

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.



Idaho Rural Health Association Update

At our October IRHA Board meeting, Mary Sheridan assumed the role of President. Dr. Dave Schmitz was elected to serve as President-Elect. The IRHA Board voted to change our membership dues to a calendar year basis and to prorate member dues to bring all memberships due and payable starting January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 and each calendar year thereafter.

Our two newest board members were introduced. Alan Stevenson has had a successful career in healthcare management serving as Administrator (CEO) of several hospital facilities, Chairman of the Board of the state's largest healthcare insurer and serving as chief executive officer of a joint venture health insurance company. He currently is the CEO of St. Benedicts' Family Medical Center in Jerome, Idaho.



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:

President

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

President-Elect:

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

Past President

Linda Powell, MS, CPT
Idaho Area Health Ed. Center,
Mountain States Group, Inc.

Treasurer/Secretary

Ryan McAllister, PT
Gritman Medical Center

Board Members

Joe Claudouhos
Syringa General Hospital
Keith Davis, MD
Shoshone Family Medical Center
Felice Lampert, MPH
Benewah Community Hospital
Alan Stevenson
Jerome Medical Center
Bill Woodhouse, M.D.
Family Practice Residency Program



Joe Claudouhos has 26 years executive leadership and management experience and is Board certified in management by the American College of Healthcare Executives. He has held many leadership positions in Alaska and is currently the CEO at Syringa General Hospital in Grangeville. The IRHA Board is delighted to welcome these two new members.

Other topics discussed included the NRHA skill-building workshop that Mary Sheridan attended (refer to page 2 for details). The IRHA Board will be meeting at the following dates and locations in 2009:

Tuesday, January 20, 2009 11 AM to 4 PM - Boise, Idaho
Tuesday, April 21, 2009 11 AM to 4 PM - Jerome, Idaho
Thursday, July 2, 2009 11 AM to 4 PM - Grangeville, Idaho
Wednesday, October 28, 2009 11 AM to 4 PM - Pocatello, Idaho

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

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

Our vision is to be the recognized advocate for rural health issues in Idaho



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Other IRHA News

- 1) White Paper on Loan Repayment Programs. Due to a serious illness, the White Paper has been turned over to another student for completion and presentation at our January 20th, 2009 IRHA Board meeting.
- 2) Rural Forums. Discussion at our recent board meeting centered on continuing to offer rural communities the option of co-sponsoring rural forums focused on issues of interest to their community or supporting their efforts to hold community health fairs. If there is something the IRHA can help support in your community, contact Mary Sheridan, President at: SheridaM@dhw.idaho.gov
- 3) New Member Services. The IRHA Board has been exploring several options to bring current legislative information to our membership. The Idaho Academy of Family Physicians has agreed to share the information they receive from their "legislative observer" and allow IRHA to distribute a copy to members starting this upcoming legislative session.



If you have a story about efforts in your community that you would like to share with our members, please email the text and any pictures to:
lindapowell@mtnstatesgroup.org

NRHA Skill-Building Workshop

The National Rural Health Association (NRHA) conducted its annual Skill-Building Workshop on August 15-16, 2008, in San Diego, California. All state rural health associations have the opportunity to send one member to the workshop with funding from the NRHA. The workshop provides an opportunity for state rural health association leaders to learn from their peers and develop skills to enhance their associations. This year's workshop focused on membership development, fiscal management, and grant writing skills. Mary Sheridan, current Idaho Rural Health Association (IRHA) board president, participated in the August workshop. "The NRHA did an outstanding job of providing a workshop that was valuable to both new and seasoned rural health association leaders and I appreciate the opportunity to attend on behalf of the IRHA." If you are interested in learning more about the workshop and reviewing the presentation materials, please visit: <http://www.ruralhealthweb.org/go/left/programs-and-events/nrha-conferences/skill-building-workshop/skill-building-workshop>.

Join Us Today!

All current members will be receiving a dues notice and prorated invoice to bring all memberships to a calendar year basis starting January 1, 2009. You will have the option of donating your prorated deduction and paying full membership or paying your prorated membership dues. We will also be sending out invitations to past members and other potential members to increase our membership. If you know some who should receive this invitation, simply email Deb Green at greedeb@isu.edu with their contact information. Annual dues have not been increased. To become a member of the Idaho Rural Health Association, simply make checks payable to Idaho Rural Health Association and mail to:

Joe Claudouhos, MS, CHE (Treasurer IRHA)
Syringa General Hospital
607 West Main Street
Grangeville, ID 83530
208-983-8525

Annual Dues:

Individuals \$25
 Organizations \$100 (maximum of 5 members)
 Students \$15