

The Great IPHA History Hunt!

What do you know about IPHA History? Or should we ask, what do you have? IPHA is excited about our upcoming 85th Anniversary in 2010. To get ready, we are doing a few fun and exciting things. Please plan to join us!

The 85th Anniversary theme is: Building upon a rich history, investing in a vibrant future. The purpose of celebrating our 85 years is to: 1. Celebrate IPHA accomplishments and forecast IPHA's future, 2. Build awareness of public health among partners, including the public, and 3. Invest in the sustainability of IPHA.

Our first history hunt is to locate past programs from IPHA conferences and annual meetings. We have a lot of things for the past 85 years, yet we are missing the annual meeting programs for the following years: 2001, 2000, 1998, 1997, 1991, 1979, 1978, 1976, 1975, 1973, 1970, 1950, 1945, 1935, 1934, 1932, 1931, and any from the 1920s.

Our other history hunt request deals with IPHA Award recipients. We want to have a complete and accurate list of all IPHA award recipients. If you received an award, nominated someone who received an award, recall this type of information and/or have a document with this detail, please let our co-chairs know.

IPHA also wants to highlight the history of local public health in Iowa. We would like to create an interactive

online map that allows the user to view pictures, scanned documents and materials for each county. This would all be related to the public health growth and development in that county. If you have the skills to help with this, let the co-chairs know. If you have materials that you would like to share, feel free to start sending them to the co-chairs. More details on this request will be out later this fall.

The IPHA 85th Anniversary Committee is chaired by Kay Leeper and Dr. Ron Eckoff. If you have a story to contribute, missing annual programs, IPHA award recipient information, or other IPHA documents that you want to share, please contact Kay at kleeper@cfu.net or Dr. Eckoff at: reckoff@radiks.net

This committee is looking for more assistance, so if you have some time and you are willing to join for teleconference committee planning calls, let us know. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2009 at 9am. *This is a great short term initiative to get involved with and help IPHA.* We need some people who are interested in assisting with communications and messaging, event planning and digging deep into IPHA's history. An IPHA history publication will be released in the spring of 2010. Be sure to save the date as our first big event will be the evening of April 13, 2010 in Ames, IA. A Gala event will be late summer or early fall 2010. Watch for more opportunities to help us accurately tell the past and future stories of IPHA!

The First IPHA: A Brief Look At Our History Dr. Ronald Eckoff

As we move into our 85th anniversary year as a public health organization, we'd like to share a bit of history about the first Iowa Public Health Association.

In 1891, the first Iowa Public Health Association was organized. Many of the original members are thought to be physicians who were local health officers.

The secretary of the State Board of Health repeatedly encouraged local board of health officials to join IPHA and suggested that participation in the organization was for everyone; lawyers, clergymen, schools teachers, and mechanics alike.

Based on notes found on the first five annual meetings, practical papers were read and discussed at the meetings on a variety of topics.

Some of the papers presented at the 1892 meeting, likely the high point for the organization, included:

- "Causes and Prevention of Typhoid Fever," Prof. V.C. Vaughn, Dean of the Medical Department at State University, Ann Arbor MI
- "The Construction of School Houses," Calvin Snook, MD, of Fairfield
- "Adulteration of Food and Medicine," Prof. E.L. Boerner, PhD, of Iowa City

Dr. Vaughn's presentation included a suggestion for the establishment of a department of bureau of public health. "A bureau of health, with proper legal and financial provision could afford relief from cholera, typhoid fever, consumption, scarlet fever, cancer, diphtheria, etc."

Dr. I.S. Bigelow, secretary of IPHA during in 1892, said "It is the province of this organization to be a teacher of the masses." This still holds true for this IPHA, we are teachers of the public and advocates for the public's health.

- Annual Meeting Locations
- April 1891— Waterloo
- October 1892— Des Moines
- August 1893— Davenport
- September 1894— Des Moines
- September 1895— Davenport

**"The great mass of people, unless they are educated, cannot appreciate the value of prevention."
-Dr. I. S. Bigelow, Jr. Secretary of IPHA, 1892**