



# Enhancing Statewide Networking: Rebuilding an APHA Affiliate

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## Abstract

During the past 3 years, the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) has re-emerged from a dormant period.

The Association has been re-invigorated through the initial efforts of a core group of public health professionals and with a great deal of support from the public health community at large.

Outcomes from 3 short years of effort include: A tripling in statewide membership, an annual conference drawing over 100 participants each year, an annual graduate/undergraduate public health scholarship, and the development of an Affiliate journal.

Our success in Nevada can serve as a model for other states in rebuilding an effective public health network based upon a strong Affiliate.

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## Initial Steps

•**Develop core group:** A few dedicated volunteers to work together on the rebuilding process, with the freedom to re-create and modify previous Association processes

•**Needs assessment:** Find out what public health professionals want and need from a professional association. We found needs in Nevada for statewide networking and state-level advocacy- developing a statewide public health voice

•**Strategic planning:** Develop and redefine mission, goals and objectives, policies and procedures of the Association

•**Endorsement:** Obtain support from all levels of public health in the state, particularly public health leadership, and encourage active involvement at all levels

## Ongoing Efforts

•**Membership drive:** Continuously seek to strengthen Association with large body of members

•**Communication:** Maintain dialogue with members and public health leadership

•**Networking:** Schedule regular member meetings

•**Develop website:** A central communication tool to inform members and potential members

•**Offer opportunities:** Provide a variety of activities and levels of involvement for members, such as committee work, leadership, community involvement, and program and conference planning

•**Seek financial assistance:** Through grants, APHA, conference sponsors, in-kind donations of work, time, and space from public health organizations

•**Collaborate:** With other local, statewide, and national organizations

## NPHA Outcomes

•**Annual conference:** NPHA hosts an educational and networking conference each year, which alternates between Northern and Southern Nevada, allowing for ease of access to participants in those areas

•**Statewide membership:** Membership has more than tripled in the last three years

•**Affiliate online journal:** NPHA is one of the only APHA Affiliates to publish its own journal, which provides a venue for practitioners to present Nevada-specific research

## NPHA Future Directions

•**Funding:** Obtain funding through APHA for technical support, staffing, and operations

•**Dialogue:** With state agencies to include NPHA involvement in public health positions around the state

•**Advocacy:** Become a voice for public health in Nevada



NEVADA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION