

Strategic Planning Committee Report for Partners of WHA Conference and Annual Meeting October 2025

The Strategic Plan developed for 2025-2026 includes the goals of:

- ***Strengthening membership in Partners***

--State officers attended and interacted with members through 2025 Spring Meetings: emphasized the success and contributions the district and locals within it have achieved in serving their respective hospitals/patients; encouraged the sharing of challenges/concerns and offered support and/or suggested contacts within other districts for information on desired projects and strategies for increasing membership.

--Cindy Hermel conducted a District Chair interactive brainstorming activity at the March 2025 Board Meeting to identify strengths and challenges within districts as well as identify strategies and support Partners state leadership could provide to assist districts with these challenges.

--Julie Steiner shared information on the value of Partners to the districts/locals at Spring District Meetings.

- ***Sharing the value of Partners***

--An article on the Value of Partners was written by Julie Steiner and published in the February 2025 issue of Reaching Out.

--Julie will continue speaking to CEO's/hospital leaders at online regional meetings, educating them about the Value of Partners. She spoke at the West Central Region meeting, which was held on August 28. She will also present the Value of Partners at the Packerland Region Meeting, the Southwest Region Meeting, and the Southern and Western Region meeting in October.

- ***Improving communication between all members of Partners***

--Peg Larson held a virtual panel discussion, assisted by Julie Steiner, Ann Berg (traveling gift shops and vendors) and Jan Molaska (conference chair), on August 13, 2025 for all members to gain information on the Partners of WHA Conference and Annual Meeting meeting scheduled for October 7-8, 2025.

- ***Providing more networking opportunities***

--Cindy Hermel wrote an article on networking and its value for the May issue of Reaching Out.

--Partners Conference and Annual Meeting Committee provided structured time for networking through discussions. Activities and topics are planned for members to network at the October conference.

--Cindy Hermel and Julie Steiner have scheduled a listening session for all Partners membership on November 5, 2025, to address concerns, suggestions, and acknowledge successful initiatives in delivery of volunteer services that support hospitals and the patients they serve.

Our committee will continue to work on our established goals and action steps through 2025 and 2026.

Partners' volunteers serving on the committee include:

Sherry Jelic – Chair; Julie Steiner – President of Partners of WHA; Cindy Hermel – President-elect;

Terri Donlin - Secretary; Peg Larson – Treasurer; Donna Nelson – CHE chair; William McCullough – PPE chair;

Sharon Scott – Immediate Past President; Jan Molaska; Leigh Ann Larson – liaison for WHA.

Reported by Sherry Jelic – Chair of Partners of WHA Strategic Planning Committee