

Ohio Rural Health Association

Two Years Strong



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ORHA: Two Years Strong

Dr. Michele Morrone - Founder of
Ohio Rural Health Association



My interest in rural areas began in graduate school at the University of New Hampshire. My thesis work involved an analysis of land use change in a rapidly urbanizing section of the state. This was in the mid-1980s and people in southeastern New Hampshire were alarmed at the rate that the state was growing and what it meant for the environment. This interest carried into my PhD research at The Ohio State University as I examined the controversy around siting a facility to manage low-level radioactive waste in Ohio. I found it interesting that rural areas were often the target for operations that could cause environmental harms. In my work at Ohio EPA in the 1990s, I became aware of the direct connection between environmental conditions and human health as I was involved in helping rural communities improve their wastewater treatment systems.



Your ORHA Board

ORHA Co-Presidents

Sharon Casapulla, EdD, MPH, Director of Education and Research at the Office of Rural and Underserved Programs at the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine at Ohio University

Cory Cronin, PhD, MHSA, Associate Professor in the Department of Social and Public Health and Director of the Appalachian Rural Health Institute at Ohio University

ORHA Secretary

Laura Akgerman, MA, CRC, Ohio AgrAbility, OSU Extension, and Ohio Youth Resilience Collaborative

ORHA Treasurer

Jaime Parsons, Executive Director of the Viola Startzman Clinic in Wooster, OH

Board Members

Tara Bair	Beth Kluding	Megan Gordin
Ken Martin	Michele Morrone	JoAnn Reilly





Updates from Ohio Rural Health Association



Board Changes

Following our initial two years with a leadership of co-presidents, we are moving to a leadership model of:

- Past President (Cory Cronin)
- President (Sharon Casapulla)
- President-Elect (To be determined)

Thank you to our treasurer (Jaime Parsons) and secretary (Laura Akgerman) for continuing in their roles

Up to three new members will be added to the board via upcoming elections.





Board Elections: Current Nominees



Allen Hocker

Senior Advisor of Operations OhioHealth
Shelby Hospital
OhioHealth



Kayla Alvis

Graduate Student
The Ohio State University



**Marianella
Napolitano**

Regional Director
United Healthcare



ORHA is growing!

Over the past few months, the board has been accepting applications for a part-time program coordinator.

This individual will be responsible for:

- Membership oversight
- Communications
- Conference organization
- Grant deliverables





Rural Health Clinic Network Development

One objective for the coming year is to building a network of independent and provider based clinics throughout Ohio

Why?

- To share resources
- To exchange ideas
- To support legislative efforts

How?

- Network coordinator
- Web presence to facilitate communication
- Involved organizations
- An understanding of your priorities

To get involved in this effort, please reach out to president@ohioruralhealth.org with your contact information.





Rural Health Day

“It’s more than a day, it’s a movement”

Advocacy is currently underway for the state of Ohio to recognize rural health day

- November 18th, 2021

Share your rural health story with us, and we will feature it on our webpage and social media in November.

Ohio Rural Health Association was a National Rural Health Day Community Star in 2020, and our founder, Dr. Michele Morrone, was a Community Star in 2019



NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Celebrate the Power of Rural!

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH) sets aside the third Thursday of every November to celebrate National Rural Health Day (NRHD). National Rural Health Day is an opportunity to “Celebrate the Power of Rural” by honoring the selfless, community-minded spirit that prevails in rural America. NRHD showcases the efforts of rural healthcare providers, State Offices of Rural Health and other rural stakeholders to address the unique healthcare challenges that rural citizens face today and into the future.

[Learn More →](#)


Countdown to National Rural Health Day!

03
Months

15
Days



Young Rural Health Professionals Group

ORHA is hosting the first reception of a new group we are forming called the ORHA Young Rural Health Professionals.

If you feel you fall into that group, please feel free to join us on August 12 from 1:00 – 2:00pm to launch this new endeavor!





Professional Development Fund

Funding available for 2022

ORHA members may apply for up to \$500 in reimbursement for professional development costs related to rural health.

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. Funds are awarded and reviewed on a rolling basis. You may apply at any time; funds will be released upon completion of the program or event, and proof of completion will be required for reimbursement.





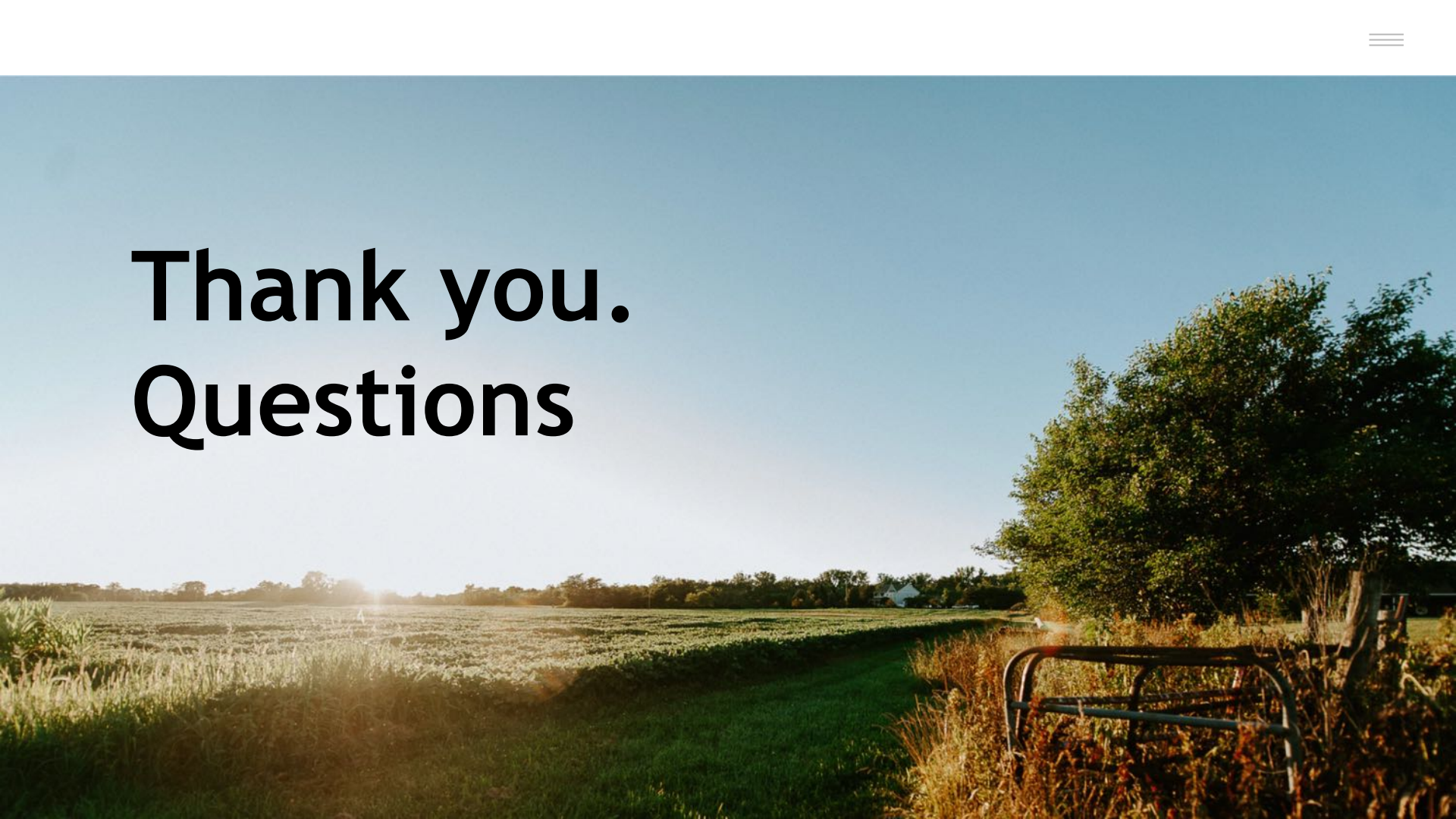
Get Involved!

What's next?

- Support ORHA through membership
 - Membership dues will be used to sustain organizations' efforts
- Consider future board positions
- Engage with committees
 - Communication and Education
 - Legislative
 - Membership



**Thank you.
Questions**





Rural Health Plan- Video and Breakout Groups

the Ohio Rural Health Improvement Plan outlines the following:

- Snapshot of Ohio's Rural Population
- Health Status and Health Behaviors
- Health Priorities
- Gaps in Rural Access to Care
- Strategies to Improve Access to Care
- Rural Health Improvement Plans

<https://youtu.be/bfQTPID3gys>



What is Rural?

Ohio's Rural and Urban Counties

