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## **NRHA announces leadership elections results**

Leadership for the National Rural Health Association is secure for 2020 and beyond, thanks to recent elections for Board of Trustees and open Rural Health Congress positions.

NRHA members chose John Gale as president-elect. Gale, a longtime NRHA member and rural health advocate who serves as a senior research associate at the Maine Rural Health Research Center, will assume the duties of NRHA president in 2021.

“I am honored to be elected to serve as a future president of the National Rural Health Association,” says Gale. “In today’s tumultuous environment, NRHA stands out for its singular focus on improving the health of rural Americans and its willingness to work collaboratively to achieve that goal.”

“While rural is indeed ‘having a moment,’ we also face significant challenges, from the closure of rural hospitals to the persistent disparities in rural-urban mortality. NRHA is ideally positioned to harness the power of its diverse, engaged membership to work towards creative solutions to these challenges. Working together, we can ensure the health and vitality of rural Americans and their communities.”

Members selected Michelle Mills to serve as NRHA’s board secretary in 2020 and 2021. Mills is CEO of the Colorado Rural Health Center.

Elected in 2018, Pat Schou of the Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network will serve as president in 2020.

NRHA is pleased to announce the following individuals elected by their peers to serve in leadership roles.

### **Board of Trustees officers**

- **President-elect:** John Gale, Portland, Maine
- **Secretary:** Michelle Mills, Aurora, Colo.

### **Constituency Group chairs**

- **Public Health:** Judith Shaplin, Alpine, Calif.
- **Research and Education:** Elizabeth Crouch, Columbia, S.C.

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**