



**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.**

## **REGISTER TODAY— 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 have partnered with the Idaho Nurses Association (INA) and the Idaho Public Health Association (IPHA) to create a conference that will appeal to all organizational members. Featured speakers include **Carol Moehrle, RN**, Director, Idaho North Central District Health Dept and **Carmen Nevarez, MD, MPH**, President-elect American Public Health Association, Public Health Institute Medical Director and Vice-president of External Relations. Break-out sessions for IRHA members include an IRHA president’s message, workforce, health information technology, and a rural health panel.

### **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

### **Board of Directors:**

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

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*Department of Health and Welfare  
State Office of Rural Health & Primary  
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*St. Benedicts Family Medical Center*

Bill Woodhouse, M.D.  
*Family Practice Residency Program*

## **Idaho Rural Health Association Update**

At our January 19th Board meeting, members discussed the upcoming Biennial Conference and building IRHA membership using Wild Apricot technology. The new Wild Apricot format will make it easier for IRHA board and staff to track membership and update the website. IRHA members and those interested in joining should find the registration process easier as well. Additionally, members talked about the continuance of holding Rural Health Forums in communities across the state. The Jason Foundation presented its program on suicide prevention as another forum topic for the IRHA to offer to communities. This will be in addition to Methamphetamine education that the IRHA has sponsored in communities across Idaho.

The next board meeting is on:  
Thursday, April 29, 2010 from 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...**

#### **Northwest Rural Nurse Residency: Transition-to-Practice**

Residency or Transition-to-Practice programs have been shown to be an effective means of reducing the turnover of new and transitioning nurses, improving their job satisfaction, and hastening critical thinking skills. And so, it is with great excitement that Idaho State University developed the Northwest Rural Nurse Residency program. For more information, call the ISU Office of Professional Development at (208) 282-2982, email [nurseopd@isu.edu](mailto:nurseopd@isu.edu) or visit the NWRNR website at <http://www.isu.edu/nursing/opd/nwrnr.shtml>.

## IRHA represented at National Policy Institute

The National Policy Institute is an excellent opportunity for IRHA leadership and its members to become more educated on the issues and the process affecting rural health from a national level. Organized by the National Rural Health Association, this gathering each January in Washington DC culminates with visits to our Idaho Representatives and Senators to speak to the issues most important from an IRHA perspective. Returning this year was Ryan McAllister (Physical Therapist, Twin Falls) and first-timer, Dave Schmitz (Family Physician, Boise) addressing issues such as patient access, workforce development, loan repayment and medical education.



Washington has remained focused on both health care and rural issues making this year's discussions energetic and fascinating. If you are interested in attending the National Policy Institute in future years, please let the IRHA know. In the meantime, IRHA and NRHA membership will continue to provide ample opportunity to be educated to the issues and provide guidance to have your voice be heard.

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Top, right: IRHA members Dave Schmitz, MD (left), and Ryan McAllister, PT, meet with Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson in his D.C. office through the National Policy Institute. Above: Dave and Ryan meet with Idaho US Senator James Risch. Participants at the Policy Institute learn to effectively advocate at the national level on behalf of rural health.

## Biennial Conference Features "State of the State of Rural Health" Panel

Idaho Hospital Association's Steven Millard, Denise Chuckovich of Idaho Primary Care Association, Ron Hodge with Idaho Medical Association and Paul Leary from the Idaho Division of Medicaid are the featured speakers on a panel discussion that focuses on the state of rural health in Idaho.

Go to [www.idahorha.org](http://www.idahorha.org) for a complete conference agenda and to register online.

### **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@fmidaho.org](mailto:dave.schmitz@fmidaho.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.idaborha.org](http://www.idaborha.org) to register or renew your membership.*

Annual Dues:  
Individuals \$25

Organizations \$100 (maximum of 5 members)

Students \$15