President’s Message

As chapter president, it was my honor to lead our annual Board of Trustees retreat at the start of the year. OSOPHE Board members shared our “why” for joining OSOPHE, and discussed how each role can function more efficiently and what our roles call us to do. Taking the opportunity to learn about the needs of our members and spending time discussing and brainstorming how the Board can drive achievement for its goals was time well spent. We welcomed new officers to the roles of secretary, treasurer co-chair, continuing education co-chair, southwest district representative, and professional development. Our time together inspired me, knowing I found “my people”, and I look forward to working together this year to reset and recalibrate Board efforts as we come into this post-pandemic time.

For the past 70+ years, health educators have joined together to innovate new ideas using their passion, skills and knowledge to improve health outcomes and promote healthy living. I hope to see you at a quarterly meeting, HEI, or another event this year.

The Board of Trustees is committed to the following this year:
- Improve operational efficiencies by evaluating technology and management of digital content, and
- Increase training and development opportunities in advocacy by bringing experts to members and supporting engagement in advocacy events.

Membership Survey

We want to hear from you!
The annual member survey was sent 2/21/2023, via email.
If you still need to participate, click the survey link!

Survey closes March 5, 2023
Meet your District Representatives

Central: Lauren Battista, MPH, CHES is the Wellness Program Manager for Buckeye Wellness under the Office of the Chief Wellness Officer at The Ohio State University. As part of her role, she directs the Buckeye Wellness Innovators, a wellness champions program of over 700 faculty and staff members at Ohio State. She has almost 10 years of experience with developing, implementing, and evaluating programs and initiatives that support faculty and staff health and wellness at the university. An Ohio native, she earned her Bachelor’s degree in Zoology from Miami University in 2011 and her Master of Public Health degree from The Ohio State University in 2016. Lauren is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) and currently serves as the Central Ohio district representative for Ohio SOPHE, a board member of the Ohio State College of Public Health Alumni Society and the Chapter Advisory Chair for the Ohio State student organizations Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity. Email Lauren Battista, Battista.28@osu.edu

Southeast: Geri Rousculp, M.A., RCHES® has been an Ohio SOPHE member since 1989. Retired from the Ohio Department of Health, she resides in Columbus with her partner, Teri. Previous positions within Ohio SOPHE include Membership Chair, HEI Chair, President, Scholarship Chair and National Delegate. She was also on the National SOPHE Board of Trustees. Of particular interest is retaining current SOPHE members and bringing former members back into the SOPHE family. Pictured is Geri, with partner Teri, on their first visit to the Grand Canyon in 2021.

Pink: Northwest
Ashley Hartman, ashthom@bgsu.edu

Yellow: Northeast
Abigail Jenkins, jenkinsa@starkhealth.org

Purple: Central
Lauren Battista, Battista.28@osu.edu

Blue: Southwest
Regan Johnson, Regan.Johnson@uc.edu

Green: Southeast
Geri Rousculp, gr58@earthlink.net

What is the role of an OSOPHE district representative?

Our chapter has five district representatives. Primary responsibilities include member engagement, quarterly newsletters, collaborating with the Membership committee, post on the listserv any updates to members on current job and health education events, and organize regional member social events. District representatives make a two-year commitment as officers on the Board of Trustees.

Mission:
Promote, encourage, and contribute to the advancement of the health of all people through education.

Northeast: Abigail Jenkins, CHES, CPRP, CWP is a Health Educator at the Stark County Health Department focusing on the Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) grant which works to improve policy, systems, and environmental change for active living and healthy eating County-wide. In this position, she leads the Live Well Stark County coalition focused on improving access to healthy eating and providing active living opportunities. She has over seven years of experience in the wellness field developing and implementing programming and policies that improve the overall health of communities. She earned her Bachelor’s in Community & Public Health from Georgia Southern University in 2018. Since then, she has expanded her professional capacity by achieving wellness credentials including Certified Health Education Specialist, Certified Park & Recreation Professional, and Certified Wellness Practitioner. She currently serves as the Northeast Ohio District Representative for the Ohio Society for Public Health Educators and is part of several workgroups that evaluate research papers and policies.

Northwest: Ashley Hartman, MPH, CHES®, OCPC is a mental health educator and recovery advocate. She has over 10 years of experience in the field of health education and prevention, predominately in the fields of mental health and addiction. Currently she serves as the Health Educator – Mental Health Focus at Bowling Green State University. In this role she implements mental health and wellness programs for the campus community. She has experience serving a variety of populations and settings include middle and high schools, higher education, older adults, racial and ethnic minorities, criminal justice, rural, urban, and suburban communities, workplaces, community mental health, and drug and alcohol treatment facilities. She obtained her degrees in Applied Health Science from Bowling Green State University, and Master of Public Health at the Ohio State University, and is a Certified Health Education Specialist, Ohio Certified Prevention Consultant, and Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor. She has presented at local, state, and national conferences, and is the Board President of the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio.

Southeast: Regan Johnson, MEd, MCHES is an Associate Professor, Educator and the Program Director for the undergraduate public health program at the University of Cincinnati. In this role she teaches undergraduate public health courses, oversees internships and provides support and leadership to the undergraduate public health program. Before becoming a faculty member, Regan worked in campus wellness for 10 years where she planned, implemented and evaluated health promotion initiatives for students at the university. Regan attended UC for both her undergraduate and master's degrees where she focused on health promotion and education. She is currently a student in the Urban Educational Leadership EdD program at the University of Cincinnati with a focus in higher education. She has been a member of Ohio SOPHE and National SOPHE for several years. She continues to be a member of OSOPHE because it has been a great way to gain MCHES credits, connect with colleagues from across the state and stay up to date on the public health education profession.
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SAVE THE DATE — Upcoming Events

Early Bird registration rate deadline has been extended through February 28, 2023.

Thinking about attending the SOPHE-2023 conference? Use the below codes (exclusive to Ohio SOPHE members):

- Students: 23ACSTUCHP
  $50 off the Student Non-member registration rate
- Professionals: 23ACCHAPTR
  $150 off the Professional Non-member registration rate

Register here.

SOPHE National - Membership Discount

SOPHE National is pleased to announce they are offering a 10% discount off membership to all chapter members through the end of March by using the promo code: ChpMbr10 at checkout when joining or renewing. Join or renew here:

Membership – Society for Public Health Education - SOPHE

Public Health Combined Conference

April 24 - 26, 2023
Nationwide Arena
Columbus, OH
Details coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE
HEI-2023
SALT FORK STATE PARK
OCTOBER 11 - 13, 2023

Interested in volunteering on the HEI Planning Committee?
Email Jen Morel, Planning Chair, morel@ohio.edu

Click the image above to email Jen to join the HEI Planning Committee
Next meeting: March 10, 9:00 am