

## 2022 Excellence in Governance Award Nominee



*Virginia Rasmussen, Board Secretary*

*Manning Regional Healthcare Center, Manning*

- Years of service at the hospital/organization = 15
- Total years of service in health care = 15

### **Nomination**

*Linn Block, CEO*

*Manning Regional Healthcare Center*

Virginia has been a member of the board of directors of Manning Regional Healthcare Center for 15 years, serving many of those years as the board secretary. Virginia has a passion for rural health care and a deep appreciation for all those who choose to serve in health care. Writing thank you notes to hospital staff regularly is just one of the ways Virginia demonstrates her genuine gratitude and appreciation for hospital staff. Virginia is committed to ensuring the citizens of the Manning community have quality health care close to home now and for generations to come.

Virginia makes personal connections with each member of the senior leadership team, medical staff and staff throughout the organization. This strengthens that essential bond that leads to a

cohesive and engaged team focused on the long-term goal of sustaining health care in Manning and beyond. Virginia sees her role as bigger than a “board member” and more as an ambassador of support for rural health care, often touting the need for community support of local health care to ensure long-term success. Recently, we asked Virginia to serve as a co-chair for the hospital’s capital campaign to raise \$500,000 in community donations to support mental health care for senior citizens in our community. Virginia immediately agreed to the opportunity and has led this successful campaign. There is no doubt she will see it through to completion.

The “why” in health care is consistently at the root of the work Virginia performs. Her “why” is the people of the community we serve. As a board member, Virginia not only supports the strategic vision of the organization but also incorporates the key results into the hospital’s governance philosophy. Virginia has high expectations in providing an excellent experience for patients and families in every hospital encounter.

Promoting team engagement through gratitude and recognition from board members has proven successful at developing relations between front-line staff and hospital board members. Through her 15 years of hospital governance, Virginia has become extremely knowledgeable of the importance of quality and emphasizing our philosophy of “no harm.” Financial performance is also something Virginia understands well as she is on the board finance committee, often providing relevant history of prior actions and results based on financial performance. Ensuring the hospital is continually looking for growth opportunities is an additional expectation Virginia has set for herself and the organization. She always works to identify ways to serve the community and meet the needs of the people we care for.

Hospitals are vital to the success of thriving rural Iowa communities, and Virginia takes every opportunity to ensure Manning recognizes this. Virginia is highly active in her church parish and uses this avenue and other civic groups to promote local health care and the need for the community to support Manning Regional Healthcare Center. Rural health care is vulnerable, and without community support, it is a bleak future. Virginia is so knowledgeable and well-networked. She always ensures our community is aware of and supports new initiatives. Whether promoting a capital campaign, welcoming a new provider or service, or recognizing health care

staff, Virginia does her best to gain that essential support. She has been very active with IHA as well as networking with other hospital board members. She is a mentor to new board members and provides them with the guidance they need to understand their roles in governance.

Health care will continue to need strong leaders as our challenges mount and the need for our services grows. Virginia is in this for the long haul – if we need her services, she will be there for our hospital and our community. Virginia Rasmussen is deserving of the Excellence in Governance Award for her work as a trustee of the Manning Regional Healthcare Center board for the past 15 years. Virginia exemplifies the qualities board members should hold including dedication to purpose, ability to lead and influence people, knowledge of health care governance and services, and high integrity.

### **Summary**

As a board member, Virginia not only supports the strategic vision of the organization but also incorporates the key results into the governance philosophy of the hospital. Virginia has high expectations in providing an excellent experience for patients and families in every hospital encounter. Promoting team engagement through gratitude and recognition from board members has proven successful at developing relations between front-line staff and hospital board members. Through her 15 years of hospital governance, Virginia has become extremely knowledgeable of the importance of quality and emphasizing our philosophy of “no harm.”

**IHA involvement**

***IHA PAC Contributor:***

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