



For immediate release  
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## **NRHA announces 2015 leadership elections results**

Leadership for the National Rural Health Association is secure for 2015 and beyond, thanks to recent elections for its Board of Trustees and Rural Health Congress.

NRHA's elected leaders help ensure the organization remains true to its mission of improving health care for 62 million rural Americans.

NRHA members elected Lisa Kilawee as president-elect. Kilawee, a provider recruitment consultant for Ministry Health, will assume the duties of NRHA president in 2016. Jodi Schmidt will serve as president in 2015.

"I am honored to be elected," Kilawee said. "I'm passionate about the work NRHA does to help ensure access to health care for everyone in rural America, as I believe people should have adequate access to quality health services no matter where they live."

Members selected Dave Pearson to serve as NRHA's board treasurer in 2015 and 2016. Pearson is CEO of the Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals and managing director of the Texas Rural Health Association.

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The following NRHA members were elected by their peers to serve in leadership roles:

### **Board of Trustees officers**

**President-elect:** Lisa Kilawee, Amherst, Wis.

**Treasurer:** Dave Pearson, Austin, Texas

### **Council chairs**

**Multicultural and Multiracial Health Council:** Eron Manusov, MD, Edinburg, Texas

**State Association Council:** Beth O'Connor, Blacksburg, Va.

**State Office Council:** John Barnas, East Lansing, Mich.

### **Constituency Group chairs**

**Clinical:** Dave Schmitz, MD, Boise, Idaho

**Federally-Qualified Health Centers:** Tim Shryack, Ava, Mo.

**Frontier:** Patrick J. Branco, Orofino, Idaho

**Rural Health Clinics:** Michelle Mills, Aurora, Colo.

### **Rural Health Congress representatives**

**Hospitals and Health Systems:** Randy Anderson, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Patrick Branco, Orofino, Idaho; Lynn Barr, Nevada City, Calif.; Gail Finley, Greenwood Village, Colo.; Jeffrey Lingerfelt, Rugby, N.D.; Ralph Llewellyn, Fargo, N.D.; Roger Masse, Ellsworth, Kan.; Michael Nester, De Kalb, Miss.; Robin Rose, Gibson City, Ill.; Eric Shell, Portland, Maine; Kathleen Spencer, Grand Forks, N.D.; Martin Thornton, Aubrey, Texas

**Research and Education:** Kevin Bennett, Columbia, S.C.

**Rural Health Clinics:** Gail Nickerson, Roseville, Calif.

**Statewide Health Systems:** Kristine Sande, Grand Forks, N.D.

**Students:** Brayden Healy, Meridian, Idaho

**State Office Council:** Lawrence Baronner, University Park, Pa.

**State Association Council:** Don Kelso, Terre Haute, Ind.

NRHA is a nonprofit organization working to improve the health and wellbeing of rural Americans and providing 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, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health.

**RuralHealthWeb.org**