



2012 KPHA NOMINEE BIOS

VICE PRESIDENT –

SWANNIE JETT - Swannie Jett, BS, MS, DrPH is the Director for Bullitt County Health Department (BCHD). Dr. Swannie Jett has 16+ years of experience in public health. BCHD serves 78,000 residents in the cities of Shepherdsville, Mount Washington, Lebanon Junction, Hillview, Pioneer Village, Fox Chase, and Hunter's Hollow. In his current role, Dr. Jett is leading initiatives to strengthen the BCHD infrastructure by improving leadership training, workforce competency, quality improvement, strategic planning, and preparing for accreditation.

Dr. Jett has completed the Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute and has completed NACCHO's Survive and Thrive and the National Public Health Leadership Institute in 2011. Currently, Dr. Jett serves as a Board member for West Jefferson County Community Task Force, 2 not 1 Organization, National County and City Health Officials and is the Past President of the National Association of Health Care Executives-Kentucky Chapter.

In addition to Dr. Jett's community involvement he is a Captain in the Air Force National Guard. Dr. Jett graduated from Tennessee State University with a BS in Agricultural Statistics and a MS degree from the University of Tennessee in Bio-Systems Engineering Technology. Dr. Jett's research interest includes environmental justice issues, global warming, health disparities, and air pollution. Dr. Jett completed his doctorate in Public Health from the University of Kentucky.

HARPRIYA KAUR - Harpriya Kaur has a Bachelor of Science degree from DAV College (Panjab University), Chandigarh, India 2009, and a post graduate diploma in Marketing Management from School of Public Health, University of Kentucky 2009 and is working on a Master of Public Health-Epidemiology and expected graduation of 2012. Presently working as a Computer Lab consultant at the University of Kentucky. Harpriya has hosted a television show on national channel during 2009. Volunteered 143 hours at Kentucky AIDS education training center and has also volunteered in research at Markey Cancer Center, University of Kentucky. Harpriya's Master's Research Project topic was "The Difference in the Breast Cancer incidence and mortality rates between the African-American and White Women".

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION

- Certificate of completion of HIV-HIV OraSure Testing Instruction (online)
- Certificate of achievement for completing the requirement for HIV/AIDS professional education.

- Train certificate of Attendance for Webcast-LHD Rapid HIV testing project training.
- Certificate from FEMA for completing independent study course-Introduction to Incident Command System,ICS-100
- Certificate from FEMA for completing independent study course- ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incident, ICS-200
- Certificate from FEMA for completing independent study course- National Incident Management System (NIMS),ICS-700

AWARD/HONOURS

- Received Gold Medal for best Social worker
- Received Best All Rounder Award from DAV College 2007-2008
- Interviewed by national channel as one of the young achiever 2009
- Received award of Distinction from National Service Scheme(NSS) 2008
- Received certificate from the DAV college for displaying leadership qualities 2009
- Received three certificates of appreciation for organizing SPARKLES(an annual charity show organized by Sankalp) 2007-09
- Received silver medal by NSS during the session 2008-09
- Received certificate of appreciation for thrice donating blood
- Received certificate of participation for holding various functions as its anchor, organized by cultural activity club, DAV College
- Was selected in top 10 in young Global leader contest organized by Conscience compass 2007-2008

JUSTIN PITTMAN - Justin Pittman began his career in Public Health in 1998 as an Environmentalist in Carroll County. He is currently the Environmental Health and Public Health Preparedness Manager with Three Rivers District Health Department. He has been a member of KPHA since 1994 when he was a student member at Western Kentucky University and even received the Burkhart scholarship during that time. Justin has been active in KPHA as the social arrangements chairperson, Environmental Section chair, on the Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee.

SECRETARY – (SPECIAL ELECTION)

CYNTHIA BROWN - Cynthia Brown, MSM, CHES, LPN, Health Education Coordinator—I have worked for Bullitt County Health Department for 14 years. I hold a Master’s in Management, am a Certified Health Education Specialist, and a Licensed Practical Nurse. I joined KPHA in 1996—I think, may have been 1995. Office within KPHA that I have held include the WKU KPHA Chapter President, KPHA Health Education Section Chair for several years, KPHA Director 2002-2006, served on several committees, Chaired the Nomination & Election Committee, and is serving now as Director. I was honored to be the recipient of the Sara C. Stice Award in 2002. I would be honored to serve as Secretary of KPHA.

DEBORAH DUNN -

Educational Background:

- University of Louisville, College Of Arts and Sciences, B.S. Sociology
- University of Louisville, School of Public Health and Information Sciences, M.P.H. Epidemiology
- University of Kentucky, Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics
- In Progress: University of Kentucky, DrPH, College of Public Health, Department of Gerontology

Research Interests:

- Poverties affect on elders in the community and institutions
- End-of-life care
- Quality of Care
- Nursing Home Administration
- NH Bankruptcies and Turnaround Management
- Health Care Policy
- Long-Term Care Ethics

Professional Affiliations:

- Gerontological Society of America
- Kentucky Public Health Association
- Sigma Phi Omega Honor Society

Previous Careers:

- Accounting/Controller
- Oil and Gas Engineering
- Entrepreneur

JESSICA GOVER - Jessica Gover is currently the Public Health Preparedness Coordinator and Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator for the Lake Cumberland District Health Department, a position she has held since December 2007. She has been an active member with KPHA since 2008 and Co-Chair for the Community Health Planning and Preparedness Section within KPHA since 2010. Jessica holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a Management Concentration and a Minor in Chemistry. She is a Dale Carnegie graduate and a Fellow of the Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute. Jessica is currently pursuing a graduate certificate in Maternal Child Health Epidemiology.

APRIL HARRIS - April is the Accreditation and Quality Improvement Coordinator for Three Rivers District Health Department. April has been with TRDHD for over six years and is leading their Accreditation and QI efforts. Prior to Accreditation, she worked as the Health Education Supervisor and Regional Training Coordinator. April earned a BS in Public Health at Western Kentucky University and an MPH from the University of Kentucky. Within KPHA, she has served as Social Committee co-chair as well as Health Education Section Committee Chair twice.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS –

TAMMIE J. BERTRAM, RN, BSN - Tammie is now serving as Director of Nursing of the Franklin County Health Department where she has held a position since 1997. Tammie began her career as a staff nurse and held positions at Barren River District Health Department and Lake Cumberland District Health Department from 1992-1997. Tammie has a total of 20 years in local public health.

Tammie received her Associates Degree at Somerset Community College in 1989, and her BSN from Kentucky State University in 2004. She received a Certificate of Public Health Leadership from the University of Kentucky in 2006 and completed a Public Health Nursing Certificate program also through the University of Kentucky in 2007. She is currently completing her Masters in Nursing at McKendree University.

Tammie received a Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Professionalism from the Kentucky Nurses Association in 2003. She received the President's Award for a 4.0 grade point average in the spring of 2004 from Kentucky State University. Tammie has been a member of the Kentucky Public Health Association since 1997 where she has served on the Awards Committee and the Public Health Nursing Committee. Tammie also served two years as the Public Health Nursing Chair. Tammie has served on many committees and coalitions in Franklin County.

Tammie is single and has two children and four beautiful granddaughters. In her spare time Tammie likes to go boating and fishing and loves to travel.

DENISE BINGHAM - Hello, my name is Denise Bingham and my current position is Nursing Director for Three Rivers District Health Department. I received my ADN from Kentucky State University, my BSN from McKendree University and I am on track to complete my MSN in May 2012. I have been working in Public Health for the past 16 years. An active member of KPHA, I have served as Section Chair of the Administrative Section. Additionally, I am an active member of the Kentucky Nurses Association where I currently serve on the Nursing Practice & Financial Section and the conference planning committee. For the past 13 years I have been a member of Kentucky's Epi Rapid Response Team as well as being very involved with the Public Health Practice Committee and serving on the Chief Nursing Officers Nurse Executive Committee. I am a Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute Fellow. I am currently on the National Association of County and City Health Officials Project Public Health Ready review team. I am very interested in being on the Kentucky Public Health Association board so that I may be a voice for health department staff by becoming more involved with this organization.

ANITA K. BLACK -

Education and Work History

- Graduated with Associate Degree Nursing 1968 Lexington Technical Institute
- Obtained BSN 1984 Bellarmine University
- Work 33 years Louisville Metro Health Department as Community Health Nurse, Clinical Nurse Supervisor and Program Manager
- Retired 2004

- Presently perform monthly HANDS QA for Louisville Metro HANDS Program
- Volunteer with Everyone Reads Program, South Jefferson Neighborhood Place Council, FairdaleHigh /South Park TAPP School YSC Council and feeding babies weekly at South Park TAPP Daycare
- KPHA Experience Member since 1989; Presently Lifetime Member; Held office of Director 2008
- Convention/ Local Arrangement Chair 1995 to Present
- Received Helen B. Fraser Award 2004

Personal

- Married with 1 daughter and 2 cats

JANIE CAMBRON - Janie Cambron has an MPH with a concentration in Environmental Public Health and a BS with a double major in Biology and Agriculture from Western Kentucky University. She was the recipient of the Kentucky Public Health Association, Ellen Burkhardt Scholarship Award in 2006. She was a University of Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute Scholar from 2007-2008. Janie was named the 2008 Young Careerist for both the Northwest Region and Local Owensboro Region from the Business and Professional Women Organization.

Janie currently serves as the Performance Improvement Manager for the Center for Performance Management, which is housed in the Commissioner's Office at the Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH). Before joining KDPH in June 2011, she was the Sr. Regional Epidemiologist for the Green River District Health Department for 4.5 years. She began her career in public health in 2004 as an Environmentalist at the Barren River District Health Department and later the Green River District Health Department from 2006-2007 before taking the Regional Epidemiologist position. Janie still retains her Registered Sanitarian license.

She is a current member of KPHA and was the chair of the Epidemiology section for two years. She is a past member of KAMFES, Council and State Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE), Business and Professional Women Organization, Owensboro Chamber for Young Professionals, Junior League of Owensboro and APHA. She was also an active March of Dimes board member and team captain for the Owensboro region before relocating to Frankfort this year.

Janie assisted in research of mapping the genetics of *Drosophila* (fruit fly) while at the Western Kentucky University Biology Department in 2003 and most recently was published regarding a measles outbreak in Kentucky in 2010.

Janie resides in Frankfort with her husband Jon and their two beautiful daughters. She enjoys all outdoor activities, especially fishing and hiking, as well as photography and any kind of travel.

GEORGIA HEISE - Georgia Heise DrPH, is the Director for Three Rivers District Health Department. In addition to being active in KPHA, Dr. Heise is involved in many initiatives across the Commonwealth. She serves on the Executive Committee for the Kentucky Health Department Association and is the Personnel Committee chairperson, a group that developed new minimum requirements for Kentucky local health department directors. Dr. Heise has been a mentor for a Balderson Award winning Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute Project and is a KPHLI fellow. She serves on the Policy Committee for the Kentucky Public Health Association. Dr. Heise is also a board member for the Kentucky Institute for Public Health Practice Enhancement, which provides core public health courses to local health department employees. She currently serves on the Kentucky Commissioner of Public Health's Vision Team and teaches a Health Services Management course for the University of Kentucky's College of Public Health.

Beyond Kentucky, Dr. Heise is an Executive Board Member for the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and serves as the Audit Committee Chairperson. She is a National Public Health Leadership Institute Fellow, a member of the American Public Health Association and the Southern Health Association, where she serves as the Policy Committee chairperson. Dr. Heise is passionate about advancing public health in the areas of accreditation and policy development. Three Rivers was the first health department in the state to have its application for national accreditation be accepted

KAREN HUNTER - Karen M. Hunter, MPH, RD, LD, CHES, has worked in the field of Public Health since 1986. She has a Master's Degree in Public Health with an emphasis in Epidemiology and in 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 21 years. Karen has been the program coordinator for many years for the Undergraduate Public 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 (KAHERD). In 2011 Karen won KAHPERD's Outstanding University Health Educator Award. 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 6 years as well.

EMMANUEL IYIEGBUNIWE - Emmanuel Iyiegbuniwe, MSPH, PhD, MBA is an Associate Professor of Environmental Health Science in the Department of Public Health at Western Kentucky University, where he directed the Environmental Health & Safety Resource Center for three years. He has over twenty years of experience as an Environmental & Occupational Health and Safety professional in academia, consulting, and industry. His areas of expertise include Air Quality Management, Industrial Hygiene Exposure Assessment, Occupational Health & Safety, Epidemiology, and Public Health Management of Disasters. His teaching, research, and service activities focus mainly in the areas of chemical, physical, and biological exposure assessments for substances of public health importance, including chemical exposure and noise evaluation, indoor air quality assessments, etc. Professor Iyiegbuniwe is an ATLAS scholar and a Thomas Jefferson fellow. Additionally, he is a fellow of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (EPHLI), the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Future Leaders Institute (FLI), and the American Association of State Colleges & Universities (AASCU)/Japan Studies Institute (JSI). He is a member and has served at various capacities at the following national and international professional organizations: American Public Health Association (APHA), American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), National Environmental Health Association (NEHA), Intellectbase International Consortium (IIC), and the World Energy Engineering Congress (WEEC). Away from work, Professor Iyiegbuniwe enjoys spending time with his family (wife and four wonderful boys), traveling, playing tennis, and reading business magazines.

JOAN NEACE - Joan began her public health career as a Clerk Typist II at the Bullitt County Health Department in January 1991. Joan served 9 years as Support Service Coordinator until her heart for the HANDS program drew her into service as a Family Support Worker. She currently serves in an administrative support role for that program.

Joan was an active member of the former KSPO (Kentucky Support Personnel Organization) from 1991 until it was dissolved. She served on that organization's Membership Committee and completed a two year term as President. That organization had foresight to see the need for professional accountability for non-degreed personnel and began a method of documentation of training through a Certificate of Attendance for support personnel. During its existence the KSPO organization supported KPHA by providing Administrative Support Section and Silent Auction chairpersons each year and that organization's former members are still serving those positions for KPHA.

Joan joined KPHA in 1995. During that membership she served as co-chair for the Administrative Support Section for two convention years. She chaired the Silent Auction in 2000 and served that committee numerous years. Joan has also served on the Awards committee. Joan served as chair for the Home Health/Visiting Section 2011 Convention and is serving currently as co-chair for that section.

JOHN POE - Employment: 1/16/09-present Kentucky State Public Health Veterinarian, KY Dept for Public Health, Frankfort, KY 40621, Duties include maintaining up-to-date scientific knowledge and training, in order to serve as the department's content expert for control of zoonoses, tick-borne diseases, arboviruses and other communicable diseases. I serve to provide accurate consults to health professionals and the public

relating to communicable diseases, animal bites and zoonoses. I provide several educational trainings/presentations per year to the staff and public. I review legislation pertinent to areas of expertise and draft legislation or regulations as deemed necessary. I serve as an advocate for control of zoonoses. I coordinate and collaborate with the Infectious Disease Branch, Division of Laboratory Services, Division of Public Health Protection & Safety and others in matters of surveillance, testing, prevention and control of zoonoses and other infectious diseases. Serve as liaison with the KY Dept. of Agriculture, KY Fish & Wildlife and the veterinary profession. I mentor graduate students, veterinarians and other public health professionals.

Served as section chief in the Operations Branch of Kentucky's Influenza A H1 N1 2009/var pandemic DOC. (37.5 hrs/wk) 1/1/92 - present Veterinarian, John W. Poe, D.V.M. Perform medical, surgical, dental and management services required in operating a veterinary practice in Kentucky. (15+ hrs/week)

CRISSY ROWLAND - Crissy is Director of Health Information and Public Information Officer for Barren River District Health Department. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist. She received her BS in Public Health from WKU in December 2005 and her Master's in Public Health from WKU in May 2009. She is an active KPHA member, serving for two years as section co-chair for Community Health Planning and Preparedness. She also produces the association's quarterly newsletter.

PHYLLIS SKONICKI - Have been a member of KPHA for 29 years and have previously served as a Board Member; Secretary of the Board; chair of the Health Education Section and a volunteer on other committees, including the Golf Scramble.

Was Branch Manager of Health Education and Promotion at the Kentucky Department for Health Services for seven years. Retired, as an administrator, from the Louisville/Jefferson County Health Department.

As an active member of the Medical Reserve Corps, volunteer with the Metro Louisville Department for Health and Wellness immunization clinics.

Other volunteer services include serving as Treasurer of the Board for United Crescent Hill Ministries, Chair the Finance Committee and serve on the Executive Board of the organization. I am a substitute teacher for adults at Crescent Hill Baptist Church and serve on other committees of the church.

JAMES THAXTON -

EXPERIENCE

- Three Rivers District Health Department – Health Educator 2005 to Present
- Certified Cooper/Clayton Smoking Cessation Instructor
- Grant Writing and Fund Raising – over \$100,000 in funding to TRDHD, Pendleton County and NKY
- Child Restraint Certification
- Certified Safe Sitter Instructor
- Certified Body Recall Instructor

- Zumba Fitness and Zumba Gold Instructor
- Life Skills Instructor
- TEG/TAP Instructor
- Program Coordinator
- Pendleton County Community Services Alliance (MAPP)
- Pendleton Cancer Coalition
- Mobile Mammography
- Relay for Life
- Team Manager for Kentucky Thorough-Breast, Inc. "Surviving in Sync"
- Paddling for the Pink Dragon Boat Festival
- Health Promotions
- Paddlefest
- KY Wool Fest
- County Fair
- Community Events
- Planning Commission
- Champions for a Drug Free Pendleton County Coalition
- Extension Service Advisory Council
- Regional ASAP
- North Pendleton County School Family Resource Council

Northern Kentucky University – Part Time Instructor 1998 to 2009

- Developed for credit Adventure Education Curriculum including Introduction to Canoeing, Introduction to Kayaking, and Introduction to Backpacking for Department of Kinesiology.
- Assistant Facilitator for High Ropes Course. 2002-2005

EDUCATION

- 2007-2008 Kentucky Public Health Leadership Institute – Research on Teen Substance Abuse.
- 2005-2011 Numerous Certification Training Programs and workshops related to Health Education Position.

GENE THOMAS - Gene Thomas graduated from Morehead State University in 1990 with a B.S. degree in Animal Science. I have been working at the Wedco District Health Department since 1991 in the Environmental Program. In 2004 I became the Environmental Supervisor and in 2008 I became the Environmental Director. In 2008 I became the Bio-Terrorism Manager overseeing both the Environmental and Bio-Terrorism Program for the Wedco District Health Department. In 2010 I graduated from the Scott County Emergency Management's Officer Program and continue to work with the Scott County EMA as a First Response Officer, Liaison Officer for the 15 ESF's and as a weather specialist. I am currently the Chairman of the Environmental Leadership Group and have the privilege of working with sanitarians across the Commonwealth. I have a 15 year old daughter name Peyton who attends Bryan Station High School and who has been in the Spanish Immersion Program since kindergarten. As a Director for the Public Health Association I would devote time to continue to work with members of the organization to make it better today than it was yesterday. I have experience and know many members of both the House of Representatives and the Senate. During the past few years I have made an effort to contact these individuals and let them know the

stance on many issues regarding the Kentucky Public Health Association. I want to thank each one of them for being receptive to our view points and taking them into consideration: Rocky Adkins (House Majority leader), Damon Thayer (Senate), Ryan Quarles (House), Sannie Overly (House), RJ Palmer (Senate) and Tom McKee (House).

VICKI VERNON - My name is Vicki Vernon. I graduated from Eastern KY University with a nursing degree in 1975. I graduated from Emory University with an APRN degree in 1998. I am employed by the Boyle County Health Department in Danville Kentucky. I have been at the health dept. for nineteen years. I am currently the nurse supervisor and the APRN. I am very passionate about public health. Thank you Vicki Vernon APRN