**TPHA Awards Criteria**

**R.H. Hutcheson, MD, Award:** This award is considered the highest award given by TPHA. It is named in honor of Dr. R. H. Hutcheson, Sr., Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Public Health for many years. The award is to be presented to that person in the field of public health who has made outstanding contributions to public health over a period of several years. The nominee must have been a member of TPHA for a minimum of five (5) years and an Active or Life Member of the Association in the year the award is given.

**The Alex B. Shipley, M.D. Award:** This award is named in honor of Dr. Alex B. Shipley, Health Director of the East Tennessee Grand Division for a number of years. An outspoken advocate of public health, Dr. Shipley’s work contributed greatly to building local health department infrastructure in Tennessee. This award is to be presented to an employee of a regional or local health department who has made outstanding contributions in the field of public health over a period of several years. The nominee must be a member of TPHA for five (5) years, including the year upon which the award is based.

**The Public Health Worker of the Year Award:** This award is presented to that person in the field of public health who, during the past three years, has provided outstanding service to the field. The person must be in full-time employment in the field and must hold active or life membership in the Association.

**The Public Health Work Group of the Year Award:** This award is presented to a local, regional, or state public health group, unit, or department that has made an outstanding contribution to public health. At least a portion of the team must be a current member of TPHA during the year in which the award is given.

**The Partners and Leadership (PAL) Individual and Group Award:** This award is presented to a non-public health professional, group, or organization which has made a significant contribution on behalf of public health that is extraordinary and would set an example for others. At the discretion of the Awards Committee, two separate categories of PAL Awards (group/organization and individual) may be presented in a given year.

The Distinguished Service Award was renamed in 2016 in honor of Doris Spain upon her retirement as executive director of the Tennessee Public Health Association.  **The Doris Spain Award for Distinguished Service** award recipient is selected by the TPHA Board of Directors and is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the Association.

**Member of the Year** is given to the TPHA member who has demonstrated commitment to the Association in 3 areas – volunteerism, leadership and representation of the organization.