

Hello, Board of Health members, County Health Officers and LHD staff.

I hope all of you have had a productive and enjoyable fall season in your local communities and counties. There is something about this time of year when work and life in general gets crazy. But then we have Thanksgiving, Christmas and the end of the year to gratefully slow us down as we count our blessing over the past 12 months.

Representing InALBOH I attended the Hulman Public Health Awards Banquet in Indy on October 25th. We sponsored a table and I was able to meet and sit next to one of the award recipients, Yordanos Gebru, who is a MPH student at UIndy. She is very active in Public Health Advocacy at the local, state and national level. She also helps pay her education bills by working as a Communication/Resource Database Specialist for the MOMS Helpline at ISDH.

Earlier in the month I was able to make the ISDH's Fall Symposium where I met with INSACCHO Board members as we discussed how our organizations can collaborate and find common ground to move forward together in providing Board of Health members and County Health Officers meaningful support throughout the year. We are working on a webinar that will be produced jointly and reach a broad audience. Stay tuned.

Oct 11 was a date on my calendar I was anticipating. The Alliance for a Healthier Indiana brought its Road Show to Madison (near me) and I had the pleasure of speaking that morning on the topic of business and health. The Road Show is finished and on November 15th the Alliance presented its "next steps" at the Statehouse. The goal in 2019 will be to convince state legislators to raise the cigarette tax by \$2.00. You can keep posted at www.healthierindiana.org or google "raise it for health". This is legislation that we all can get behind and is evidence-based to have a great impact on the smoking rate which currently keeps us at 42nd in the nation and costs Hoosiers billions in healthcare and in lives lost.

Lastly, the 2019 membership drive is ongoing. I think of membership as the engine that drives the train. Please, renew or join first time the InALBOH/NALBOH train and enjoy the benefits as outlined below. Familiarize yourself with the Indiana page on the NALBOH website where we can stay in touch with each other, sharing challenges and successes. InALBOH is in need of at least 2 more Board members. Email me if you have any questions. I'd like to hear from you.

Best Regards and Happy Holidays,

Harley Robinson, DVM

InALBOH, president

Ripley County BOH, chair.