**NDHA Annual Business Meeting**

**NDHA President’s Report**

**Jerry Jurena**

**Oct. 3, 2017**

Welcome to the 83rd Annual Convention of the North Dakota Hospital Association.

This year to say the least has been exciting. I can sum up the year with one word “Teamwork”.

The year started in March 2016 with series of NDHA Legislative Committee meetings to prepare for the 2017 Legislative Session. Two issues emerged and became our focus. Extend Medicaid Expansion and Workforce. A third issue behavioral health was added as we moved forward. The legislative committee created the agenda for the session and developed a focus brief “Hospital Legislative Priorities”.

Our path and goals were set by the legislative committee and approved the NDHA Board of Directors. In conjunction with the legislative committee Tim was working with MABU to update the “Pulse” and develop a booklet on Medicaid Expansion and what Medicaid Expansion means to North Dakotans and providers.

During discussions with the board we decided to expand the legislative team internally and to venture out into the consulting world. Medicaid expansion was big, estimated at over $500 million for this biennium and providing medical insurance to over 20,000 North Dakotan’s. People no longer had to wait until they were in a crisis before seeking attention; they were now getting routine health care. Health care was shifting from ER’s and clinics and from crisis intervention to routine care.

Internally we hired Melissa Hauer, an attorney who had experience with the Department of Human Services, the Insurance Commissioner’s Office, Medcenter One, and with Sanford Health.

Externally we contracted with John Olson and Kayla Effertz-Klevene. John is an attorney with legislative experience and Kayla had worked in the Governor’s office. We were expanding our team with people who had varied and vast experience we believed would be an asset to NDHA.

During the legislative session we had daily and weekly meetings. We produced a number of legislative briefs and involved the members.

The session ended on April 27, the 77 day. The legislators were able to retain three days for any unknown events until session in January 2019.

The citizens of ND who did not have health insurance were big winners. Medicaid expansion was extended until July 2019. The political issues regarding health care have not gone away; Congress has been dealing with repeal or repeal and replace ACA since January.

At the National level AHA has lead the team. They have worked tirelessly. Each and every state took an active role in this process as did a number of hospitals. For now there is a reorganizing period. I can and will assure you health care is a long way from being settled.

I would like to take this time to inform the membership that I plan to retire and have formally submitted my letter of resignation as NDHA President to the NDHA Board of Directors. My last day of employment will be December 31, 2018. I will continue to work with the NDHA staff and the members to ensure that all issues and concerns are addressed on a timely basis until my departure. I have enjoyed working with all of you over the last eight years. You will hear more about the succession planning later.