

Mary Weaver - IPHA President - 1992

Thank you for the opportunity to think about my IPHA Presidency. I appreciate receiving copies of the letters I wrote in the December 1992 and April 1993 newsletter, as well as the program for the conferences.

While it was fun as well as mentally challenging to reclaim some of those thoughts, it saddened me also. I am fearful public health practitioners and activists have to frequently recycle our efforts.



During the time I was serving, we were able to hire Linda White and Nancy Neal to serve as the first coordinators for the Association. I don't recall how many hours they provided, but it was our first approach at moving beyond voluntary organization. They published the newsletter, and coordinated the conference activities.

I also wrote in the newsletter dated December 1992 the importance of members to develop relationships with their State legislators prior to the beginning of the session and yearning for the Association to have recognition and status around health issues. Seventeen years later the same urging to meet Legislators and seeking status as a health impact organization continues.

One of the most memorable activities was to give testimony to and for Hillary Clinton's health care initiative when they were in Des Moines. It seems almost unbelievable that yesterday I was able to watch very similar discussions at the health care summit chaired by President Obama.

During my term of office it was identified that Public Health Nursing was celebrating its 75th birthday. I recall Chris Atchison doing a celebratory video that was played at the annual meeting, and we were all able to have a portion of the birthday cake.

One of the humorous moments occurred during the afternoon of the first day of the conference, when Keith Erickson, who was the President, asked me what I was serving for the President's Reception. I did not know it was a part of my President elect responsibilities, and I recall going to a local grocery in Cedar Rapids and buying pretzels, chips, and serving dishes. I have those dishes to this day, and always have a little internal chuckle when I use them.

My last humorous story involves Jack Kelly and his boys, Keith, Larry, Tom, Graham, and David. Jack was able to get my room key, and then proceeded to explain loudly to the boys that the Public Health Nursing Director was giving out her room key. I was much younger and easily embarrassed, as I remember blushing profusely.

Good memories Ron. I hope that you and Russ will be able to include the story of hiding one of the CDC person's dog. He was doing an internship with IDPH and after his dog bit someone it was scuttled off to your place. It was so unusual of you to do anything outside of the rules, but what a compassionate thing to do for the animal. It was very hush hush, but I recall hearing the story.