

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
- NRHA membership discount

## Idaho Rural Health Association Update

The Idaho Rural Health Association would like to welcome new board member,  
Keith Davis, MD, FAAFP!



Keith Davis, MD, FAAFP, is the owner, CEO and medical director of Shoshone Family Medical Center, an independent RHC and the only medical facility in Lincoln County, Idaho. Born and raised in Albany, Oregon, he completed undergraduate studies in chemistry and biology at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. He attended George Washington University School of Medicine on a National Health Service Corps scholarship. After residency in family practice at University of Iowa/Iowa City, he moved to Shoshone in 1985 for repayment of the NHSC scholarship.

Dr. Davis is Lincoln County Coroner, medical director for EMS in Lincoln county and former chief of staff at the hospitals in Gooding and Jerome. He is a hospice medical director. He has served on the Idaho Medical Association Board of Trustees since 2007. He is currently Past President of the Idaho Medical Association. Former President of the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians, he continues to serve on the IAFP board as well as on the AAFP Commission on Continuing Professional Development. He was the 2012 IAFP Family Physician of the Year, 2013 Idaho State University Physician Assistant Program Educator of the Year and 2014 American Academy of Family Physicians Family Physician of the Year. He served on the Steering Committee of the Statewide Healthcare Improvement Program (SHIP) and continues that work with the Idaho Healthcare Coalition (IHC). He is an active member of the AMA, IRHA, NRHA and WONCA. He was a founding and continuous board member through 2014 of Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers/Faith in Action of Magic Valley. He has been active with the American Cancer Society (St. George Award) and Rotary International (Paul Harris Fellow) as well as Boy Scouts of America and other non-profit organizations.

Dr. Davis married his college sweetheart Diane in 1978 and they have three children: Anika (Washington, DC), Brian (grad school in Freiburg, Germany) and Karla (North Shoshone). They enjoy travel especially road trips that combine interesting locations with visiting family and friends.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President**

Ted Epperly, M.D. FAAFP  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

**Past President**

Ed Baker, PhD  
Boise State University

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State Office of Rural Health and Primary Care

**Secretary**

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Vacant

**Board Members**

Mary Barinaga, M.D.  
Idaho WWAMI Program

Keith Davis, MD, FAAFP  
Shoshone Family Medical Center

Michelle Schaeffer  
Syringa Hospital and Clinics

Kim Stutzman, M.D.  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

David Schmitz, M.D.  
Ex-Officio

**Student Board Members**

Brent Baldwin  
Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

Gerald Cortright  
Boise State University

## 2015 NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



### First Place

"Cousin Time In Mackay, Idaho"  
I took this photo outside of Mackay, ID with the Lost River Range in the background. We spend a lot of time there and love hiking around, enjoying the beauty Idaho has to offer. Submitted by: Susanne Jamison, Idaho Dental Hygienists' Association Executive Director



### Second Place

It is the "familiar" visit that represents rural health care and I don't think any artist has captured this better than Norman Rockwell. This photo is my attempt to capture that same sentiment. Submitted by: Michelle Schaeffer, Syringa Hospital and Clinics

## Rural Issue # 70

A movie at the cinema last two and a half hours and it takes an hour and a half just to get there

## State Loan Repayment Program

(SLRP) is a multi-discipline, state-based loan repayment program for practitioners working for a nonprofit or public entity located in a federally-designated Health Professional Shortage Area. Loan repayment is provided through a federal grant and every award must be matched \$1:\$1 with funds provided by the practitioner's employer. Awards range from \$5,000-\$25,000 per year for two years. Practitioners receiving loan repayment must:

- Be employed or contracted by a nonprofit or public entity located in a Health Professional Shortage Area;
- Ensure individuals at or below 200% of the most recent HHS Poverty Guidelines will receive a schedule of discounts, and individuals with income at or below 100% of the HHS Poverty Guidelines will receive services at a nominal fee or at no charge;
- Accept Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program;
- Commit to working two-years at the practice location in exchange for loan repayment and agree to substantial repayment penalties if the term of service is not completed;
- Not have concurrent service obligations;
- Agree to participate in a site visit with staff from the Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care during the obligation period.

For additional information, visit: [www.ruralhealth.dhw.idaho.gov](http://www.ruralhealth.dhw.idaho.gov).

## NRHA's New Leaders



Elections have been finalized for the leadership of the National Rural Health Association. David Schmitz, MD, has been selected as president-elect. Dr. Schmitz is the Idaho Family Medicine Residency chief rural officer and director for rural training tracks. Dr. Schmitz also participates as an ex-officio on the Idaho Rural Health Association Board. He will assume the duties of NRHA president in 2017. Dr. Schmitz told NRHA, "being entrusted to serve the National Rural Health Association as a future president is a highlight of my career." Congratulations Dr. Schmitz!

## Rural Health Clinic On-Site Technical Assistance Visit Opportunity

The Bureau of Rural Health & Primary Care is offering Technical Assistance site visits for Idaho Rural Health Clinics (RHC). These no-cost site visits are intended to help RHCs maintain compliance, as well as, provide guidance and assistance. These visits are not regulatory. Technical Assistance site visits for Rural Health Clinics can consist of:

- Review of policy and procedure manuals
- Annual evaluation assistance and review
- RHC updates and education
- Clinic walk through utilizing CMS 30 form
- Debrief with leadership and follow up report/ assistance as needed

## 2015 Idaho Rural Health Summit

Thank you for attending our summit this year

A special thank you to our legislators

Sen. Brent Hill

Rep. Judy Boyle

Rep. John Ruche





Executive Department  
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor  
**Proclamation**

State Capital  
Boise

WHEREAS, rural communities throughout the United States are wonderful places to live and work; places where people know each other, listen to and respect each other and work together to benefit the community; and

WHEREAS, rural America is the economic engine that helped the United States become the world leader it is today; and

WHEREAS, America's 62 million rural citizens possess a selfless, creative, community-minded spirit; and

WHEREAS, meeting the unique healthcare needs of those citizens is a constantly evolving challenge as rural communities face accessibility issues, a lack of healthcare providers, an aging population suffering from more chronic conditions, and larger percentages of uninsured and underinsured citizens; and

WHEREAS, ambulatory and emergency medical services are especially critical in rural America, where 20 percent of the nation's population lives but nearly 60 percent of all trauma deaths occur; and

WHEREAS, rural hospitals – in addition to being sources of innovation and resourcefulness that reach beyond geographical boundaries to deliver quality care – also are typically the economic foundation of their communities; and

WHEREAS, being a rural healthcare provider provides tremendous opportunities to offer more comprehensive, compassionate, patient-centered and holistic care to patients; and

WHEREAS, Rural Health Associations, state offices of rural health, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders play a distinct, critical role in addressing the unique healthcare needs of our rural citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to be

**NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY**

in Idaho.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 19<sup>th</sup> of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred fortieth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-sixth.



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE DENNEY  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**IDAHO RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**  
*The recognized advocate for rural health issues in Idaho*

**Legislative Breakfast**

Come and meet the leaders and members of the Idaho Rural Health Association that advocate for rural health issues in Idaho.

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016  
7:30 AM – 9:30 AM**

Cedar Room, 2nd Floor  
The Grove Hotel, 245 South Capitol Blvd.  
Boise, Idaho

RSVP to Shannon Schmitz  
Idahorha@gmail.com

The Idaho Rural Health Association would like to invite you to receive a one-year Legislative Membership at no cost.

If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please email [Idahorha@gmail.com](mailto:Idahorha@gmail.com) with your name and contact information.

**LET US KNOW!**

Why is rural health important to you?  
What is your passion in rural health?

We will include your response in our next newsletter.

Send to Shannon at [Idahorha@gmail.com](mailto:Idahorha@gmail.com)

**DON'T FORGET TO...**

Follow us on Facebook and  
Check out the IRHA  
website:  
<http://www.idahorha.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](http://www.idahorha.org) to register or renew your membership.

Annual Dues:

Individual \$25  
Organization \$100 (up to 5 members)  
Student \$15