by reviewing Bylaws and policies for consistency and making recommended changes.  Chair: Kitty Mahoney  kittymahoney@maphn.org

**Conference Planning:** Plans and organizes the MAPHN Annual Conference.  Contact: Phyllis Schilp  phyllisschilp@yahoo.com

**Education, Practice, Research and Informatics (EPRI):** Provide guidance to the membership to enhance evidence based educational opportunities. Conduct and support research activities for MAPHN.  Chair: Traci Mello  tmello@comcast.net

**Finance:** Maintain the financial health of the organization.  Chair: Ruth Mori  rmori@wayland.ma.us

**Nominations and Elections:** Solicits members to run for office and conduct the election process (ad hoc)  Chair: Maria Tamagna  mtamagna@cityofmalden.org

**Outreach, Visibility & Membership (OVM):** Recruits and maintains members. Increases the image of MAPHN and the Public Health Nurse.  Chair: Jessica Tracy  jetracy@dedham-ma.gov

**Service:** Assists the growing developments of organizational participation in the provision of community service(s) projects.  Chair: Kitty Mahoney  kittymahoney@maphn.org
Accommodations at COVID Clinics

“Stepping Up” to the Challenge

By Kitty Mahoney, Metrowest/Central Chapter

In addition to interpreters, wheelchairs, and large print information, this was a first for a clinic in Framingham for height. Even seated, the nurse could not reach the appropriate IM spot for a COVID vaccination in this client’s arm. Thinking quickly, Nurse Vaccinator Linda Renault “stepped up” to the task to accommodate this person. Literally. Thinking just as quickly, Nurse Observer Katherine Valovcin captured it on film.

Photo by Katherine Valovcin

Natick & Wayland Team Up to Provide Moderna Vaccines

By Leila Mercer, Metrowest/Central Chapter

In January and February, the health departments of Natick and Wayland teamed up to vaccinate their First Responders against COVID-19. An EDS was set up at the Natick Community Senior Center Gymnasium, and grateful employees of the Fire, Police, and Health departments received their first and second Moderna shots. Led by PHNs Debbie Chaulk (Natick) and Ruth Mori (Wayland), the clinics were staffed by health department employees as well as volunteers from the Natick MRC and both communities.
A Message from the MA Health Officers Association (MHOA):

The 2020 Public Health Nursing Award
All active local and regional PH Nurses

This award is presented annually to a Public Health Nurse who has demonstrated exceptional dedication in carrying out the public health mandates of a regional or local municipal agency.

Since this has been an extraordinary year to say the least, many people have asked that all of our local and regional public health nurses be recognized for all of your unwavering hard work during this COVID-19 pandemic. We will be sending you all certificates and we hope to have the physical award displayed on your behalf at the Public Health Museum. It is important for us to mark your great dedication and hard work into history! Thank you and Congratulations to all the Public Health Nurses across the Commonwealth.

Statement: MAPHN is gratified that our MHOA partner recognizes the exceptional dedication and nursing excellence that public health nurses provide to their community(s). Together we wage the battle of COVID-19 to protect our public’s health.

HELP WANTED

Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses

Administrative Assistant (Part Time- 5-10 hours per week average)

The Massachusetts Association of Public Health Nurses (MAPHN) is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose membership includes Public Health Nurses from the 351 cities in towns in MA. MAPHN is looking for an Administrative Assistant who will remotely perform a wide variety of administrative duties.

Duties may include but may not be limited to:

● Develop and update administrative systems to make them more efficient.

● Assist with emails, phone calls and other correspondence.

● Create, organize and maintain files and databases in a confidential manner.

● Organize and coordinate in-person and virtual meeting logistics, help prepare presentation materials and take notes as needed

● Assist with Annual Meeting and Annual Conference planning and implementation

● Assist in development of Annual Report
● Facilitate, organize and update MAPHN Member Directory yearly or as needed

● Serve as an organizational liaison for MAPHN technology, registration and CEU programs.

● Report to MAPHN President and Executive Board

● Quarterly reports submitted to Board

● Assist President and Executive Board with projects

**Required Qualifications:**

● Education or training: A Bachelor's degree

● Administrative assistant/office manager experience required

● Strong critical thinking skills

● Excellent communication and writing skills

● Ability to set priorities and meet specified timelines in an independent manner

● Ability to prioritize and adjust as conditions change

● Attention to detail and accuracy are essential

● Proficiency in Microsoft Office programs, database and spreadsheet software

● Ability to work on several projects or issues simultaneously.

● Ability to work independently or in a team environment as needed.

● Home Office (Computer as part of MAPHN)

**Preferred Qualifications:**

● Experience with local public health or municipal government

**Hours and Compensation:**

5-10 hours per week @ $30.00 per hour working as an independent Contractor/Consultant

**To apply:**

Please send resume and cover letter to Ruth Mori MSN, RN President

info@maphn.org

Position open until filled
UPCOMING EVENTS

MAPHN Elections and Awards:
The offices of President and Secretary are up for election this year. We welcome all considerations for candidates! Consent to Serve Forms will be available very soon in “News This Week” (NTW)! Also think about nominating one of your PHN colleagues for one of MAPHN’s annual awards. Award descriptions and nomination forms will be available very soon in NTW.

Virtual MAPHN Annual Conference & Meeting this summer! Members will vote on By-Law changes recommended by the Board of Directors:

*Proposed By-Law Recommendation:* As part of the Strategic Planning for MAPHN, the By-Laws Committee proposes the following amendments which reflect national organizational health models (APHA) be applied to the office of President. With the addition of these reorganized two positions, the By-Laws committee also recommends sunsetting the elected “Member At-Large” position and clarifies the language of chapter “representation” and obligations. Members currently serving in positions of recommended change shall sunset with their term of office expiration [Members-At-Large, Chapter Director, Chapter Representative]

Conference details TBA soon. Stay tuned!!

APHA is coming to BOSTON for its 2022 Annual Meeting!! The APHA Annual Meeting and Expo is the largest annual gathering of public health professionals. Thousands of people attend, and thousands of new abstracts are presented each year, making the APHA Annual Meeting the most influential meeting in public health. Many hands will be needed to coordinate the many logistical details to make APHA Boston a success. More details in the coming months on how you can help!

NEXT ISSUE OF THE PULSE: Winter 2022
Send submissions to newsletter@maphn.org

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!