

The Board of Directors of Post-Polio Health International (PHI) is pleased to announce the appointment of Brian M. Tiburzi as Executive Director of PHI, including International Ventilators Users Network (IVUN), effective September 1, 2017.

Board President William Stothers said that Brian Tiburzi has been assistant to PHI's retiring Executive Director Joan L. Headley for more than nine years. "He has been a critical link between PHI and its Members, providing them with information and services."

"I want to thank everyone on the board for placing their trust in me," Brian said. "I think we all realize just how dedicated, intelligent and hard-working Joan was in her 30 years of tireless advocacy on behalf of polio survivors and users of home mechanical ventilation. I'm somewhat in awe of her and what she accomplished here."

Brian has also represented PHI at past conferences in Toronto, Copenhagen, and, most recently, Sydney. He helped coordinate two of PHI's conferences, when he was able to meet many of our members face-to-face. In addition, he met leaders of national organizations and local support groups, and many health professionals with expertise in managing the late effects of polio.

"During the past nine years," Brian said, "I've communicated with many of them on the phone and through email and that has given me a sense of what our members are looking for from PHI as an organization. I believe this familiarity will aid in the transition by providing a sense of continuity for our membership."

Brian has been very involved in the design and management of Polio Place (www.polioplace.org), as well as the new IVUN site, www.ventnews.org.

"With so much incorrect or misleading information floating around on the web," he said, "the role of PHI as a source of trusted, accurate information cannot be overstated. PHI plays a vital role in helping polio survivors and ventilator users maintain their health and independence, and I am excited to carry on that legacy." ■