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Boards of Health

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President's Message

ANCBH held its 24th Annual Meeting on Friday, January 29, in Raleigh. Special guests included emeriti members of ANCBH and several members of the NALBOH Board of Directors who met in Raleigh on January 30 and 31.

Our featured speakers included Dr. Ron Levine, past N.C. State Health Director, who spoke on "Where We've Been and Where We Are Going in Public Health." David Thompson, Executive Director of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, spoke on "Building Better Relationships County Commissioners and Local Boards of Health." David Stone from the N.C. Institute of Public Health spoke on "Accreditation in North Carolina and the State Budget."

ANCBH members continue to serve on NALBOH and SALBOH committees. Barbara Ann Hughes of Wake County was appointed to serve as N.C. representative on the SALBOH Committee. Lee

Kyle Allen of Craven County is serving on a state committee to develop a state health improvement plan. I am serving on the N.C. State Department of Public Instruction's Healthy Youth Act Collaborative.

Legislative priorities include supporting the N.C. Local Health Department accreditation program and the reinstatement of the state vaccine appropriation in the 2010 budget. ANCBH is following the discussion relative to a new state health plan that is scheduled to be implemented on July 1.

As you can see, this new year brings many challenges and opportunities for boards of health to improve public health in North Carolina.

Robert Blackburn
President, ANCBH

Blackburn Honored by ANCBH

It's not easy to keep a secret from ANCBH President Bob Blackburn, but board members did just that when they voted to present him with the association's Robert Ed Strother Partnership Award.

The award recognizes an individual's work to establish and/or foster public-private partnerships that improve public health in the community.

"Bob uses his 24 years of experience as a professor of health education to tirelessly advocate and partner with others on the local, state, and national level to advance the cause of public health whenever and wherever he can," said Lorraine Salois-Deane who presented the award on behalf of ANCBH.

The award was presented during the annual N.C. State Health Directors Conference in January.

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Lorraine Salois-Deane, left, ANCBH Past-President and Treasurer pro tem, presents the Robert Ed Strother Partnership Award to ANCBH President Bob Blackburn.

ANCBH Presents Carl Durham Award to Wilkes County Public Health Advocate

Keith L. Bentley, DDS, of Wilkes County has received the Carl Durham Award from the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health. The award, presented in Raleigh during the annual N.C. State Health Directors Conference in January, recognizes his contributions and accomplishments toward improving and protecting the public's health through his dedicated leadership and service.

Dr. Bentley has been a member of the Wilkes County Board of Health since 2005. Beth Lovette, Wilkes County Health Director, praised his commitment to improve the public health in Wilkes. "He is a willing and able leader for our community," she said.

Bentley is a member of Health Foundation Inc. in Wilkes County, a non-profit organization established to improve the health and well-being of the citizens of Wilkes County. Bentley has been active in the foundation's fundraising efforts to support public health initiatives, including events to support the pediatric clinic and the opening of the adult clinic in the Wilkes Public Health Dental Clinic. He led the local fundraising effort to purchase a replacement vehicle for the Wilkes County Health Department's Mobile Expanded School Health unit.

A founding member of the Wilkes Public Health Dental Consortium, Dr. Bentley worked with the private and public sector to develop Wilkes Public Health Dental Clinic, a 501-C(3) satellite of the Wilkes County Health Department. He also works regularly with the clinic's executive director to recruit, retain, and mentor the dentists in the five-dentist practice.

Bentley is a volunteer clinical director for the Wilkes County Health Department. As a health professional and member of the board of health, he had been a staunch advocate for the tobacco-free designation for the health department building and grounds long before legislation was enacted requiring such designation.

He has promoted the adoption of local rules prohibiting smoking in local government buildings and grounds, in the Wilkes County schools, and at Wilkes Community College.

A mentor to others, Dr. Bentley has helped new dental school graduates prepare for the state's dental board exam, and has worked with the Dental Clinic to pursue a collaboration with East Carolina University's School of Dentistry.

Bentley also is active with the Wilkes County United Way, which offers ongoing support for mental health counseling for teens through the health department's Mobile Expanded School Health project.



Dr. Keith L. Bentley, right, a member of the Wilkes County Board of Health since 2005, accepts the Association of North Carolina Boards of Health Carl Durham Award. The award was presented in January by Bob Blackburn, ANCBH President, during the annual North Carolina State Health Directors Conference in Raleigh.

Blackburn Honored by ANCBH – Continued from front page

Blackburn has served as President of ANCBH since 2007. In that capacity, he has worked with various state organizations and agencies to promote programs and activities that benefit the public's health. He serves on the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) state association affiliates committee, the N.C. Healthy Carolinians Task Force, is a liaison between ANCBH and the N.C. State Health Directors, and is Vice Chair of the N.C. Local Health Department Accreditation Board. As ANCBH President, Blackburn is an affiliate member of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners.

He serves on the NALBOH Board of Directors, is a committee member of the National Public Health Accreditation Board, and is President of the Advancement of Health Education Foundation. He also served on the N.C. Public Health Task Force.

As a member and now Chairman of the Cleveland County Board of Health, Blackburn has been an advocate for smoke-free policies in the county and serves on the county's Eat Smart Move More coalition and Task Force on Teen Pregnancy Prevention.

He also has been an advocate for school-based health centers for middle and high schools, and digital menu boards in middle and high school cafeterias in Cleveland County. Blackburn also chairs the health promotion team at his church.

Blackburn is professor emeritus of health education at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs where he chaired the Department of Health Education and Physical Education for 19 years.