

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.



Make Plans to Attend the IRHA Biennial Conference April 30, 2010

The IRHA biennial conference, "Promoting A Healthy Idaho" will be held on April 30, 2010 at St. Luke's Anderson Center in Boise. We are partnering with the Idaho Nurses Association (INA) and the Idaho Public Health Association (IPHA) to create a conference that will appeal to all organizational members. The conference will include a variety of presentations and current IRHA members will receive a registration discount. Watch for details and registration information next month.

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 October IRHA Board meeting, agenda items included a discussion regarding the January Legislative summit and NRHA Policy Institute, defining who should attend the event; the continuation of rural forums, including offering meth education to rural communities across the state; using wiki for internal communication, editing and managing board information; IRHA's 501c3 status and tax filing procedures; and becoming more familiar with using Wild Apricot for managing memberships. We welcomed three new board members, Annette Phillipp, Robert Cuoio, and Ed Baker. Linda Powell and Ryan McAllister were thanked and recognized for their enthusiastic work over the years as they step off the board. Other topics discussed included assigning new board positions and the April 30, 2010 biennial conference.

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 Phillipp, 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

The next board meeting is on:

Tuesday, January 19, 2010 11 AM to 4 PM - Boise, Idaho

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

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

For Your Information...

IRHA Representation at Rural Health Policy Institute Jan 25-27, 2010

The 21st Annual National Rural Health Association Policy Institute will take place in Washington D.C. on January 25-27. Participants will have an opportunity to meet key congressional members and learn more about the impact of new health care reform legislation. IRHA is sending a delegation of members who will meet with Idaho legislators. Please send your rural health issues and concerns to Dave Schmitz, IRHA President, at dave.schmitz@fmridaho.org for inclusion in the legislative discussions.

IRHA Welcomes New Board Members

The Idaho Rural Health Association welcomes three new board members who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to this growing organization.



Dr. Ed Baker is the Director of the Center for Health Policy at Boise State University. He has over 20 years of experience in healthcare working with physicians and hospitals and has a passion for improving healthcare access through his research and teaching. Ed, along with his colleague Dr. David Schmitz of the Family Medicine Residency of Idaho, has developed the Community Apgar Questionnaire (CAQ) process currently being used by critical access hospitals in Idaho to improve recruitment and retention of family physicians. His role of encouraging students interested in rural healthcare is something Ed hopes to bring to the leadership team of the IRHA.

Robert Cuoio is the Operations Manager for the Hospital Cooperative (THC). Robert graduated from Idaho State University with a bachelor's degree in health care administration and a minor in business administration and began employment with the THC in May 2005. While at THC, he has provided many services to 14 member hospitals in East Idaho and West Wyoming, including: management of four separate peer networking groups, facilitation of the THC Leadership Education Programs, negotiation of group contracts for goods and services for member hospitals and the daily management of THC's hospital-based telemedicine program.



Dr. Annette Phillipp's background is in health promotion, disease prevention, health services research, community health education, consumer health information, and outcomes research. She has developed networks and partnerships with individuals and organizations within the healthcare and emergency service sectors within Idaho and in other regions of the country within various grant-related programs. Before joining Idaho State University in May 2006, Annette was the Director of the New Product Development and member of the Strategic Services Unit at Healthwise, Incorporated, a Boise based consumer health information company. Her research interests continue to be in health promotion and health-related behavioral change interventions and policies.

Happy Holidays!

From IRHA Staff and Board members



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:
Felice Lampert at: flampert@bchmed.org

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 forum in your community, IRHA can assist you in organizing your event. Please contact David Schmitz at:
dave.schmitz@fmridaho.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 is moving to a new web-based member management system. Watch for an email in early 2010 with information about how to renew your membership and register for the April conference conveniently on-line.

Annual Dues:

Individuals \$25

Organizations \$100 (maximum of 5 members)

Students \$15