



## 2010 KPHA NOMINEE BIOS

### VICE PRESIDENT –

**Paula Alexander** - Paula Alexander has been director of the Franklin County Health Department since August 2007. A registered nurse, she came to FCHD from the state Department for Public Health, where as a nurse consultant she held many roles during her nearly 14 years there. Paula has a passionate interest in pursuing accreditation for all of Kentucky through the Public Health Accreditation Board and with colleagues throughout the state who daily help assure the Ten Essential Public Health Services. She is also secretary of the Kentucky Health Department Association and chairs KHDA's accreditation committee. Paula recently completed an inaugural Robert Wood Johnson "Survive and Thrive" fellowship through the National Association of County and City Health Officials. She is serving as chair of KPHA's annual awards committee and is administrative section chair. Paula received a bachelor's degree in English literature from Indiana University; an ADN from Midway College; and a BSN and MSN from the University of Kentucky.

**Randy Gooch** - Randy currently serves as Treasurer of the Kentucky Public Health Association. Mr. Gooch has been an active member of the KPHA since beginning his public health career in 2001 and served as a Board Director in 2008 before being elected to the office of Treasurer. He is also a Fellow of the Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute in which he also served as a Mentor for the 2006 and 2008 KPHLI Scholars.

Mr. Gooch is also the Director of Administrative Services for the Lake Cumberland District Health Department. He has served in this capacity since September 2001. Prior to his employment with the Lake Cumberland District Health Department, Mr. Gooch worked for twelve years in the home health care industry. He began his career as a billing coordinator and worked his way to the position of Chief Financial Officer for a multi-million dollar home care organization. During this service, he gained much experience in many sectors of Home Health Care including Infusion Pharmacy, Home Medical Equipment, Enteral nutrition, Medical Alert and Medical Transport.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS –

**Debbie Bell** - Debbie has been working in public health as a dietitian for approximately 9 ½ years. Shortly after graduating from the University of Kentucky Medical Center Clinical Dietetic Program, she began her service at the Franklin County Health Department in July 2000 serving as WIC Coordinator. In 2003, Debbie moved into Community Health Education where she works currently to promote healthier communities through education. Her professional passion is working with diabetes self management and in December 2008 she obtained her Certified Diabetes Educator credentials. Last year at the 2009 Kentucky Public Health Association Spring Conference, she was awarded the Peggy S. Kidd Nutrition Award for her service in diabetes and nutritional promotional. Debbie has furthered her commitment to public health in Kentucky in the past year by serving as Nutrition Chair for KPHA. She looks forward to continued service with KPHA and promoting its mission.

**Ed Cecil** – Ed has over 38 years experience in public health. He retired from the Green River District Health Department in 2002 as an environmental health supervisor. He is now employed by the Department for Public Health, Division of Public Health Protection and Safety, Food Safety Branch. He covers 32 counties in Western Kentucky as an Area Food Manufacturing Inspector. Ed has been active in KPHA throughout his career. He has served on many committees and has served on the board of directors. He served three years as treasurer. Ed has also been active in KAMFES serving as President. He also served on the Kentucky Registered Sanitarian Examining Committee for twenty years. Ed graduated from Brescia University with a degree in Sociology and he graduated from Western Kentucky University with a MS in Health. Ed retired from the United States Army in 2006 after serving for thirty years as a medic.

**Kathy L. Fowler, R.S.** - Kathy graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1986 with a B.S. in Community Health Education. She began her career with the Louisville- Jefferson County Health Dept. in May of 1987 as Environmental Health Specialist in the Water Hygiene Section. In 1989 Ms. Fowler transferred to the Nelson County Health Department, which later became part of the Lincoln Trail District, and continued working as a Senior Health Environmentalist for that agency until 2000. In 2000 she joined the State Food Safety Branch as an Environmental Health Program Evaluator where she was promoted to Retail Food Supervisor in 2002 and in 2003 took the position as Retail Food Specialist for the Eastern KY Region. In 2007 she was named Acting Assistant Director for the Division of Public Health Protection and Safety and was permanently promoted to that position in 2008. Ms. Fowler is an active member of KPHA and KAMFES and served as the Chairman and member of the Kentucky Registered Sanitarian Examining Committee from 1992 until 2006. Ms. Fowler has over 22 years of experience in Public Health.

**Faith Frazier** - Faith has been a public health director at Lawrence County Health Department in Kentucky since 2003. Since her career in Public health began she has served on several health advisory boards, which include the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program, Executive Committee of Kentucky Health Director's Association, Kentucky ASAP Lawrence Chairman, and Three Rivers Hospital Ethics Board. Her resume also includes over 16 years of experience in medical research and grants administration. She has a bachelor's degree from Marshall University in Huntington WV and is an ASCP certified Medical Laboratory Technologist in Microbiology. She has co-authored several publications for refereed scientific journals. Faith is married to a minister and they are parents of three adult children. She was born in Kentucky where she has lived for the majority of her life. Faith also participates in her local church and Rotary Club as past president and as a Paul Harris fellow. Faith has great respect for the past accomplishments of public health, a realistic and practical mind-set for the present, and a passion for the potential of public health in the future.

**Gary Grubbs, B.A., B.S., M.P.A.** – Gary started work at the State Health Department in 1973 in local health department finances and administration. Financial Controller for the Wedco District Health Department 1982-85. Returned to Department for Public Health and worked with local health department finances and administration until early retirement in 2008. Involved in the development of the local health computer network and the automated local health department planning and budgeting process. Department for Public Health Preventive Medicaid supervisor 1988 -2008. Currently at the Bourbon County Health Department working with several local health departments on efficiency and financial operations.

**Sherry Hall** - Sherry is an Administrative Services Manager and has been an employee of Cumberland District Health Department for the past 29 years. She has been active in Public Health for all of those years. She has worked in all programs in the health department, starting as a home health clerk in 1980, moving into the clinic as a support services clerk in 1981. She currently oversees the support and administrative functions for Cumberland Valley District Health Department which provides services for over 55 sites. She is also the Coordinator of community

and outreach programs such as Safety and Injury Prevention and EPSDT. She has been active in the expansion of health department services in schools and the community. She has also served on many committees to promote Public Health and to enhance service delivery. She has participated in many pilot projects to advance information technologies in the health department. She has been a member of KPHA, APHA and other public health organizations. She believes very strongly in the mission to promote healthy communities through education, leadership, and commitment to excellence.

**Angela K. Howard** - Angela has been employed as an Administrative Specialist III with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Department for Public Health since 2001. She is currently employed by the Division of Public Health Protection and Safety and has been in that position since 2008. From 2001-2008 she was employed by the Division for Administration and Financial Management. In this capacity, she worked with Local Health Departments to be sure that they obtained optimal Third Party Payer reimbursements. She also spent much time in the field helping Local Health Departments in resolving other issues and providing training on Third Party Billing. She has been an active member of KPHA since 2003, and served as Co-Chair of the Administrative Support Section in 2006.

**Karen M. Hunter, MPH, RD, LD, CHES** – Karen has worked in the field of Public Health since 1986. She has a Masters Degree in Public Health with an emphasis in Epidemiology and Nutrition. She also has extensive experience as a Health Educator. Karen is a Licensed Dietitian in the State of Kentucky, a Registered Dietitian, and a Certified Health Education Specialist. Karen is an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Administration at Eastern Kentucky University where she has been dedicated to teaching Public Health courses to our up and coming public health professionals for 20 years. Karen has been the program coordinator for many years for the Undergraduate Community Health Major. She also serves as the placement coordinator and supervisor for Undergraduate and Graduate Public Health Students in their internships and practicums for over 15 years. Karen has been a member of KPHA for 19 years and was responsible for editing the KPHA Newsletter from 1992-1997 and again from 2004 – 2009. Karen has held leadership positions as President of the Bluegrass District of the Kentucky Dietetic Association and as Vice-President – Health for the Kentucky Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. She currently serves as a mentor for budding young public health leaders with the Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute. Karen is also dedicated to helping people with disabilities and has served as president, secretary and treasurer for The Arc of Madison County – an agency that supports recreational and educational opportunities for people with disabilities, and their families, in Madison County, KY. She has served as the newsletter editor for that agency for 5 years as well. Karen has been committed to Public Health in Kentucky for a very long time and would love the opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Public Health Association.

**Brandon Hurley, MPH** - Brandon received a B.S. in Biology (2003) and a Master of Public Health (2004) from the University of Kentucky. Mr. Hurley is currently the Public Health Director for the Anderson County Health Department. Prior to his current role, Brandon gained experience with various health behavior programs, community development, strategic planning, budget planning, policy change, and data analysis/evaluation. Brandon is dedicated and passionate about public health, devoting his career to improving the health status of Kentucky. Mr. Hurley has been an active member of the American & Kentucky Public Health Associations for numerous years. He currently serves as the website & communication committee chair for KPHA and also serves on an ad hoc committee to review/update the Administrative Reference. Brandon is a graduate of Leadership Frankfort and a current scholar in the Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute.

**Swannie Jett, BS, MS, DrPHc** – Swannie is the Director for Bullitt County Health Department (BCHD). Swannie has worked in Public Health for last 15 years. He served as the Executive Director for the Office of Men’s Health and as a Clinical Coordinator for the Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness prior to BCHD. He graduated from Tennessee State University (Agricultural Statistics/Engineering) and University of Tennessee (Bio-systems Engineering Technology). Currently, Swannie is completing his DrPH in Public Health at the University of Kentucky (May 2010). He also serves as a Board member for West Jefferson County Community Task Force and is President of the National Association of Health Care Executives. In previous years, Swannie served as the Chair for the Community Health Section of KPHA. Also, Captain Swannie Jett is Commander for the 103<sup>rd</sup> HHC BSB in Harrodsburg, KY (Army National Guard) which has deployed to New Orleans (Hurricane Katrina), Afghanistan, and Iraq.

**Peggy Seithers RN** - Peggy is a Registered Nurse and has been an employee of Wedco District Health Department for the past 20 years. She has been active in the Public Health Arena for all of those years. She has worked in nearly every program in the health department, starting out as the WIC Coordinator in 1990, moving into the clinic’s as a Local Health Nurse III, and in recent years has served as the Director of Health Education. She has provided schools and community with quality health education programs such as health, wellness, nutrition, tobacco, radon, dental, diabetes, Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI) and the cancer program. She has also served as the instructor for the Arthritis Foundation Self-Help Program and has done extensive work in the Asthma program. She is also a Certified Child Care Consultant and has provided services for over 70 day care centers in her district. She has written and received several grants to promote her programs. Her proudest accomplishment is perhaps the Georgetown Kentucky Smoke-Free Ordinance implemented in 2004. She worked extensively with the State Tobacco Program, University Program and the Georgetown Tobacco Coalition accomplishing this goal. This was only the second ‘Smoke Free Ordinance’ in the state of Kentucky. She has been a member of KPHA, SHA, KNA, KRH, and other public Health organizations since 1990. She served on the board of directors from 2002 thru 2006 and has continued to remain active in KPHA by serving on the Health Education, Awards, and Nomination committees. She believes very strongly in the mission to promote, protect and prevent in Public Health. She was selected by her peers across Kentucky for the Health Education Award in 2007. She has recently resigned her position with the Health Department and will be moving on to other health related initiatives. She plans to stay active and promote the positive aspects of public health.

**William Gene Thomas** – Gene has been working for the Wedco District Health Department for 18 years as an environmentalist and have been in a supervisory position for the past five years. Prior to working for the Wedco District Health Department he attended Morehead State University and received a B.S. degree in Animal Science. While in college he worked on the Morehead State University Farm and help to manage their swine program. Gene has farmed for most of his life and continues today to help his father manage their two farms where they raise beef cattle. Gene has been married to Martha Thomas for 16 years and have a 13 year old daughter who is named Peyton. They have lived in Lexington, Kentucky for the past several years. Gene is the Environmental Director for the Wedco District Health Department which serves Harrison, Nicholas and Scott Counties. He manages the Bio-Terrorism and Environmental Program for the health department. He is also a member of KAMFES and KPHA and believe both organizations promote Public Health for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He is also involved in the Environmental Leadership Group along with other co-workers across the Commonwealth. He is am a member of ERRT and serve on the Environmental Strike team for disaster preparedness and several other organizations in which he serves to help protect the public’s health. Gene believes he has the knowledge, experience, and skills to serve on the KPHA Board of Directors to help promote and recruit individuals throughout the Commonwealth in joining an elite organization such as the Kentucky Public Health Association. In addition, he has worked with legislators to help promote public health in our communities and will continue to educate them on how vital public health is in our communities.