

**WEST VIRGINIA RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**  
**Membership Meeting at the WV Rural Health Conference – Glade Springs Resort**  
**October 28, 2008**

**WVRHA Board Members:** Alicia Tyler, Elaine Mason, Patricia Crawford, Sandra Pope, Hilda Heady, April Vestal, Lew Holloway

**Guests in Attendance:** Jacquelynn Copenhaver, Claire Bragonje, Ann Byrd, Russ Porter, Tom Hefner, Jodie Jackson, Ken Shannon, Charles Lail, Sandra Gans, Sister Rebecca Fidler, Susan Pinto, Susan Anderson-Borrer, Margaret Novacich, Jacki Novacich

<b>Agenda Items</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>Welcome Call to Order</b>	President-Elect Lew Holloway called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm in the absence of President Michael Thompson. He welcomed the 21 participants in attendance. (see list below)
<b>Introduction and Recognition of Board Members and Officers</b>	The following WVRHA Board Members and Officers and were introduced. Hilda Heady, Alicia Tyler, Elaine Mason, Patricia Crawford, Sandra Pope, and April Vestal. Lew Holloway expressed appreciation on behalf of the board to all the board members and also named those absent from today's meeting and expressed thanks to them for their service to the Association. Not attending were Michael Thompson, Norma Bowyer, Sally Richardson, Jeff Graham, Jill McDaniel, Lisa Scarberry and Laura Welch
<b>Minutes</b>	The minutes of the October 23, 2007 Membership meeting were presented. M. Novacich/H. Heady moved to approve the minutes. Motion passed.
<b>Financials</b>	Elaine Mason, Treasurer of the Association presented the financial report. Sources of income for the Association are Membership and the National Rural Health Association (NRHA) Technical Assistance grant of \$9,500 received annually. There was a small amount of income generated from the rural health forums held last year giving the Association a balance of \$36,966. Each year, the Association sponsors the Silent Auction at the WV Rural Health Conference. Proceeds from this year's auction will go to assist the Association in hiring a staff person.
<b>Policy Institute</b>	Hilda Heady said the NRHA is currently pushing 25,000 members. The Policy Institute is held in Washington D.C. in January (1/26/09, 1/27/09, 1/28/09). Each state group designates a team leader to set up appointments with Congressional leadership to discuss state issues. NRHA is a cross-cutting organization that represents the rural health landscape. Items/issues NRHA advocates for are usually broad-based and include how rural health issues impact West Virginians. If interested, registration is available on NRHA's website at <a href="http://www.ruralhealthweb.org">www.ruralhealthweb.org</a> Lew said he participated two years ago and it was an incredible experience. The political process is important and it is also personally important for your views to be known to Congress.
<b>Membership</b>	The WVRHA is interested in growing the organization. We currently have 55 individual memberships and 16 organizational members. Our individual memberships are down from last year and our organizational memberships grew slightly. Lew explained that through registrations to the conference, individuals receive a free one-year membership as part

	of their registration fee. The WVRHA is currently looking at strategic planning in order to add value to members.
<b>NRHA Skill Building</b>	This workshop conducted by the NRHA is open to the State Rural Health Association's President-Elect. Lew attended the workshop held earlier this year. Training was provided on different types of tools the NRHA is looking into to increase membership in addition to tools Associations can use to accomplish the same. Many of the State Rural Health Associations represented have paid staff to implement their state's association goals and objectives. This is lacking with WVRHA, but the Board is considering the possibility to contract with an individual to help implement its goals and objectives.
<b>Strategic Planning</b>	The Board is developing a Strategic Plan. A strategic planning retreat was held in August. The plan is expected to be finalized by the end of 2008, and will be posted on the Association's website at <a href="http://www.wvrha.org">www.wvrha.org</a> Draft priority areas include organizational development, internal and external communication, education and advocacy as well as policy and resource development.
<b>WV Rx</b>	This item was not discussed due to President Michael Thompson's absence
<b>Board Elections</b>	Patricia Crawford, Nominations Chair discussed the Nominations and Board Election process for the 7 open Board seats for 2009. Information was provided to attendees in their meeting packets. The criteria for Board nomination is that a nominee be a member of the Association for at least one year. Board members serve a two year term with the opportunity to serve a second consecutive term. Currently, there are three Board Members eligible, and have agreed to run in 2009. These members are Hilda Heady, Jeff Graham and Sandra Pope. Nominations will be open until November 4 with board candidate forms due by November 14. Ballots will be emailed to the Membership on November 21 and members will have 2 weeks to return their ballot. The floor was opened for nominations. No nominations were received from the floor.
<b>Communication Committee Report</b>	Sandra Pope, Chair of the Communications Committee reported that the committee had focused their efforts on keeping the website up to date, minutes and information posted to the website. If you are a member of the Association and wish to serve on any of the committees, please contact President-Elect Lew Holloway at <a href="mailto:lew.holloway@nwvrhec.org">lew.holloway@nwvrhec.org</a>
<b>Student Communication</b>	Hilda Heady discussed an email received from a medical student at WVU interested in forming a student rural health interest group that would be open to all disciplines. Attendees at the meeting thought this was a good idea and an excellent way to build interest in rural health issues among future health professionals.
<b>Adjournment</b>	Motion to adjourn (Novacich/Pope). Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Submitted by April L. Vestal, Secretary

**Participants:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Email</b>
Patricia Crawford	WVSOM	<a href="mailto:pcrawford@wvsom.edu">pcrawford@wvsom.edu</a>
Sister Rebecca Fidler	Susan Dew Hoff Clinic	
Ann Byrd		<a href="mailto:Madear28@suddenlink.net">Madear28@suddenlink.net</a>
Sandra Pope	WV AHEC	<a href="mailto:spope@hsc.wvu.edu">spope@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Russ Porter	Shepherd University	<a href="mailto:rporter@shepherd.edu">rporter@shepherd.edu</a>
Tom Hefner	NWVRHEC	<a href="mailto:tomhefner@yahoo.com">tomhefner@yahoo.com</a>
April Vestal	WVRHEP	<a href="mailto:avestal@hsc.wvu.edu">avestal@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Alicia Tyler	WVHEPC	<a href="mailto:tyler@hepc.wvnet.edu">tyler@hepc.wvnet.edu</a>
Elaine Mason	WVU Office of Rural Health	<a href="mailto:emason@hsc.wvu.edu">emason@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Jodie Jackson	WVU Office of Rural Health	<a href="mailto:Jjackson2@hsc.wvu.edu">Jjackson2@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Ken Shannon	Family Medicine, WVU	<a href="mailto:shannonk@rcbhsc.wvu.edu">shannonk@rcbhsc.wvu.edu</a>
Charles Lail		<a href="mailto:clail@adph.state.al.us">clail@adph.state.al.us</a>
Sandra Gans		<a href="mailto:sgans@ma.rr.com">sgans@ma.rr.com</a>
Margaret Novacich	WVU Office of Rural Health	<a href="mailto:mnovacich@hsc.wvu.edu">mnovacich@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Jacki Novacich	WVU Office of Rural Health	<a href="mailto:jnovacich@hsc.wvu.edu">jnovacich@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Susan Pinto	WVU School of Nursing	<a href="mailto:spinto@hsc.wvu.edu">spinto@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Susan Anderson-Borror		<a href="mailto:susanborror@yahoo.com">susanborror@yahoo.com</a>
Hilda Heady	WVRHEP/AHEC	<a href="mailto:hheady@hsc.wvu.edu">hheady@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Jacquelynn Copenhaver		<a href="mailto:jacopenhaver@live.com">jacopenhaver@live.com</a>
Claire Bragonje	HSTA	<a href="mailto:cbragonje@hsc.wvu.edu">cbragonje@hsc.wvu.edu</a>
Lew Holloway	NWVRHEC	<a href="mailto:Lew.holloway@nwrhec.org">Lew.holloway@nwrhec.org</a>