

## **VIEWPOINT ARTICLE**

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### **Health Department Celebrates 20 Year Anniversary and 10 Year Anniversary of the Willard C. Scrivner, MD Public Health Foundation**

The St. Clair County Health Department (SCCHD) and the Willard C. Scrivner, MD Public Health Foundation hosted an Anniversary Open House on Thursday October 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. The Health Department functions under the oversight of the St. Clair County Board of Health, which was established in October 1985 by the County Board. It was charged with providing public health services to the citizens living in 18 townships of the county that are outside of the 4 townships served by East Side Health District. The first meeting of the Health Board was held on January 21, 1986. The Board of Health is comprised of nine members including County Board member Marty Crawford, Dr. Jan (Attalla) Allen, Dr. Tracey Biermann, Mrs. Carolyn Chapman, Rev. Annie Clark, Dr. Hershel Garrett, Rev. Robert Jones, Dr. Dale Rosenberg and Dr. Nestor Zenarosa. The Health Board was formed under the leadership of former County Board Chairman, Congressman Jerry Costello who participated in a recognition ceremony during the Open House. Also participating were County Board Chairman Mark Kern, former County Board Chairman, Judge John Baricevic, and former County Board member, State Representative Tom Holbrook.

The Board of Health gives policy direction and oversees the St. Clair County Health Department staff that provides infectious disease control, food safety, environmental protection, maternal and child health, community health assessment, disease prevention and health promotion services. The Health Department has an annual budget of \$6.3 million in contrast to the 1986 budget which was approximately \$350,000. There are currently 70 staff members compared with 10 employees of the former tuberculosis clinic who became the first Health Department staff.

The event also celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Willard C. Scrivner, M.D. Public Health Foundation. Since its inception 10 years ago, the Scrivner Foundation has partnered with SCCHD and the St. Clair County Health Care Commission to sponsor numerous health conferences, promote public health awareness activities, provide scholarships to area students pursuing a health career, and serve as fiduciary agent for funding resources that are redirected back into the community to improve health. The Scrivner Board of Directors is comprised of community leaders who represent a broad range of community perspectives. Board Directors are Rev. Annie Clark, Dr. Dale Rosenberg, Dr. Rita Arras, Dr. Tracey Biermann, Ann Faist, Mariva Scherck, Marcia Scrivner, George Walker, Jerrie Weith, Stephen Wigginton, Eric Rhien, Kathleen Thimsen, and Dr. Nestor Zenarosa. Health Board President and Foundation Chairperson Rev. Annie Clark stated: "The extensive services provided by the Health Department are essential to the public's health. These services are strengthened through the projects supported by the Scrivner Foundation." Dr. Allen and Mrs. Chapman received special recognition for serving on the Health Board since its inception 20 years ago and ten years of service on the Scrivner Foundation Board.



20<sup>th</sup> elected photo



20 year employees