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## From the Editor

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**From the Editor:**

**Michael R. Daley, Ph.D., University of South Alabama**

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Contemporary Rural Social Work* and hopefully this will be the first of many issues. This journal is the work of the Rural Social Work Caucus which is the organization that exists “by rumor” and has been a driving force for rural social work since its inception in 1976.

It has been some time since we have had a journal that was specifically focused on issues related to rural social work and human services. At one time the Rural Caucus had a close association with the journal *Human Services in the Rural Environment* but that publication ceased several years ago.

In this issue we hope to capture a bit of the spirit of the Caucus beginning with an address given by Barry Locke at the annual meeting of the group in Montgomery, Alabama. This piece gives a brief history of the Rural Caucus and its contributions to the Social Work profession along with some suggestions about where it may be headed. This is followed by an International piece from Joanne Riebschleger and Brittany Fila that examines the roles of women in rural India.

Sylvia Hawranick, Peg McGuire and Candell Livingston Looman explore several aspects of worker safety within the Child Welfare system while focusing on rural Appalachia. Monte Miller and Lena Carawan look at the academic side of preparing social workers for rural practice in their article about developing a hybrid research course for rural BSW students. In a piece about the child maltreatment Cindy Juby explores the relationship between maltreatment and the availability of substance abuse programs in rural areas.

Susan Dollar, Helen Reid and LaRaeda Sullivan give us an overview of health care services to the growing population of Hispanics in rural areas with their *Salud Para la Vida* article. Finally, to better capture the spirit of the Caucus, two poems by Mary Murphy that focus on rural life are included.

We hope that you find this issue interesting and useful and we will be back soon with another edition.

MD