

MEMBERSHIP, FALL SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES...

One of the major ways you, as a MWPHA member, can contribute to the growth of the organization is to encourage ONE fellow public health worker or person related to learn about MWPHA and join. Our website at www.mwpha.org has information to educate potential members about what we are doing, and also offers a mail-in membership form.

An upcoming chance to invite potential new members to learn about MWPHA will be the annual Fall Event and Social, on Friday October 24 (4:00 to 7:30 pm). The event will take place at the historic Sumner School, at 1201 17th Street, near M St. NW and Rhode Island Avenue NW, in Washington, DC. (near the Farragut North metro stop on the Red Line, or McPherson Square). There will be time to connect with public health colleagues, a thought provoking public health continuing education program, a silent auction to benefit the MWPHA scholarship program, and refreshments. Parking will be available near the intersection of M

and Rhode Island.

By having more MWPHA members, we can enhance public health workers' strength as a credible force for change in the area. Individuals, no matter how talented they may be, usually become lost in the cacophony of other individuals and groups, shouting for attention.

On the other hand, many voices united as one serve as a powerhouse for getting attention and bringing change!! Let's all work to get our colleagues to join our one voice at MWPHA for the good of the public's health and for our professional growth as public health workers. Please contact the MWPHA Membership Committee Chair, Henry Montes, at 301-443-2320 if you need more information. •



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THE NATIONAL HEALTH MUSEUM: A UNIQUE PARTNERSHIP

By Sonbol Shahid-Salles

One-of-a-kind interactive exhibits, a state-of-the-art health conference center and high-tech classrooms are expected to attract more than two million annual visitors to Washington's newest cultural gem — the proposed National Health Museum (NHM). To be located in the nation's capital, the NHM will empower visitors to make positive lifestyle changes, help them understand their role in the new era of health and medicine, and motivate them to consider health-related careers.

Already, the NHM is achieving its mission of helping improve public health by serving millions of health and life science educators and eager students each year via the Internet. *Access Excellence @ The National Health Museum*, the Museum's award winning Web site for health and biology teachers, attracts a monthly audience of more than 600,000 individual visitors and over 6 million “hits” each month.

Through the National Public Health Partnership (NPHP), a pioneering initiative funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the

Museum is also creating a nexus of communication between the public health and museum and science center communities. The American Public Health Association (APHA), the American Association of Museums (AAM) and the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) are joining the Museum in convening the NPHP, and helping bring public health information and resources into museums and science centers across the country, such as the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, California Science Center and New York Hall of Science.

At the inaugural meeting of the NPHP during APHA's 2002 annual meeting last November, former APHA Executive Director Mohammad Akhter, MD, MPH, declared the initiative a “truly unique partnership with tremendous potential for the future of our country.”

For more information about the NHM and the NPHP, log onto:
www.nationalhealthmuseum.org



The museum's Web site, *AccessExcellence@TheNationalHealthMuseum*, receives about 600,000 visitors monthly.