



For immediate release
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NRHA announces leadership elections results

Leadership for the National Rural Health Association is secure for 2021 and beyond, thanks to recent Board of Trustees and Rural Health Congress elections.

The Rural Health Congress is NRHA's policy-making body. Elected representatives from the association's constituency groups, State Association Council, State Office Council, issue groups, and officers serve on the Congress, giving broad grassroots representation that reflects the expertise and passion of NRHA's membership.

NRHA members chose Beth O'Connor as president-elect. O'Connor, a longtime NRHA member who has served as executive director of the Virginia Rural Health Association since 2005, will assume the duties of NRHA president in 2022. A dedicated advocate, she is a past chair of NRHA's Government Affairs Committee and has served on the association's Board of Directors.

"I am honored to be part of NRHA leadership during these turbulent times," O'Connor says. "I hope we can build stronger rural communities together."

Members elected Tim Wolters to his second term as NRHA's board treasurer. He is director of reimbursement at Citizens Memorial Hospital in Bolivar, Mo.

Elected in 2019, John Gale, senior research associate at the Maine Rural Health Research Center, will serve as president in 2021.

NRHA is pleased to announce the following individuals elected by their peers to serve in leadership roles:

Board of Trustees officers

- **President-elect:** Beth O'Connor, Blacksburg, Va.
- **Treasurer:** Tim Wolters, Bolivar, Mo.

Constituency Group/Council chairs

- **Clinical Services:** Kate Hill, Spring House, Pa.
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers:** Toniann Richard, Lexington, Mo.
- **Health Equity:** David Line, Spokane, Wash.
- **Rural Health Clinics:** Joanie M. Perkins, C.P.C., Ruleville, Miss.
- **State Association:** Stacy Fontenot, Napoleonville, La.

- **State Office:** Kathryn Miller, Madison, Wis.

Constituency Group/Council representatives

- **Health Equity**
 - David Albright, Ph.D., Tuscaloosa, Ala.
- **Hospitals and Community Health Systems:**
 - Brian F. Bertsch, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 - Monica Bourgeau, M.S., Portland, Ore.
 - John H. Everett, F.A.C.H.E., Snyder, Texas
 - Sarah Gideon, Topeka, Kan.
 - Lari Gooding, Fairfax, S.C.
 - Sarah H. Huling, Forks, Wash.
 - Yvonne Jonk, Ph.D., Portland, Maine
 - Nikki King, Batesville, Ind.
 - Ralph Llewellyn, Fargo, N.D.
 - SuLynn Mester, D.N.Pc.2, Childress, Texas
 - Amy Schroeder, Lexington, Neb.
 - Matt Shahan, Hettinger, N.D.
 - Tanya Sharp, Albion, Neb.
 - Roger D. Wells, P.A.C., Lexington, Neb.
- **Research and Education**
 - Michael Meit, M.A., Johnson City, Tenn.
 - Bree Watzak Pharm.D., College Station, Texas
- **Rural Health Clinics**
 - Steve Smith, Kansas City, Mo.
 - Deborah Whitley, C.P.A., Waco, Texas
- **State Association Council:** Kylie Nissen B.B.A., Grand Forks, N.D.
- **State Office Council:** Robert Duehmig, Portland, Ore.
- **Statewide Health Resources:** Crystal Barter, East Lansing, Mich.
- **Students:** Lauren Canary, Roanoke, Va.

NRHA is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health and well-being of rural Americans and provide leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research. NRHA's membership is made up of more than 21,000 diverse individuals and organizations that share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

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