



Presidents Message

Happy New Year. It is an honor and privilege to begin my term, serving as your president. My many thanks to outgoing President Laura O'Reilly for her contributions and service in connecting with legislators promoting public health interests. We wish Laura success and look forward to her future return.

Since its founding in 1992, the NJLBHA has remained true to its mission statement of “protecting and preserving the public health, by helping the State’s local Boards of Health in meeting their responsibilities”. Over the decades, the Association has provided training and seminars, disseminated information, forged relationships with public health professional organizations and with Rutgers University, and worked with legislators to develop and implement public health policy. Our online BOH Certification training, the first nationally, is recognized for its comprehensive content, accessibility and user friendliness. Our newsletter containing an array of current, interesting and relevant public health topics, are contributions from professionals across all disciplines of public health.

In continuing this valued tradition, I want to strengthen our relationship with our sister organizations: New Jersey Association of City and County Health Officials (NJACCHO), New Jersey Association of Public Health Administrators (NJAPHA), New Jersey Environmental Health Association (NJEHA), New Jersey Public Health Association (NJPHA), New Jersey Society for Public Health Education (NJSPHE); and with the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), working towards identifying the diverse health concerns throughout the State, advocating for public health policy; and, with partners in the legislature, liaison effective enforceable public health legislation.

Each of you, as valued volunteer BOH members working towards improving the health and quality of life for citizens in your respective cities and counties, address health concerns specific to your geographic area as well as those common to others. Therefore, your membership and participation in your State Association takes on even more importance because it is the collective effort that garners attention and demonstrates to the DOH and State Legislators that we are valued contributors in the implementation of public health policy and to the discourse of public health concerns.

Let’s begin the new year stronger. **Join** your state association, NJLBHA (www.njlbha.org). Become a member. Become active. Select members from your Boards of Health to represent your concerns at the executive level. All are welcome. Visit our website, njlbha.org for upcoming meeting dates and review historic information.

If you have questions, would like to participate or just attend meetings, please contact me at President@njlbha.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Harris". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christine Harris, BA, MPA, CBHM
President