

Idaho Rural Health Association

Quarterly Newsletter

The Mission of the Idaho Rural Health Association is to provide leadership on issues related to rural health in Idaho through advocacy, communication, and education.



MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:

- Quarterly newsletter focused on IRHA's interests
- Networking opportunities
- One time Introductory subscription to NRHA's magazine *Rural Roads*
- NRHA's Action Alerts
- NRHA's Media Alerts
- Discounted fees to attend IRHA conferences and other events
- Rural Health Forums

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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"PROMOTING A HEALTHY IDAHO" CONFERENCE

September 29-30, 2011

Boise State University Student Union

Boise, Idaho

Sponsored by Idaho Rural Health Association, Idaho Public Health Association and Idaho Nurses Association

Featured Speakers: Keynote speaker: Karen Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN, President American Nurses Association "Current Changes and Challenges in Health Care: National Perspectives"

Plenary Speaker: Ted Epperly, MD, FAAFP, Past president and current board chair American Academy of Family Physicians and CEO of Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, "Promoting a Healthy Idaho: Changes and Challenges"

Workshops on a variety of current topics related to the health and wellbeing of people living in Idaho will be offered. Topics are listed on the registration web sites.

REGISTER AT WWW.IDAHORHA.ORG

Idaho Rural Health Association Update

The next board meeting is on: July 13, 2011
from 11 AM to 4 PM—St. Maries, Idaho

Check out the IRHA website for further details by going to:

<http://www.idahorha.org/>

For Your Information...

SAVE THE DATE: November 3, 2011

"Blazing New Trails" Idaho RHC-CAH-Free Medical Clinic Conference

Save the date for the annual Idaho Rural Health Clinic (RHC)- Critical Access Hospital (CAH) conference. New this year: Informational tracks for Free Medical Clinics. Take advantage of the opportunity to network with peers, obtain advice from industry experts and learn to blaze new trails. For more information, Contact the State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care at RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov or (208) 334-0669.

Our Vision is to be the recognized advocate for rural health

IRHA Represented at 2011 National Policy Institute

The annual National Policy Institute of the National Rural Health Association was attended again this year by members of the Idaho Rural Health Association. Held in Washington DC each January, the NPI is both an excellent review of healthcare policy with headline speakers, policy updates and advocacy pointers as well as preparation for visits to each state's representatives and senators. It is an excellent opportunity for IRHA membership to become more educated on the issues, the political landscape, and the processes affecting rural health from a national perspective.

Those attending from Idaho have the opportunity to speak to the issues most important to IRHA, both nationally and with our own Idaho Senators and Representatives. Returning this year was Dr. David Schmitz (Family Physician, Boise, IRHA President, NRHA Rural Health Fellow) and for her first time Shannen Schmitz (Occupational Therapist and IRHA Volunteer Coordinator for Youth Suicide Prevention). They made their congressional visits with Chris Tilden (CEO Mountain State Group). The visits addressed such areas as physician work force, rural residency education, mental health and encouraging our congressmen to be or remain members of their respective Rural Health Caucus or Coalition. While the current economic climate is a difficult one, our collective efforts in advocating for rural health care clearly are being heard and make a difference. If you are interested in attending the National Policy Institute next year or in the future, please let the IRHA know. You and the IRHA together can make the difference!



IRHA members meet with Senator Crapo at the 2011 National Policy Institute. From left, Chris Tilden, Dr. Dave Schmitz, Senator Mike Crapo and Shannen Schmitz.

Would You Like to Host a Health Forum in your Community? IRHA Can Help...

If you are an IRHA member and interested in hosting a meth education or suicide prevention forum in your community, IRHA can assist you in organizing your event. Please contact David Schmitz at: dave.schmitz@fmidaho.org

Join Us Today!

By joining IRHA you become part of nearly 100 professional and organizational members statewide who are working to improve the health and quality of life of rural Idahoans. Members have come to rely on IRHA to be the voice for rural communities through advocacy, information exchange and collaboration.

IRHA has moved to a new web-based member management system. Now you can join conveniently online. Go to www.idahorha.org to register or renew your membership.

Annual Dues:

Individuals \$25

Organizations \$100 (maximum of 5 members)

Students \$15



2011 Legislative Breakfast— IRHA Board President Dr. Dave Schmitz discusses rural health issues with legislators and IRHA members at the Legislative Breakfast held on Feb 7th in Boise.