

**Spring
Conference
March 6-7
Details pg. 4**

TSOPHE TIMES

From the desk of the President....

February, 2009

Happy New Year and welcome back, all of you, to a new TSOPHE year. Before I continue, let me first say thank you to each and every one of you that participated in TSOPHE's conferences and business last year. I would like to especially thank our Immediate Past President, Dr. Douglas Coyle, for his leadership. Without his guidance, TSOPHE could not have continued its successful path. I would also like to thank Linda Forys and Lakeshia Lewis for serving on the board this past year and welcome Barbara Barton, Emily Spangler, and Jasmine Opusunju to this year's TSOPHE board.



It gives me great pleasure to inform you that on January 24, the board met to plan and look at the upcoming year. Not only will we be providing (2) conferences, but we hope to restore communication efforts with our membership quarterly, through our newsletter, find new projects that can help you grow as a professional, and find new ways to get students involved in the profession and our organization. I would like to also invite each and every one of you to become more active this year. As president of TSOPHE, I want to encourage you to become more involved by helping our committees, giving input or submitting ideas for TSOPHE activities, and, of course, recruit and mentor new members and professionals. To wrap this all up, I would just like to end with a quote by Wally Amos, "It doesn't matter how many say it cannot be done or how many people have tried it before; it's important to realize that whatever you're doing, it's your first attempt at it." Welcome back and I hope to see you at our March conference.



Incoming President Ruben Rodriguez and Past-President Dr. Doug Coyle..

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**TSOPHE Times
Committee**

Chair: Ninfa Peña-Purcell
Co-chair: Vacant
Contact: ncpurcell@ag.tamu.edu

TSOPHE 2009-2010 Board Members

President:	Ruben Rodriguez, BS - San Antonio
Past President:	T. Douglas Coyle, PhD, CHE - Denton
President-Elect:	Melissa Stanford Oden, LSMW, MPH, CHES - Ft. Worth
Secretary:	Jasmine Opusunju, MSED, CHES - Houston
Treasurer:	Patty Stone, MSHP, CHES - Austin
National Delegate	Cassandra Harris, MS, CHES - Houston-
Board Member:	Anita Coyle, PhD.
Board Member:	Ninfa Peña-Purcell, PhD, CHES - College Station
Board Member:	Barbara Barton, MS - Denton
Board Member:	Chesley Cheatham, M.ED, CHES
Graduate Board Member:	Emily Spangler - Waco
Undergraduate Board Member:	Vacant

"We can
never succeed
until we
believe we'll
succeed."

-Keith
DeGreen



TSOPHE Board Members at the January 24, 2009 Transitional Meeting in San Antonio.
Back row: Chesley Cheatham, Douglas Coyle, and Anita Coyle
Middle row: Ruben Rodriguez, Cassandra Harris, Ninfa Peña-Purcell, and Melissa Stanford Oden
Seated: Jasmine Opusunju, Janet Rourke and Patty Stone

Update from the President-Elect

TSOPHE President-Elect Melissa Oden will be attending a strategic planning meeting with the Texas Public Health Association (TPHA) Governing Council in New Braunfels on February 12-13. TPHA is hosting this meeting with the purpose of examining their strategic plan and how to move forward as an organization. Melissa will be attending this meeting as the representative for TSOPHE in an effort to forge a stronger partnership with TPHA and create a stronger TSOPHE organization.

TSOPHE Conferences Can Earn You CHES Continuing Education Credit

What a deal!!!! With your TSOPHE Conference registration fee, you can earn Category 1 Credits toward your CHES certification. As stated by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (NCHEC <http://www.nchec.org/index.htm>), the purpose of professional certification is to ensure a high-level of competence in the health education workforce. Maintenance of this competence is supported by continued training in the knowledge and methods of the field. Your participation in TSOPHE Conferences will provide experiences that assist in the development or enhancement of the knowledge and skills directly related to the *Areas of Responsibility* and your professional occupation. Submitted by: Linda Forsys

Public Health Events Calendar

February 21 - February 23

12th Annual Health Education Advocacy Summit , L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, Washington, DC

April 25, 2009

Certified Health Educator Specialist Exam. Contact NCHEC for test sites at www.nchec.org

May 6 - May 9

SOPHE 2009 Midyear Scientific Conference, Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans, LA

November 5 - November 7

SOPHE 60th Annual Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia, PA



Public Health Events Calendar

Advocacy Committee

There are hundreds of bills that relate to health in the state and federal legislative system. The Advocacy Committee chose 10 bills from the state legislature and 10 bills from federal legislature to track this year. If other bills become hot topics, we may add them to our tracking list.

State legislation that we are tracking includes: bills on fall prevention awareness; abortion when a fetal abnormality is detected; abortion for a victim of incest or sexual assault; testing and warnings related to mercury levels in certain fish; establishing a carbon dioxide “cap and trade” program to participate in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative; penalties for violating the Texas Clean Air Act; elimination of smoking in all workplaces and public places; prohibition of trans fatty acids in school meals; requirements for businesses that offer plastic checkout bags to customers; and prohibitions on cell phone use while operating a motor vehicle.

Federal legislation that we are tracking include bills to: increase services for individuals with postpartum depression and psychosis; raise awareness of eating disorders; reduce unintended pregnancy, reduce abortions, and improve access to women’s health care; ensure safety of imported seafood; provide quality, affordable health insurance for small employers and individuals; provide health care practitioners in rural areas with training in preventive health care; reduce the need for abortion, help women bear healthy children, and support new parents; facilitate nationwide availability of 2-1-1 telephone service for information and referral on health and human services; create jobs to restore economic growth and modernize the nation’s infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need; and guarantee affordable, quality health coverage for all Americans.

The Advocacy Committee plans to send out monthly updates on the status of these bills during the state legislative session.

Submitted by: Janet Rourke



***Advocating for
public health.***

Evidence-Based Practice What's in it for me? 2009 Spring Conference March 6-7, 2009



Calling all health educators!



Join us on March 6-7 at the beautiful campus of M. D. Anderson Cancer for the our Spring Conference. The purpose of the conference is to enable participants to have a greater understanding of Evidence-Based practices and how to apply them in various health education settings. The conference will feature two general session speakers, three breakout sessions, poster exhibits and a panel discussion. Saturday's portion will have specialized workshops that highlight grant writing, logic models and how to make the most of your TSOPHE Membership. 9 Category 1 CECH hours will be available for those who are CHES certified.

Conference Information:

M. D. Anderson Cancer Center - South Campus Research Building, 7455 Fannin, Houston, TX 77054

Accommodations: Jesse H Jones Rotary House International
\$108.00 per night - 2 double beds or 1 king bed
www.mdanderson.org/departments/rotaryhouse

**Discount ends February 25, 2009

For more information, please call or email Chesley Cheatham at 713-745-6752 or cwcheath@mdanderson.org

Get Connected with TSOPHE

We want you to get connected to TSOPHE! To achieve this objective, TSOPHE publishes quarterly newsletters and, if there is urgent information to report, occasional news briefs. Article submissions are welcomed. This may include a

short press release on an upcoming public health event or any news relevant to the interests of our members. TSOPHE Board reserves the right to review your entries to determine its appropriateness for our newsletter.



Get connected to TSOPHE!

New feature columns are planned for this year's newsletter. "TSOPHE Person-to-Know" is one addition scheduled for May's edition. Members are encouraged to submit a 200-word write-up about a fellow TSOPHE member. Photos can be included. Submissions are emailed to Ninfa Peña-Purcell at ncpurcell@ag.tamu.edu

Again, the TSOPHE board looks forward to getting connected to its members in 2009!

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