



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.

The IRHA is soliciting nominations to fill two upcoming board member vacancies. Watch your mail for details in early June!

Idaho Rural Health Association Update

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

At our April IRHA Board meeting, agenda items included discussion of the state loan repayment whitepaper, update on the NRHA Policy Institute, NRHA dual membership options, the success of distributing the Legislative Observer courtesy of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians, a supplemental grant request to NRHA to hire a consultant to help with membership management, upcoming board vacancies and election process, and identifying the 2010 conference planning committee.

Other topics discussed included the review of our strategic initiatives and the upcoming rural forums in Jerome and Grangeville, Idaho. The IRHA Board will be meeting at the following dates and locations in 2009:

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/>

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
St. Luke's-Idaho Elks of Twin Falls

Board Members

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

IRHA Rural Forum—Grangeville, Idaho

The IRHA will be co-hosting an event with the Idaho Meth Project and Family Medicine Residency of Idaho on the evening of July 2, 2009 in Grangeville, Idaho. This local Meth Ed Outreach educational program will be targeting teens with the motto "Not Even Once" while parents and interested community members are also encouraged to attend. For details please contact :

Joe Cladouhos, MS, CHE
Chief Executive Officer
Syringa Hospital & Clinics
607 West Main Street
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
Phone 208-983-8525



IRHA Provides Support for Jerome Area Clinicians on “How to work with Interpreters”



Class participants model the interpreter-patient-provider relationship.

The IRHA hosted a rural community forum in Jerome, Idaho, on May 5, 2009. The forum was a one-hour workshop for medical staff on working with healthcare interpreters and co-hosted by the State Office of Rural Health & Primary Care. The course was instructed by Christopher Dimmick, certified Spanish linguist and court interpreter, from Morales Dimmick Translation Services. Participants received continuing medical education credit from the Ada Canyon Medical Education Consortium and learned what to expect from interpreters and how to partner with interpreters to bridge cultural barriers to health-care.

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



2010 IRHA Conference Planning Committee Members Wanted

The IRHA is looking for members who are willing to contribute time, energy, and advice by serving on our 2010 Conference Planning Committee. There will be several conference calls over the course of the next 12 months to determine geographic location, venue, theme, and speakers. *New for 2010: IRHA is partnering with the Idaho Public Health Association to provide more opportunities for conference attendees!* **If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Sheridan at (208) 332-7212 or email to:**
SheridaM@dhw.idaho.gov.

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 greedebb@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:

Ryan McAllister, PT
 560 Shoupe Ave West
 Twin Falls Idaho, 83301
rmcallister@ierh.org

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