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21 October 2018

**President’s Report to the 2018 Annual General Meeting**

I am pleased to present the first President’s Report for the Global Law Enforcement and Public Health Association Inc.

Since preliminary discussions about creating an international research network took place in Amsterdam in 2014, a great deal has been accomplished: GLEPHA was incorporated on February 6th, 2017 under the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia; a set of Rules were established; an Interim Board of Management was formed under the Rules; collaboration agreements were signed with the Canadian and European Public Health Associations and explored with the World Federation of Public Health Associations, and; our website was created. I’ll highlight some of those accomplishments and our path forward below.

**The LEPH Conferences:** The GLEPHA members will be making a significant contribution to the upcoming Law Enforcement and Public Health (LEPH) conference in Toronto this year, the first LEPH conference to be held in North America. Our intention is to eventually transition the planning and organising of the LEPH conferences to the GLEPHA over the course of the next few years. Because the conference is growing in popularity, and to make it accessible to more front line police and health/welfare workers who would otherwise have trouble participating, as an experiment the conference is becoming annual after 2018. The 2019 conference will be held in Edinburgh, Scotland and partnership building and preliminary plans are already underway. More details will follow during the conference itself.

Our membership base is growing slowly, and we’ve seen some increased interest leading up to the LEPH Conference. We are becoming a truly international research network. Building our membership, and expanding the diversity from different sectors is one of our key priorities in the near term. It is interesting that a number of other organisations and networks are springing up around the intersection of law enforcement and public health, a sign of growing awareness of the importance of these sectors working together. As examples, the English Consensus Statement and the Welsh Agreement on collaboration between police and health/welfare are landmark documents. We are bringing together all such organisations who will be at the conference to form an ongoing network.

Our current membership stands at:

Institutions and Organisations 19

Individuals 31

Student 7

Founding Members 2

Total: 59

**Special Interest Groups (SIGs):** two SIGs have so far been established, mirroring the main themes of the LEPH conferences; more are planned as interest and membership grow, and as they are showcased at the LEPH2018 conference. The two so far established are on Education in the LEPH Field and LE and Mental Health; the Education SIG is having its first meeting in Toronto, and the Mental Health SIG is holding a two-day pre-conference Consultation and has been integral in planning the theme of mental health in the conference program. The plan is that increasingly SIGs will take responsibility for planning of their theme in the conference program. More information about these SIGs is on the website and if you have any ideas or would like to join a group please contact me at nick.crofts@unimelb.edu.au

**A Journal for LEPH:** one exciting initiative for this conference and potentially for GLEPHA has been the formation of an informal alliance with the *Journal of Community Safety and Wellbeing*, a journal run by the Community Safety Knowledge Alliance, one of our major partners in LEPH2018. We’ve already published a number of articles in the JCSWB, and a special issue will be launched at LEPH2018. As well, LEPH Conference participants who submitted an abstract for presentation were asked if they would like their paper considered for publication in a special issue of the JCSWB next year – 75 ticked the yes box. I have taken on a role as Section Editor for the JCSWB, and will work on getting as many of those 75 papers into print over several issues as possible. We may discuss the possibility and usefulness of formalising the link with the JCSWB in future.

The CLEPH and GLEPHA websites are becoming good repositories of resources in the LEPH field; I encourage everyone to submit any useful articles, reports, videos, blogs etc to CLEPH for inclusion in the Resources section of the GLEPHA website.

Our work to date has laid a very good foundation for the functioning of the GLEPHA. The task over the next few years for the new Board will be to grow our association. Among others, there are a number of key priorities for the board, namely to:

1. Create Strategic and Business Plans
2. Develop more SIGs and link them to the Conference Program planning
3. Develop further strategic alliances and partnerships,
4. Increase both organizational and individual membership
5. Market the GLEPHA and the LEPH Conferences
6. Develop and implement a fund-raising strategy
7. Develop a GLEPHA Newsletter and an alliance with a Journal (possibly JCSWB), and
8. Establish developmental opportunities for Masters and PhD candidates

These are truly exciting times as the GLEPHA evolves and moves from its initial formation stages, to growth and development of the association. Clearly, from the level of interest internationally, there is a need for such a unique association. Our cross-sector collaborative efforts will result in relevant and current contributions to research that will benefit legislators, policy makers, and practitioners.



**Nick Crofts**

GLEPHA President