

Larry Barker – IPHA President - 1989

My memories of my presidency for IPHA really started several years earlier with my involvement on the board of directors from 1982-1984 as Affiliate Representative to the Governing Council of APHA and then my year as president-elect in 1988-89. I worked with Bobby Baker, then IEHA president-elect and a planning committee to put together the IPHA-IEHA program for May of 1989. Our keynote speaker was Richard Remington, who was chair of the landmark, Institute of Medicine report on “The Future of Public Health.” Who would have known at that time that that report would be the cornerstone of what we do in public health today. Indeed much discussion took place on the future and led to a keynote presentation in the 1990 IPHA-IEHA Annual Meeting during my presidency on the “Future of Environmental Health in Iowa.” That presentation was given by Scott County Board of Health Chair, Charlotte Mohr who was also Chairperson of the DNR Environmental Protection Commission. As I look back on my president’s column for the winter issue of the 1990 newsletter I am amazed that some of my comments were directed that we in Iowa needed to take a look at including minimal health standards for all Iowa residents. Now 20 years later we are at the cusp of making those comments a reality with Public Health Modernization. I am truly proud to have been one of many to serve as president of IPHA.

