2020 IPHA Board of Directors Election Candidate Profile

Virginia Barrette

What do you value about IPHA?
IPHA is a tremendous way to bring together a diverse population of public health professionals across Iowa. Public Health impacts each and every one of us, every day.

Why are you interested in serving on the IPHA Board of Directors?
I want to use my talents and voice to help make a difference in Iowa. Being involved with IPHA is a way to take things I'm passionate about and influence long term, sustainable change in my community.

What does it mean to you to be a leader in health equity?
Being a leader in health equity means having honest conversations with stakeholders across the state. As our demographics change, the needs of Iowans also change. Health equity is a complex issue that requires complex solutions, that extend way beyond health care.

How have you been engaged as an IPHA member to date? Please share any committee, board or other ways you have supported IPHA.
I joined in IPHA in 2010, chaired the advocacy committee in 2011 and 2013, and was elected to the board in 2012.

In which sectors do you have experience?
Corporate, Nonprofit, Government

Describe any current or previous board service, leadership, or volunteer experience outside of IPHA.
Grant reviewer-Telligen Community Foundation, Gala Planning Committee and Celebrity Server-Young Women's Resource Center, Planning Committee-Go Red for Women

Board terms are 3 years long. What would you like to see IPHA achieve during your tenure?
I would really like to grow and diversify our membership. For example, work on gaining members in counties we currently have no members. I would also focus on growing corporate membership by identifying organizations with a vested public health interest in Iowa.
What do you value about IPHA?
"Uniting and strengthening the voice for public health in Iowa" The mission says it all - now more than ever we need unity in every aspect of our lives, and the fact that we exist to strengthen the voice is important to me. We have tremendous work to do to improve the health of all Iowans, and IPHA is the organization to carry out this important function.

Why are you interested in serving on the IPHA Board of Directors?
Public health is in my blood. At ten I was writing to Iowa Senators about the importance of recycling and the impact of climate change on our health. At twelve I was organizing Coca Cola boycotts at my middle school because of their presence in South Africa during apartheid years and because Coke is bad for us anyways. From these youthful acts to my current work on Millions Hearts and childhood obesity, and the structural determinant impact on these public health issues, I have had a lifelong commitment to public health. I desire to promote public health for the improved quality of life of Iowans. I also have the necessary skills, expertise and experience to help the board achieve goals.

What does it mean to you to be a leader in health equity?
Being a leader in health equity means using data to drive effective decisions and measure impact, going the extra mile to relentlessly pursue and ensure diversity and inclusion in our interventions, and tackle structural barriers that impede the effect of other targeted interventions.

How have you been engaged as an IPHA member to date? Please share any committee, board or other ways you have supported IPHA.
I have been a member for the past two years, made 4 presentations at the IPHA annual conferences, and have been co-chair of advocacy committee for past year.

In which sectors do you have experience?
Field Expertise, Education, Nonprofit, research

Describe any current or previous board service, leadership, or volunteer experience outside of IPHA.
Midwest Clinicians Network Board member and past -president, NAMI Greater Des Moines board member and secretary, National Health Information Technology Evaluation and Quality Center (HITEQ) Advisory member

Board terms are 3 years long. What would you like to see IPHA achieve during your tenure?
1. Increased membership and public recognition
2. Increased use of evaluation to assess impact and adjust activities as necessary
3. Increased linkages to partners, especially partners outside the usual suspects.
What do you value about IPHA?
Its advocacy for public health in Iowa and its focus on promoting a quality public health workforce.

Why are you interested in serving on the IPHA Board of Directors?
I value the ability to volunteer my time to promote the mission of IPHA. I feel the future of our state is tied to health promotion and IPHA is the organization that can facilitate this future.

What does it mean to you to be a leader in health equity?
It means that we work to understand how the social determinants of health need to be addressed to promote health for all Iowans. It also means fostering partnerships to facilitate interventions based on this understanding.

How have you been engaged as an IPHA member to date? Please share any committee, board or other ways you have supported IPHA.
I am a current board member.

In which sectors do you have experience?
Education, Government

Describe any current or previous board service, leadership, or volunteer experience outside of IPHA.
I am currently serving as a co-chair of the health committee for Age Friendly Des Moines and on the board of a non-profit to protect companion animals. I am also on the conservation committee for the Blank Park Zoo.

Board terms are 3 years long. What would you like to see IPHA achieve during your tenure?
Increase membership, advocate for funding for local and state public health initiatives, and be viewed as a voice for public health issues by partners and the media.
What do you value about IPHA?
IPHA offers the opportunity for passionate public health professionals to come together as one to advocate and advance the profession and practice of public health in Iowa.

Why are you interested in serving on the IPHA Board of Directors?
I am interested in serving on the IPHA Board of Directors as I relish the opportunity to connect with like-minded public health champions, committing ourselves to continuing to advance the mission and values of IPHA across the spectrum of healthcare and ensuring the highest quality and integrative public health services that protect and serve Iowans throughout the state.

What does it mean to you to be a leader in health equity?
Being a leader in health equity means that you not only recognize and fully appreciate the aspects of whole person-centered health and wellness that goes beyond clinical or one-sided services, but rather that you work to ensure integration of services and policies that provide for upstream and real-time responsive efforts that protect and progress the effectiveness and impact our resources. Being a leader in health equity means championing human-centered design in all policies and healthcare design in all places.

How have you been engaged as an IPHA member to date? Please share any committee, board or other ways you have supported IPHA.
To date I have not had the opportunity to serve on any IPHA-sponsored committees or Board capacities, though have had great interest. I would love to be a part of a collaborative effort to continue and enhance efforts to engage emerging and diverse IPHA members in leadership efforts. While not a distinct member of an IPHA committee, I have been a champion for IPHA among other healthcare committees I have been a part of, ensuring leaders in other realms of healthcare are aware of and seek out the contributions of IPHA.

In which sectors do you have experience?
Field Expertise, Education, Nonprofit, Government

Describe any current or previous board service, leadership, or volunteer experience outside of IPHA.
Outside of IPHA, I served as the President of the Iowa Chapter of the Society for Public Health Education for five years. Additionally, I have served in the lead position on 13 statewide strategy initiatives undertaken between the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Healthcare Collaborative, which convened healthcare leaders from across the state and healthcare continuum.

Board terms are 3 years long. What would you like to see IPHA achieve during your tenure?
I would like to see IPHA increase their impactful interaction with health care systems, particularly around the idea of accountable care cooperatives and quality payment programming. I would also like to see IPHA have a more streamlined and automatic process for members to be engaged in IPHA initiatives and committee work.
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Rachel Schramm

What do you value about IPHA?
I value the opportunity to connect with other professionals and advocates who are passionate about all areas of public health.

Why are you interested in serving on the IPHA Board of Directors?
I am interested in continuing my service on the IPHA Board of Directors to bring my experience as a community health professional working on local, statewide, and national initiatives to reduce the burden of chronic disease in Iowa. I enjoy the opportunity to broaden public health networking through collaborative opportunities and training new graduates interested in public health careers.

What does it mean to you to be a leader in health equity?
Being a "system-agitator" and be willing to listen to others and accept your misconceptions.

How have you been engaged as an IPHA member to date? Please share any committee, board or other ways you have supported IPHA.
I have been a member of IPHA since I graduated from Iowa State University in 2010 (IPHA helped me land my first job!), I am an IPHA sustaining donor making monthly donations, and am a current member of the communications committee. Additionally, I have served on the IPHA board of directors for the past 2.5 years as an at-large member, APHA Affiliate to the Governing Council, and next in line for co-chair of the Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health Planning Committee.

In which sectors do you have experience?
Education, Nonprofit, Government

Describe any current or previous board service, leadership, or volunteer experience outside of IPHA.
Education, Nonprofit, Government

Board terms are 3 years long. What would you like to see IPHA achieve during your tenure?
I would like to see us have record turnout and overwhelmingly positive participant evaluations at the annual Iowa Governor's Conference on Public Health over the next three years - leading to increased networking, recruitment/retention, and funding security for the organization.