

**ANDSOOHA Representation to the alPHa Board**  
**ANDSOOHA Annual General Meeting**  
**October 3, 2012.**

As President of ANDSOOHA, I have represented our association as an affiliate representative on the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Board of Directors since the alPHa Annual General Meeting in June 2010. During this time, quarterly Board meetings have occurred which have included discussions on topics such as changes to the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children's Program, childhood obesity, low risk drinking guidelines, the Drummond Report, the Action Plan for Health Care, the Chief Medical Officer of Health Report, Changing the Conversation, and Accountability Agreements.

**Key Issues for 2011-2012**

Two main issues for discussion and debate in 2011-2012 were an increase in membership fees and a process for absentee voting. ALPHa had proposed a significant fee increase for health units to allow for the expansion of staff to do more policy and advocacy work. This increase generated much debate from health units and resulted in 1 health unit withdrawing from alPHa. The debate about membership fees sparked a discussion on membership voting as members must be present at an alPHa meeting to vote and delegates can only hold 1 proxy vote each. This discussion has resulted in a process for absentee voting for significant issues such as fee increases.

**Strategic Planning**

Strategic planning sessions were last held in 2010 for both members of Boards of Health and Medical Officers of Health to help inform alPHa's Strategic Plan. Planning is underway for a fall 2012 Strategic Planning Session.

**alPHa Annual General Meeting 2012**

The alPHa AGM occurred on June 11 – 12, 2012 in Niagara Falls entitled "Changing the Conversation, a conference on moving to a new way of thinking and talking about health". An annual event at the AGM is the presentation of Distinguished Service awards. Two ANDSOOHA members were recent recipients of this award: Liz Haugh from the Windsor Essex Health Unit in 2011, and Susan Kniahnicki from the Algoma Health Unit in 2012.

**Advocacy**

The alPHa Advocacy Group has been inactive and advocacy topics and letters have been discussed at the Board as a whole. Plans are underway to revitalize and reestablish the Advocacy Committee and letters of advocacy can be viewed on alPHa's website.

**Upcoming Events**

Upcoming events include the 2012 Fall Symposium on November 7 & 8 at the Waterside Inn in Mississauga. The title of the event is "Who's Who in 2012" and will include presentations from senior provincial public health representatives. Invited speakers include Eric Hoskins, Minister of Children and Youth Services, and Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. This meeting also includes a meeting for Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) and a meeting for Board of Health members on Social Determinants of Health.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jo Ann Tober  
ANDSOOHA President