

Indiana Rural Health Association
2019 Election of Officers and Board Members

Please vote by checking the appropriate boxes and signing and dating the ballot. There is only one person running for each of the open officer positions. The President-elect must be a current or former member of the Board. The Treasurer and Secretary are chosen from the members. Please vote for each officer nominee and vote for up to five (5) of the Board of Director nominees. Election results will be announced at the General Membership meeting on Wednesday morning, June 19, 2019.

Voting on smart devices will occur at the Annual Conference and is preferred.

Please Print Your Name Here

Signature

Date

Indiana Rural Health Association - 2019 Official Ballot

Please see voting instructions on cover sheet.

Please vote for each office. If elected, each officer will serve a one-year term.

Officer Nominees:

President-Elect

___ TRAVIS CLAPP, ACHE (current IRHA Board Treasurer seeking President-Elect position)

Secretary

___ TARA HATFIELD, RN, BSN, MHA (current IRHA Board Secretary)

Treasurer

___ SUSAN JO THOMAS, JD, LCSW (current IRHA Board member seeking Treasurer position)

Board of Directors Nominees

Please cast up to **FIVE** votes from among the nominees listed below.

The elected Board members will serve a three-(3) year term.

___ TABITHA ARNETT, CAE (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

___ JIM BALLARD, EdD, MS (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

___ MICHELE BEHME, RN (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

___ RON DONAHUE (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

___ DANIEL HARDESTY, MPA (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

___ ART LOGSDON (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

___ CAROL MILLS, MS, RN (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

___ ELVIN PLANK, BSN, MPA (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

___ CALVIN ROBERSON, JR., MHA, MPH (current IRHA Board member seeking second full term)

___ CARA VEALE, DHS, OTR, FACHE (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

___ BRAD WILLKIE (current IRHA member seeking first full term)

Indiana Rural Health Association Officer Nominees 2019

President-Elect

TRAVIS CLAPP, ACHE (current IRHA Board Treasurer seeking President-Elect position),

is the Director of Community Relations for Rehabilitation & Performance Institute (RPI). He has been a member of the IRHA since 2012 and has served on the Annual Conference planning committee since 2013 and served as co-chair the past 3 years. He has also served as a Board member since 2014. Clapp was born and raised in southeastern Indiana in a little farming town in Clark County called Marysville. He developed a passion for healthcare early in life as an athlete who was a frequent flyer in the ER, Ortho office, and Physical Therapy clinic. He received his college education from the University of Evansville. After graduation, Clapp began his career with a company who managed Physical and Occupational therapy for hospitals across the nation, particularly in rural communities. This allowed him the opportunity to get to see the various problems facing rural patients in varying states, but he quickly came to the realization that the problems that people in rural Indiana face are the same problems that people experience in rural areas all across the country. In his current role, he works for a Physical Therapy organization, which serves patients in rural communities in Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. Clapp lives, works, and plays in rural America and brings a first-hand experience for what it is like to truly grow up and live in a rural community. He understands the struggles that people living in rural areas face. He speaks with patients every day in the clinic to continue to understand what we can do as healthcare providers to provide exceptional care to those we serve and understand the struggles that those outside the healthcare world face. Clapp currently resides on his farm with his wife, 5-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son. He wants to ensure that his children have the opportunity to be raised in rural America but still receive quality healthcare. He would love to continue his work with the IRHA, he wants to continue to improve the lives of those people living in rural America, and continue to improve the delivery of healthcare to those living in the rural areas. After all, those are his family and friends.



Treasurer

SUSAN JO THOMAS, JD, LCSW, (current IRHA Board member seeking Treasurer position)

became a member of IRHA 18 months ago when she became the Executive Director of Covering Kids & Families of Indiana (CKF). CKF-IN has partnered with IRHA on HRSA and CMS grants in the past with great success. Their strongest connection is in the areas of the state where CKF is building new coalitions. The IRHA staff and leadership have been ideal resources with whom to work. There are many projects planned where the partnership will be of value to the communities served. Thomas has been working in healthcare for over 25 years. Her position with CKF-IN has given her the opportunity to study rural health and specifically strategies for outreach and enrollment in health coverage programs. (Shameless plea for you to attend our presentation and visit our booth during the conference.) Her experience has been primarily in health coverage programs, bringing necessary financing into the health system, while ensuring patients receive all benefits for which they qualify. Rural Hoosiers have a different set of obstacles in their struggle to live a healthy life. The differences call for a unique approach to each community. "If you have seen one community – you have seen one community". Her approach is not to dictate to areas their solution, but rather to empower the stakeholders to find their own answers and then wrap resources around them. CKF-IN is now focused on more rural areas to build coalitions and we need a strong collaboration with IRHA to be successful.



Secretary

TARA HATFIELD, RN, BSN, MHA (current IRHA Board member seeking Secretary

position), is Managing Advisor/Practice Transformation Clinical Lead for Purdue Healthcare Advisors. She has been a member of Indiana Rural Health Association for six years and has been a member of the Board of Directors for the past four years, serving on the Annual Conference and Membership Committees for two years. She has worked as an RN in rural Indiana her entire nursing career beginning in 2004 in Jackson, Scott, Jennings, and Bartholomew counties. She has provided quality reporting assistance to many rural counties, particularly those in southern Indiana. Her focus outside of her clinical experience has been both with urban and rural counties, but the majority of her experiences has been in the rural setting. Hatfield has enjoyed the experiences of being a Board member for the last three years and have made valuable connections with and through IRHA staff and membership. She has been given the opportunity to live anywhere in the state, and yet she chooses to stay in rural Indiana.

Therefore, rural issues, rural health issues, and policies that affect healthcare where she lives is important to her. She wants the rural communities in our state to be viable options for workforce development and community growth.



Board of Directors Nominees

TABITHA ARNETT, CAE (current IRHA member seeking first full term), is the Executive Director of Indiana Osteopathic Association in Indianapolis. She attended the IRHA conference last year and has been a member since. She has been actively involved in other rural initiatives, including serving as Chair of the Indiana Adult Immunization Coalition where she led initiatives to increase flu/pneumonia vaccine rates in rural communities. As Executive Director of the Indiana Osteopathic Association, she works with physicians around the state, many of whom are in rural areas. She has over 16 years of experience in association management. With a BS in Public Health and MS in Education, Arnett's focus throughout her professional career has been in health and education. Rural health issues for pharmacy and now in osteopathic medicine are of interest to her. She has served as President of the Hook's Drug Store Museum where the board oversaw fundraising and business operations of the museum. The rich history of the 1800's pharmacy gave purpose to visitors who desired to know more about small-town Indiana pharmacies. Through her education, experience with associations and knowledge about providers, Arnett would like to help IRHA fulfill its mission to improve the health of Hoosiers in rural settings. She is a detail-oriented, focused individual. Her position regarding healthcare is to help association members and citizens which its members serve. She is interested in building partnerships and removing barriers to improve access to care. More info at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tabithaarnett/>.



JIM BALLARD, EdD, MS (current IRHA member seeking first full term), is an Associate Professor at IU Family Medicine and Executive Director for the Indiana Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Network. Ballard joined Indiana Rural Health Association 3 years ago when he began his position in Indiana. In addition to supporting student membership and participation, he has participated in the Annual Conference planning committee. His involvement in rural health has been within the context of education and health workforce development. He began this work in 1998 during his first position in AHEC (Kentucky). AHEC is a community-academic partnership with the goal of solidifying the health professions workforce in rural communities. This has led to his membership and participation in the NRHA (1999-current), the NRHA Research and Education Constituency group (1999 – 2011 & 2018 - current) and rural medical educators (2001-2010). Ballard's reasons for serving on the IRHA Board are simple. Indiana cannot achieve optimal health of its citizenry without access to quality healthcare. This is a multi-faceted issue that he has chosen to address through his life's work in AHEC and other symbolic organizations. That is, by positively affecting the geographic distribution and quality of the health professions workforce.



MICHELE BEHME, RN (current IRHA member seeking first full term), is the CEO of Sonder Health. She has been a member of IRHA off and on for the past 10 years, when her job has allowed her to have the time to participate. She values the organization but has not always been able to participate due to travel/work schedule. She is now in a better place to participate regularly and would very much like to participate and make a difference to the underserved areas. She has been in the hospital, consulting firms, business, and senior leadership roles that are all in the healthcare space. She has been in healthcare and healthcare IT for over 35 years, both in large organization and small facilities. She worked in the behavioral health space in Evansville and Newburgh for 20 years. As the CEO of Sonder Health, she has been focusing on the Indiana landscape to provide telemedicine services and initiatives to reduce infant and perinatal mortality. Behme has not held any positions but is now in a position to dedicate focus on the health and wellness of our state and local level. She has provided services to rural health organizations that have been impacted by policy. Most recently in the telemedicine space rural health policies have been on the agenda for a great deal of our work. Behme has a passion for access to care, quality of care, and having a voice for the underserved. She is a CEO of a telemedicine company that focuses on the rural community and increasing access to care. She lives in Carmel, Indiana, so she is close to Board Meetings and is centrally located.



RON DONAHUE (current IRHA member seeking first full term), is the CEO of inHealth Ambulance and has been a member of Indiana Rural Health Association for 2 years and involved with rural health for 18 years relating to prehospital care and transportation issues. As the owner of inHealth ambulance, he sees firsthand the issues our communities face. The landscape of rural healthcare and that of healthcare in general is ever changing. During his career, Donahue has had the opportunity to work alongside many leaders in the healthcare community. Whether it be in an ambulance, hospital, clinic, or family physician office, our challenges are all very similar. Often, we all look at these challenges from just our perspective. Breaking down the silos and learning from each other will be our key to success. Each facet in our healthcare system deals with the same issues, such as rising costs, staffing shortages, and patients with access to care. With the advancements in technology, it is critical that we utilize these new tools together. To ensure the needs of our communities are met, it will take a team approach. Being in the emergency medical service field since 2001, Donahue has seen firsthand how many of these patients experience these issue in their home environment. He hopes to bring his experiences and knowledge to the Board of the IRHA.



DANIEL HARDESTY, MPA (current IRHA member seeking first full term), is currently the Project & Research Coordinator at the Richard G. Lugar Center for Rural Health. As a lifelong rural resident from Parke and now Vermillion County, he has dedicated his career to advancing rural health working for both the Indiana Rural Health Association then the Lugar Center after completing his Master's in Public Administration from Indiana State University. His experience with IRHA includes speaking and helping plan events. Hardesty is an active member of the IRHA Policy Committee. He is well versed on rural health issues and brings a strong perspective from the policy and workforce issues affecting rural communities today. His passion for ensuring rural Hoosiers have access to quality health care has motivated him to advocate at the local, statewide, as well as in Washington, D.C. to provide a voice for positive legislation for rural health. He is engaged in the recruitment, training, and retention of rural providers as part of his role with the Union Hospital Family Medicine Residency and the Hoosier Summer Rural Preceptorship programs. He has experience in implementing telehealth and infant mortality programs and believes strong rural healthcare means strong rural communities. He is seeking a Board position to continue to serve the mission of the Indiana Rural Health Association.



ART LOGSDON (current IRHA member seeking first full term), has been an active member of IRHA since July 2017. Previously, he participated with IRHA as an exhibitor for many years. He has been involved in rural health, off and on, since 1979 when he first worked at the Indiana State Department of Health. He was the agency's Communications Director two different times and also served as an Assistant Commissioner twice. During his tenure, he was also Director of the Trauma and Injury Prevention Division. In the last year, Logsdon worked with an Indianapolis PR/advertising company, Hirons, to produce Rural Reach, a campaign detailing Hirons' expertise with rural issues. Having worked with IRHA on a number of issues, both during the time he was at ISDH and otherwise, he has developed an appreciation for the work it does. At Hirons, Logsdon has been able to delve deeper into rural issues and would like to continue that work. One issue he is particularly interested in helping IRHA with is the further development of Indiana's rural trauma network.



CAROL MILLS, MS, RN (current IRHA member seeking first full term), is a PhD student at IU Fairbanks School of Public Health. She joined the Indiana Rural Health Association in October 2017, while she was transitioning between careers as a healthcare CEO and a PhD student. Since joining 1.5 years ago, she has attended the 2017 Fall Forum: Harvesting Rural Solutions, 2018 Opioid Symposium, and the 2019 Spring Into Quality Symposium. Throughout her career in healthcare administration, she has worked in many roles, settings, and geographic locations. Although her focus has not been solely on rural health, the programs she led and worked with needed to meet the needs of the populations they served, which included rural populations. Mills has been involved with multiple pilot projects to try to address health disparities found in rural settings, such as mobile medical units, community-based mental health, and telephonic case management. Over time, she has become increasingly aware of geographic disparities and the need for unique solutions for delivering quality physical and behavioral healthcare services to rural populations. Mills hopes to include the needs of rural populations and providers in her areas of research and to be a driver of solutions. She feels her goals are aligned with IRHA, and she would like to contribute her experience and enthusiasm to IRHA's important work.



ELVIN PLANK, BSN, MPA (current IRHA member seeking first full term), has been the President/CEO of Indiana Health Centers, Inc. for six years, which includes 10 FQHCs in seven Indiana counties, most of which are located in rural areas. He has been attending the IRHA Annual meeting in French Lick for at least three years and has attended the last two NRHA meetings in Washington DC, as well as the meeting in New Orleans last year. He is totally committed to doing everything he can to move Indiana Health Centers in the direction of ensuring primary care to people in rural Indiana. Plank feels the IRHA is doing a great job in assisting rural health providers to know what to do and helping IHC do it. He is especially concerned about what is occurring that is reducing the access to prenatal care for pregnant women and well child care for children.



CALVIN ROBERSON, JR., MHA, MPH (current IRHA Board member seeking second full term), is the Vice President of Planning and Program Development for Indiana Minority Health Coalition. He has served as a member of the IRHA Board of Directors for several years and has chaired the Bylaws and Policy Committee for the past three (3) years. Roberson has participated in the IRHA Annual Conferences for the past three years and most of the Fall and Spring Into Quality Symposiums. Roberson, through his position as Vice President, has funded more than 15 community-based organizations that are located and serve rural Hoosiers particularly seasonal workers, such as migrant farm workers. He has also provide numerous cultural humility trainings to rural healthcare providers to improve patient care. Additionally, Roberson has engaged elected officials and other decision makers on the importance of preserving rural economies, healthcare infrastructures, and wellness. Roberson is interested in providing more voice to rural health issues and mobilize its communities to take more action to preserve its life. Through further advocacy, Roberson would like to engage IRHA members in obtaining public sentiment about issues and encourage them to express their public will to policy makers and other decision makers.



CARA VEALE, DHS, OTR, FACHE (current IRHA member seeking first full term), is Vice President of Provider Services for Daviess Community Hospital. She has been an IRHA member for approximately one and one-half years and has been involved in rural health for approximately one and a half years. She ultimately oversee all operations within rural health-designated facilities. She has been directly involved in developing rural health-designated facilities, annual program evaluations of rural health-designated facilities, mock surveys, and formal rural health surveys. She is interested in serving as a Board member for the Indiana Rural Health Association as she sees great opportunity to further grow and educate on the importance of access to care and resources in and around rural areas. Her organization is directly impacted by the constraints identified in rural areas and feels continued attention and focus is essential to continue to thrive in the healthcare field with the limited resources that are otherwise found in metropolitan areas.



BRAD WILLKIE (current IRHA member seeking first full term), is the Senior Vice President for ClaimAid. He has been heavily involved Indiana healthcare associations for 30 years. When he joined ClaimAid 5 years ago, his attendance at IRHA events increased from one to two per year to attending all meetings. Three years ago, ClaimAid also joined the Business Partner Network. While he has not been on any committees yet, Willkie looks forward to serving on them whether he is elected to the board or not. He has served as President of the Indiana Chapter of HFMA, as well as holding Regional and national roles. To his best recollection, he has been engaged in rural health for 10 years. His experience has been supporting rural providers with front-end Revenue Cycle issues... from uninsured Patient Enrollment to claims resolution. As an HFMA leader, Willkie worked with Dave Cholger, CFO at Woodlawn, to refocus the chapter's education on the needs of the Rural Provider Communities. His main support to the rural communities has been co-sponsoring events with HFMA and IRHA. Regarding rural health policy issues, he is trying to gather information from Indiana legislators on rural issues. Willkie has been servicing rural Indiana providers for 30 years. He is passionate about trying to make sure not only the providers are protected, but that the residents have access to the care they need. He also has 25 years' experience in association leadership through 15 years of Board experience at HFMA and other industry boards. If he had to target one specific area he would like to participate in the most, it would be Telehealth. He is most excited about the Behavioral Health application.

