



## Welcome from the ORHA Co-Presidents

The Ohio Rural Health Association, now in its second year, is excited to launch this first edition of our newsletter. Our hope is that ORHA fulfills a long-needed role in the state by offering a means of collaboration and connection among rural health care stakeholders. The current circumstances of COVID-19 and its impact on rural communities have only increased this need for greater communication and sharing of resources and support.

As we move forward with this effort to grow the organization, we ask for your assistance in spreading the word and sharing our news with your rural health colleagues. Additionally, we have established a committee structure to address key issues in the rural health field, and we want to encourage members to consider joining a committee to contribute their ideas and expertise.

We look forward to working with you all as ORHA continues to support the objectives of rural health care organizations across the state.

Sharon Casapulla and Cory Cronin  
Co-Presidents, ORHA

### Communication and Education Committee Update

**Ohio Rural Health Association**  
**Scholarship Program**

The ORHA Board is pleased to announce the **Ohio Rural Health Association Scholarship Program**. The scholarship funds are intended to promote professional development and training of individuals who contribute to the mission and vision of ORHA. ORHA members may apply for up to \$500. Members may apply to funds every two years; preference is given to members who have not previously received funds. *These funds are provided in partnership with the State Office of Rural Health at the Ohio Department of Health.*

[Click here for the scholarship application.](#)

Must be a current member of ORHA to be considered for the scholarship.

Not a member? [Click here to join ORHA.](#)

Scholarship application must be submitted prior to deadline dates. November 20th, 2020 by 5 p.m., and February 19th, 2021, by 5 p.m. Approved applicants will be notified December 11th, and March 12th (based on application date).

## Ohio Rural Health Conference Speaker

### Videos

2020 Ohio Rural Health Conference speaker videos are now available on the ORHA website.

[Click here to see the conference speaker videos](#)

In addition to the speaker videos, the Poster session and Exhibitors are also available on the conference page of the website. [Click here to view the conference posters.](#)

## Legislative Committee Update

### Join the Legislative Committee

The ORHA Legislative Committee is establishing a framework for processes and procedures in support of membership initiatives. The committee welcomes anyone interested in joining the Legislative Committee.

For more information, please [click here to](#)

[Email JoAnn Reilly, Legislative Committee Chair](#); or call/text JoAnn at 937-707-0050. Legislative Committee Zoom meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 4 pm. The schedule for the balance of 2020 is:  
 Monday, November 16, 2020, 4 pm  
 Monday, December 21, 2020, 4 pm

#### **Current Legislative Committee Activity:**

On behalf of the Ohio Rural Health Association Board and membership, the Legislative Committee is submitting a letter of support to the House and Senate for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (H.R. 6788). The bill would alleviate visa-based restrictions for international nurses and physicians who have trained in the United States, allowing these heroes to join the fight against the COVID-19 virus and diminish workforce shortages in rural America.

[Click here to read more about the Legislative Committee Activity on the website.](#)

## Membership Committee Update

Membership committee will be formed in early 2021, check the November newsletter for more information on how to get involved with this committee.

## Rural Health News

#### **Surviving and Thriving:**

##### **The Power of Rural is 100% Community**

This event will be hosted by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health. Join NOSORH to celebrate National Rural Health Day to hear

from Katherine Ortega Courtney, Ph.D., and Dominic Cappello, authors of ***100% Community: Ensuring 10 Vital Services for Surviving and Thriving***. They will discuss their groundbreaking research and the roadmap they have created to help rural counties press reset and learn how to work together in new ways to create local systems of health, safety, education, and economic stability.

[Click here to learn more and to register for the webinar.](#)

### Ohio COVID-19 Vaccination Planning

In anticipation of a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, the Governor's Pandemic Recovery and Response Leadership Team has created a Vaccine Preparedness Office to coordinate a smooth and swift distribution and vaccination process statewide.

[Click here to read the full letter from Interim Director of Ohio Department of Health, Lance D. Himes.](#)

## Join the ORHA Effort

As a member of an essential and growing organization, you have an opportunity to contribute to the vitality of rural health across Ohio!

Now recruiting members for:

- Communication and Education
- Legislative
- Membership

The ORHA Board is excited to start working with you!

[Click here to request information on joining one of our committees](#)



## Upcoming Events

[Call for social media submissions](#)



## THE OHIO RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

There are lots of stories about the challenges we face in rural Ohio. There are fewer stories about our strengths, and we want to celebrate those stories. We want to celebrate those living in rural communities through a social media campaign that we call

**#HumansOfOhioRuralHealth.**

**Share a story with us about health that emphasizes the positive aspects and strengths that exist within rural communities in Ohio.**

Send us a typed story with a photo of yourself OR a video no more than two minutes in length. Our favorites will be shared on ORHA's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, and on our website at [www.ohioruralhealth.org](http://www.ohioruralhealth.org)!

**Send your submissions to [president@ohioruralhealth.org](mailto:president@ohioruralhealth.org)**



**Be part of a national movement to celebrate rural health!**  
**#powerofrural**

**Share the Good Word Across Ohio!**

Got a story to share or an upcoming event? Perhaps an upcoming training, workshop, or educational opportunity? Let us know! We'd love to share your information with the rest of our community. Connect by emailing us at [secretary@ohioruralhealth](mailto:secretary@ohioruralhealth)



**Thanks to our October newsletter sponsor,  
Board member JoAnn Reilly of:**

# Pegasus Freedom Reins Ohio

- Nonprofit organization, located in Union County, proudly serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Uplifts individuals through the use of animal assisted therapy & agricultural job skill training



## Animal Assisted Therapy

Animal assisted therapy is effective in building trust, as well as improving self-image, self-efficacy, and social skills.

## Agricultural Job Skill Training

Agricultural education and training provides a sense of peace, purpose, and well-being.

Mission	Vision	Values
Pegasus Freedom Reins is a place for people to be uplifted and to address mental, physical and behavioral challenges associated with life's circumstances, by connecting with animals and our environment—ultimately improving health, establishing a sense of peace and overall well-being.	Pegasus Freedom Reins exists to help as many people as we can through techniques associated with animals and our environment.	<p><b>Love &amp; Kindness:</b> Toward ourselves, others, animals and our environment.</p> <p><b>Respect:</b> Live by the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would want others to do unto you."</p> <p><b>Community:</b> Offering a place of peace for individuals, family and the community.</p>



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[info@pegasusfreedomreins.org](mailto:info@pegasusfreedomreins.org)

## Sponsor the ORHA Newsletter



Align your brand with the Ohio Rural Health Association and communicate your message to healthcare professionals across the State.

\$100/month sponsorship includes placement of logo or flyer in the newsletter and on the website.

For more information, or to sponsor an upcoming newsletter, please contact Laura Akgerman at [secretary@ohioruralhealth.org](mailto:secretary@ohioruralhealth.org).

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