

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.

IRHA Supports HJR004 Constitutional Amendment in Nov. Election

The purpose of amending this section of the Constitution of the State of Idaho is to allow Idaho's public hospitals, which are primarily located in small towns and rural areas, to purchase equipment, facilities and technology to further meet the health care needs of patients in their communities. The amendment does not allow any tax payer dollars to be used for these investments.

Adopting the amendment will enable Idaho's public hospitals to resume the use of financing for equipment, facilities and technology to further meet the needs of patients in their communities so long as no tax payer dollars are used. This practice has existed in Idaho for over 30 years.

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
- NRHA membership discount

Idaho Rural Health Association Update

At our July 7th Board meeting, members discussed upcoming IRHA Board elections, support of the HJR004 Constitutional Amendment in the November election, Rural Health Day, an IRHA membership drive in October and future IRHA conferences. We are continuing to use Wild Apricot to manage membership and our website and thus far it is working well as a management tool.

The next board meeting is on:

Thursday, October 28, 2010 from 11 AM to 4 PM—Pocatello, Idaho

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President

David Schmitz, M.D.
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

Past President and Treasurer

Mary Sheridan, RN
*Department of Health and Welfare
State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care*

Secretary

Annette Phillip, PhD
ISU Institute of Rural Health

Board Members

Ed Baker, PhD
Boise State University

Robert Cuoio
The Hospital Cooperative

Joe Cladouhos
Syringa General Hospital

Keith Davis, MD
Shoshone Family Medical Center

Felice Lampert, MPH
Benewah Community Hospital

Alan Stevenson
St. Benedicts Family Medical Center

Bill Woodhouse, M.D.
Family Practice Residency Program

For Your Information...

Www.IdahoHealthCareers.org - The State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care offers a free web-based health care provider recruitment program called *Idaho Health Careers* for rural and underserved communities. This program will allow us to match candidates to opportunities and track vacancies in rural and underserved communities. Like the 3RNet, this resource is available at no cost.

Eligible healthcare entities are invited to post vacancies on Idaho Health Careers—www.IdahoHealthCareers.org

For more information or assistance contact: State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care, (208) 334-0669 or ruralhealth@dhw.idaho.gov.

SAVE THE DATE

Piecing Together the Healthcare Puzzle" Idaho Rural Health Clinic and Critical Access Hospital Conference — November 3-4, 2010, Hilton Garden Inn, Boise Spectrum in Boise

The combined, annual Idaho Flex Program Meeting for Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) and Idaho Rural Health Clinic (RHC) Workshop will provide a valuable opportunity to network with peers, obtain advice from industry experts, and gain insight into piecing together the changing healthcare puzzle.

Nov. 3rd - (8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.) Combined and separate tracks for independent RHCs, Provider-based RHCs, and CAHs

Nov. 4th (8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.) Sessions will focus on Health Information Technology

Travel and lodging support available to RHCs and CAHS with extensive travel demands.

Contact Bill Short, State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care, RuralHealth@dhw.idaho.gov Phone: (208) 334-0669



Rural Health Advocacy - Plans are underway for an IRHA legislative breakfast at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise this Fall. Details will be announced.

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@fmr.idaho.org

NOMINATE NEW IRHA BOARD MEMBERS

We have two upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors for our board year beginning October 2010.

We are now accepting nominations for those positions. The nomination process is open through August 25th, and notice for elections will be sent via the IRHA member email list.

Nominees do not need to be current IRHA members, but must join the IRHA if elected to the board. Board members serve a term of four years and participate in four board meetings per year in various locations throughout the state.

Members can nominate on the IRHA website:

www.IdahoRHA.org

If you have forgotten your password, please select 'forgot password' in the upper right of the main page and enter your email address to receive a new password in email. If you have difficulties, please email beckkirs@isu.edu.

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