

Maryland Rural Health Association
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Minutes

Wisp Resort
McHenry, MD
October 27, 2005 ~ 9am

I. Welcome

Jacob F. Frego, President, MRHA welcomed all in attendance. Self-introductions were made by those in attendance.

II. 2005 Activities Status Report

MRHA Retreat & Future Planning

Annie Kronk, Ph.D. reported on the Board Planning Retreat, held in July, during which plans for the future direction and opportunities for MRHA were identified. The OPCRH has indicated their offer to cooperate on a Rural Plan to be developed in conjunction with the RMC and the rural health officers. A Committee to develop a Strategic Plan and an Action Plan that will build on the mission of “advocacy for rural health” has been established with Lee Hammond and Doug Wilson agreeing to co-chair the committee. These cooperative efforts will be key in working with the rural health officers in support of lobbying and educational efforts. We will need to be a strong voice for rural approaches both private and public in order to garner the support of the health officers who may not always consider themselves “rural” and to change perspectives as we move forward.

Membership Committee Report

Marita Novicky thanked the Committee Members for putting together the reception celebrating the 10th Anniversary of MRHA held October 26th as a “kick-off” to the Summit. Membership remains constant but we need more urban members. Individual membership fees will be reviewed to encourage growth and the statistics on our organizational members will also be reviewed to determine our outreach success.

NRHA & State Association Council Report:

Jacob Frego, President of MRHA, announced that The State Association Council (SAC) meetings led to multiple issues to be addressed on a statewide level. These issues will be further developed in keeping with NRHA directives. Additional information will be forthcoming in 2006.

Attendance at the NRHA Skill Building Workshop led to an informal survey of other state association representatives in attendance. Most associations have an Executive Director to serve

in lobbying and as a full-time fund raiser, and are also in the planning stages of developing a rural health plan to assist with their legislative presence. Cooperative efforts are also key to continued growth. A good example for increasing our cooperative partners is to align with The Delaware Rural Health Association and possibly co-plan activities and develop issue statements.

III. Financial Report

Barbara Polak, Treasurer, provided a Financial Summary Report detailing FY 2001 through FY 2005 which is being used to guide decisions being made by MRHA. Year to date financial reports for the standard MRHA account and the final 2004 Summit report were also distributed and reviewed by those in attendance.

VI. Election Report

The slate for the 2006 Board of Directors and Officers was sent out to all members in October 2005. The email vote indicated that the ballot was accepted as presented.

VII. Other Business

The 2006 “Issues of Concern” prepared by NRHA was shared with all members in attendance. A reminder that members need to respond to “action alerts” that request contact with legislators as rural health issues are being voted on in sessions.

VIII. Announcements and Adjournment

Jacob Frego thanked Marita Novicky, Annie Kronk and Mickal McCarthy for all their work in planning the 10th Anniversary Celebration and for the fund raising that enabled MRHA to host the event. He also thanked Marita Novicky for her efforts in arranging the tele-conferencing of specific Summit sessions to allow those not able to be present to participate in the educational sessions being presented.

Plans to celebrate the 2006 “Doc Hollywood Day” are being made. Please contact M. Novicky for more information.

The meeting adjourned at 10am.