



The Branch

OCTOBER, 2006 - A monthly update for State Offices of Rural Health & our Partners

From the Program Director... It's World Series season... I'm not what anyone could really call a baseball fan. If I go to a game what I like most is the cold beer, the warm summer air and watching the crowd. To be honest, I usually find the game itself pretty slow and boring. But this year... when the Detroit Tigers won their league they reminded me what it takes to be a champion team.

A champion team has specialists, and recognizes its stars. NOSORH's a champion team. We have experienced (but not old) specialists who, like Detroit Tiger Kenny Rogers, despite nearly all of his 41 years in the game, still plays with the enthusiasm of a young boy, like you. And we know how to recognize our stars – check out the attachment for a great picture!

Teams know how to pick good talent. So does NOSORH. At this year's annual meeting, Serge Dihoff recommended Denny Berens run for NRHA President. What great cheers were heard from the fans! Denny wants all of you to know how honored he was with your response. Unfortunately, the nominations are closed and NRHA requires that candidates for President have served with the NRHA Policy Board or Trustees. Champions understand the rules, and strategize. The NOSORH Executive Committee is learning more about our partners and Denny is re-thinking the process of running for NRHA.

Teams know their numbers...We know the numbers in your grants should be higher. John Barnas and Lisa Davis are leading the efforts of the Policy Committee in brainstorming innovative strategy for appropriations.

Teams show up ready to play, hard. The HIT Committee wants you to be prepared that the FCC will soon be releasing a notice of funds availability for telehealth projects. A fast response will be required to win. For more information touch base with Alison Hughes, HIT Committee chair or fcc.gov.

Please know that even when your home stadium is filled with more hot dogs than fans or the game seems too slow, you are MVPs with NOSORH. You make NOSORH a champion team; like the Tigers, with heart, love of the game and willingness to keep playing. It took the Tigers 22 years to make it back to the World Series again; but anyone can see how much you, the State Offices of Rural Health and our partners, have enriched rural America, not just today, but for at least the last 20 years.

I challenge you to continue the champion efforts, sharpen your skills by taking advantage of the Jim Bernstein Mentoring program, step up to the plate to volunteer for a committee and let's PLAY BALL! *Terul Eisinger*

Revolving Loan Funds: A Capital Resource for Rural Providers

WHEN & WHERE: December 5, 2006,
Lexington SC

MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

Graham Adams adams@scorh.net

Jim Bernstein Mentoring funds are available for travel.

All registrations must be received by 11/6/06

What else are we working on?

Communications Committee – Making the suggestions you made for the website happen!

Mentoring Committee –Developing an annual calendar of mentoring activities so you can plan in advance to participate.

Fundraising – Dickson Hughes, Stroudwater, Batson Architects and PNC have contributed \$25,000 towards the NOSORH mission. Now your help is needed to suggest contacts for phase 2 - a preferred vendor list. Look for an email from Serge.

Executive Committee – Planning for 2007 Leadership and Annual Meetings and closing out Year 1 of ORHP Cooperative Agreement.

Finance Committee – Working hard to contract professional accounting support and adapt new policies and procedures.