

SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Newsletter

May/June 2023



Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon

Monday, June 26
12 pm

Ripon Community Hospital Green Lake Room
845 Parkside Street, Ripon

We are looking forward to seeing everyone back at the hospital! Come enjoy a boxed lunch prepared by the RCH foodservice. We will be introducing the auxiliary scholarship winners and installing officers. The cost of the luncheon is \$10 and can be paid at the door.

Our guest speaker will be Kelsey Splittgaber who will talk about her journey to become a nurse. She currently teaches student nurses and works in the RCH emergency department.

RSVP to Diane Shady, no later than Monday, **June 12, 2023**,
by calling Diane at
920-539-2150 or by email at kanddshady@gmail.com

Please indicate if you have any special dietary needs
when making your reservation.

Reservations made and not honored will be charged the
cost of the lunch.

If you have any suggestions about future programs you would like to
see at our luncheon meetings, please contact me.

Diane Shady, Programs Chair
kanddshady@gmail.com
920-539-2150

**Shine your light so life
is brighter; get a
helper's high...you'll feel
lighter.**

~Marie Toole

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Message from the President It's been a long time, but I think we are in for some warmer weather. I am sure we are all looking forward to it. As our plant sale indicated, everyone is ready to see those beautiful flowers blossoming and growing into some beautiful arrangements.

Due to the weather, we were unable to have our February Luncheon. That luncheon turned into a Spring Fling held on May 1st at the hospital. Dessert bars and coffee were served, along with a program from our Security Officer of the hospital Steve Metz, and Mary Park providing a program on her mountain dulcimer. It was a fun afternoon with about 17 people attending.

Three people from our auxiliary attended Advocacy Day at the Monona Terrace in Madison on April 19th. Jason Blonigen, Jackie Halverson, and Julie Stellmacher attended the event with over 900 people in attendance. (Please see a short article in the Newsletter).

On May 2nd, Jason Blonigen, Barb Miller, Jackie Halverson, and Julie Stellmacher attended the Lakes District meeting at St. Vincent's Hospital in Green Bay. There were about 19 people in attendance at that event. There is another article in this newsletter regarding that day.

SSM provided a Volunteer Appreciation Event for all the volunteers who wished to attend on May 11 at the Eagles Club in Fond du Lac. There were seven volunteers that attended from the Ripon Community Hospital. It was an enjoyable afternoon with lunch, bingo and door prizes. We would like to thank the Volunteer Coordinator's for hosting a very nice afternoon.

The June Luncheon will be held on Monday, June 26th at noon at Ripon Community Hospital in the Green Lake Room. This will include our scholarship honorees and officer elections. Julie Stellmacher is on the ballot for president and Barbara Behlen for president elect. Nominations will be open to anyone else who is interested in running for these positions. Hope to see all of you at the luncheon.

Partners of WHA - State Convention will be held at Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center on October 3-5, 2023. Please put this on your calendar.

We still have two open positions on our Auxiliary Board. The Public Policy Education and the Community Health Education positions remain open. Anyone on our Board would be happy to discuss these positions with you and explain what would be required of you. More information can be obtained on the Partners of WHA website.

Please remember the difference between the Auxiliary and the Volunteer program. You may already belong to either one or be a member of both. The Auxiliary is a chance for you to work on fundraising projects that are used to purchase items for the hospital. In the past, this has included the purchasing of an Imaging services gurney, transport ventilator for COVID-19 patients, Ripon Opioid initiative, transport chairs, water wall in the cafeteria area, along with scholarships for students going into healthcare, etc. This can be a way for you to give back to the community, make new friends, promote health and well-being, and enhance hospital services/experiences. You may also choose to become a volunteer in the hospital by volunteering with mobile meals, front information desk, or gift shop. If you know of someone who might be interested in getting involved with either of these programs, please have them contact the front information desk or gift shop of the hospital. There will be a follow up contact.

I'm hoping to see many of you at our events and hope that you can enjoy a wonderful summer.

Julie Stellmacher, President

WHAT'S NEW AT SSM HEALTH RIPON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

An update from DeAnn Thurmer, President, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital and SSM Health Waupun Memorial Hospital, and Nicole Gill, Vice President Patient Care Services & CNO, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital and SSM Health Waupun Memorial Hospital

We have a lot going on at SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital these days - all exciting developments to help us continue our efforts to grow and offer as many services as possible at a local level. I'm proud to share with you but a few of these key advancements.

DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award

Renee Weier, RN, an SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital administrative supervisor, has been awarded The DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes nurses who have devoted their life's work to the compassionate care of others.

Honorees are considered for The DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award honorees are considered based on their distinguished career as a nurse in clinical practice, administration, education, and/or research that promote a positive image of professional nursing; professional development of self and others in the nursing profession; role model and advocate for nursing practice and the advancement of nursing as a professional; advocate for the improvement of patient care and serves as an exemplar for enhancing the patient experience; recognition by the broader nursing community as a transformational nursing leader; and more than 25 years of service.

Recipients of the award receive a certificate, lapel pin and sculpture with a personalized plaque.

Nurses Week/Health Care Week

National Health Care week was from May 7 to 13 with National Nurses Week from May 6 to 12. Since both weeks closely parallel one another, SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac celebrates these recognition weeks together. This year, Ripon Community Hospital nursing staff received snack bags full of items to celebrate. We are so grateful to our teams and the hard work they do! Along with this, our creative leaders created a crossword puzzle with fun facts about each staff member and winners received gift cards to Scrubs and Beyond. Throughout the week, departments celebrated with ice cream floats, taco bars, and many other fun festivities.



Alaris Pump Integration

On May 16, Ripon Community Hospital's inaugural day of Alaris Pump integration occurred. Having our pumps that infuse medications and fluids talking to our electronic medical record is a wonderful step in patient safety. Not only does this integration reduce keystrokes in documenting for staff, but it greatly decreases opportunities for manual programming errors. This allows documentation to occur just in time and coordinates care for patients from pharmacy to the nurse. Ripon Community Hospital is the first hospital in Greater Fond du Lac to experience this upgrade. St. Agnes Hospital will go-live in June and Waupun Memorial Hospital in July.

MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership for 2022-2023 is only 32. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us! We are looking for auxiliary members and volunteers for the gift shop, front desk, sewing and mobile meals.

Jackie Halverson, Chairperson, Membership

VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

Greetings RCH Auxilians,

We hope everyone is well and managing as many of us impatiently wait for the nicer summer weather to arrive. This month Volunteer Services has some items we'd like to share including two recognitions for the Auxiliary.

I'd like to start by extending a huge thank you to the Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary for your generous donation of blankets to the Fond du Lac County Samaritan Clinic. Auxiliary member, Georgia Stellmacher, worked with area sewing groups to donate over 50 blankets to help the less fortunate right here in the Fond du Lac County. For those unfamiliar, the Samaritan Clinic helps residents in Fond du Lac County by providing resources to help with everything from basic needs, such as blankets and clothing, to assisting with medical related expenses. The donation of blankets will impact numerous individuals in need and is greatly appreciated.

We'd also like to extend another thank you by recognizing sewing committee chair, Jeanne Payton. For those unaware, Jeanne had graciously offered to assist the RCH Surgery department by donating children's surgical caps. These caps are offered to children undergoing surgical procedures to help calm and connect them to our surgical teams. The surgical caps have been such a success at Ripon we started working with other volunteers in Fond du Lac and Waupun so we could extend this awesome program for kids. We cannot thank you enough for all your help with this Jeanne as the caps are now reaching countless children in our surrounding communities.

Volunteer services is currently planning our upcoming volunteer annual education sessions. This year we will return to holding in-person events but will continue to offer the at-home packets as an option. Please note this only applies to Auxiliary members that also volunteer within the hospital. Volunteer services will send out additional information as we get closer. Save the date information will be included in the upcoming volunteer newsletter.

Lastly, we continue to search for RCH Gift Shop and Mobile Meal volunteers. Please reach out to any member of volunteer services if you know of anyone that might be interested.

Thank you all for everything you do for Ripon Community Hospital and our neighboring communities. It truly is a pleasure to work with every one of you!

Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Coordinator
Ripon Community Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital
Jason.Blonigen@SSMHealth.com
920-745-3670

Lakes District Meeting

The Lakes District meeting was held on May 2, from 9 am to 2 pm at St. Vincent's Hospital in Green Bay. Jason Blonigen, Barb Miller, Jackie Halverson and Julie Stellmacher attended the event. There were six hospitals with 19 people attending the meeting. Lois Kreeger, the District Chair, conducted the meeting. Sharon Scott, the President of Partners of the Wisconsin Hospital Association gave the State President's report.

There were many things discussed including scholarships, fundraising ideas, a 10%-15% increase in registration fees for the upcoming State Convention, the length of the convention and kinds of workshops, and the re-organization of the West Central/Northwestern districts. There will be no Best-of-the-Best Awards held at this time. There will be a Mahv-elous Award for Outstanding Volunteers with more information to follow. The President was the only person from the State Board attending the district meeting this year as they are trying to cut back on expenses. She shared a lot of information with us. It was a very enjoyable meeting with a continental breakfast, a very nice lunch and door prizes given out. Julie Stellmacher Auxiliary President



TREASURER'S UPDATE

FINANCIAL REPORT | April 30, 2023

The past four months have been pretty quiet for the Auxiliary. The only fundraising was the \$402 collected for the Candy Bar Sale. We also received \$8 in donations in the Gift Shop.

Gift Shop sales for January through April were \$8,129, 19% higher than last year, January through April. Sales lagged earlier in the fiscal year, so year to date sales were 2.6% below last year for the ten months.

Gift Shop expenses include merchandise purchased for sale but not yet sold. Inventory will be adjusted at year end.

We continued to provide a "goodie bag" of treats to hospital and clinic staff for Valentine's Day at a cost of \$516.64.

We had \$39,709 in cash at the end of April. So, we have the funds for the three \$1,000 scholarships that we will award in June, as well as funds to meet the needs of RCH. The Board is currently working with hospital administration to identify those needs.

RCH Auxiliary, Inc. Treasurer's Report Four Months and Ten Months Ended April 30, 2023

	Jan - Apr Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
INCOME			
Fundraising	\$ 402.00	\$ 12,398.97	\$ 24,860.00
Donations	8.00	152.10	100.00
Membership Dues	-	320.00	450.00
Gift Shop Sales	8,219.91	22,590.02	26,335.00
Total Income	\$ 8,629.91	\$ 35,461.09	\$ 51,745.00
EXPENSES			
Fundraising Expenses	\$ -	\$ 4,464.72	\$ 9,275.00
Luncheons	-	28.00	320.00
State Conventions/District Meetings	-	244.50	1,250.00
Organization Expenses	5.80	62.20	225.00
Gift Shop Expenses	9,147.15	17,137.28	16,462.00
Total Expenses	\$ 9,152.95	\$ 21,936.70	\$ 27,532.00
Net Income Before Distributions	\$ (523.04)	\$ 13,524.39	\$ 24,213.00
DISTRIBUTIONS			
Scholarships	-	-	3,000.00
Donations for RCH	516.64	8,485.84	14,708.00
Total Distributions	\$ 516.64	\$ 8,485.84	\$ 17,708.00
NET INCOME AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ (1,039.68)	\$ 5,038.55	\$ 6,505.00
CASH BALANCES		\$ 39,708.83	

Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer

PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION



Advocacy Day was held on Wednesday, April 19th at Monona Terrace in Madison. Jason Blonigen, Jackie Halverson and Julie Stellmacher attended the event.

The Conference opened with a discussion moderated by WHA President and CEO, Eric Borgerding and Governor James Doyle and Governor Tommy G. Thompson. It was quite an interesting conversation between the former Governors and how things have changed over the years regarding politics.

There was also a Legislative Panel with State Representative Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam), State Representative Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee), State Senator LaTonya Johnson (D-Milwaukee) and State Senator Pat Testin (R-Stevens Point). They discussed the State Budget and the \$7million surplus. Items discussed were the workforce shortage, affordable childcare, affordable college and education, mental health needs, hospitals and nursing homes. Governor Evers also spoke at our luncheon regarding the State Budget. We were encouraged to develop a relationship with your legislator and your hospital. This relationship will help you when and if you should go to the Capital to advocate for issues that may occur.

It's always nice to talk to other people from other hospitals and volunteers or auxiliaries regarding how things are going at their facilities. It was a very interesting day. Julie Stellmacher, Auxiliary President

Highlights from the event can be found at:

<https://www.wha.org/EducationandEvents/WHAEducationalEvents/AdvocacyDay>

Vacant, Chairperson, Public Policy Education

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

Lyme Disease: It is that time of year to think about ticks and Lyme Disease.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection caused by the bite of infected black-legged ticks, also known as deer ticks. It is the most common vector-borne (transmitted by a living organism) disease in the United States. Ticks are tiny, about the size of a poppy seed or pin head. They can hide in the hair, armpits, groin, and behind the knees. Ticks must be attached 36-48 hours to transmit the disease.

The initial symptoms from an infected tick bite include fever and chills, headache, fatigue, swollen lymph nodes, and a characteristic "bullseye" rash that is not painful or itchy. The symptoms usually occur 3-30 days following the bite. If left untreated, the disease can spread to the joints, heart, and nervous system and cause serious, long-term illness.

Diagnosis: An individual is diagnosed with Lyme disease by taking a history of exposure to ticks in areas where Lyme disease is prevalent, looking at signs and symptoms experienced, and the results of blood tests. The blood tests measure the antibodies the body is making to fight the bacteria.

Removal: take a pair of fine-tipped tweezers, pulling the tick upward with steady pressure. Clean the area with rubbing alcohol or soap & water.



Treatment: A few weeks of antibiotic therapy is usually successful in treating Lyme cases. Treatment does not create immunity to Lyme disease. If you are bitten again by an infected tick, you can develop the illness again!

Prevention: There are several steps you can take to prevent Lyme Disease per CDC guidelines.

1. Use insect repellent containing DEET, eucalyptus, or oil of lemon. There are also chemical products that are effective and can be purchased.
2. Wear pants and socks when in wooded areas or when handling fallen leaves.
3. Shower ASAP (or within 2 hours) after spending time outdoors, using a washcloth.
4. Check for ticks daily: hair, around the ears, armpits, groin, and behind the knees.
5. Tumble dry clothes on high heat for 10 minutes. If the clothing is damp, dry the clothing first, then tumble dry on high heat for 10 minutes.
6. A chemical called permethrin can be applied to clothing and camping gear.
7. There is no vaccine for Lyme disease at the present time.

For more information and printable material on these infectious diseases, visit the CDC website.

~ Sue Schuelke State CHE Chair Resources: cdc.gov, webmd.com, mayoclinic.org

Vacant, Chairperson, Community Health Education

You cannot get through a single day without
having an impact on the world around you.

What you do makes a difference, and you have to
decide what kind of difference you want to make.

~Jane Goodall

GIFT SHOP

Greetings from the gift shop. We hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather. The gift shop is in full bloom. We have wall art, cardinals, gnomes, frogs, turtles, red, white, and blue decorations that are all new for the season. Come in and check us out.

Also, we are now accepting gently used/complete puzzles as donations. So, if you like putting puzzles together stop in and see what we have, and feel free to bring in any that you have already put together. Thank you for supporting the gift shop.

Jeanne Payton, Chairperson, Gift Shop



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITES

Flower Basket Sale

On Monday, May 8 a truck loaded with 275 hanging baskets from Coloma arrived at the front door of SSM Ripon Community Hospital. A group of enthusiastic auxiliary members unloaded the baskets in the rain. The cold, rainy day did not deter buyers from purchasing the flower baskets as they were being unloaded. By the end of Monday over 200 baskets had been sold with all but eight selling on Tuesday and the remainder selling on Wednesday. Thank you to Radene and crew for the successful sale. We made a profit of \$1,981.50.

Radene Abel, Chairperson



Brat Fry Fund-Raisers 2023

Looking forward to our brat fry fundraisers this year at Websters Market Place on Friday, June 23, 2023.

Pat Albright, Chairperson

Fall Mum Sale

The fall mum sale will be held at Ripon Community Hospital in September 2023.

Radene Abel, Chairperson

Candy Bar Sales

We continue our ongoing sales of Vande Walle's Candy Bars. Still looking for volunteers to take a tote/box of 40 candy bars to an area business. Candy bars sell for \$1.50. Anyone interested in helping to sell candy bars can call Georgia at 920-346-5607.

Cash Register Roundups

Ace Hardware in Ripon and Piggly Wiggly in Markesan have put us on the schedule for their roundup programs.

Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fund-Raising



May 27, 2023

Art, Marion, Jeanne, Don, Barb

OTHER NEWS

SSM Health Samaritan Clinic

The clinic's mission is to provide quality healthcare to the uninsured/low-income patients within these counties and to be a force for a healthier community. The RCH Auxiliary is assisting with this mission. In addition to donating money for personal hygiene items we are also collecting blankets for those in need. We have purchased material for eight fleece blankets and members have been busy tying them. We have also had assistance from other organizations with blanket donations. Currently these include the United Methodist Church in Markesan and Peace Lutheran Church in Rosendale. Thank you to all who have assisted with this project.



Jeanne P | Jason B | Georgia S

Auxiliary Scholarships

The auxiliary awarded three \$1,000. scholarships to high school seniors pursuing a career in the health care field. The award recipients for 2023 are: Olivia Jennings and Oliver Roeder from Ripon High School and Madeline Treder from Princeton High School. They received the scholarship announcements at their school's awards program. Thank you to Bobbie Pollesch and Barb Behlen for doing the awards presentations and the scholarship committee for their work with the selection process. The three recipients will be recognized at the June luncheon.





SPRING FLING May 1, 2023
Presenters: Security Officer Steve Metz
& Member Mary Park

RCH AUXILIARY BOARD

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