

*PARTNERS OF WHA is committed to advocating for the health of our communities and advancing the success of local health care volunteer organizations, through the coordination and provision of volunteer education, development resources, and leadership opportunities for health care volunteers and their organizations.*

### A Message from the Partners of WHA President

## Evaluations Shared With Members



Jan Molaska

The 2018 Partners of WHA convention is now in the history books. Overall, it was a great gathering of “Heroes.” Here are just a few of the responses attendees listed on their evaluation forms:

- Key note – excellent
- WHA panel always current, honest, and effective ideas for climate of health care today
- Treasurer’s meeting helpful
- CEO panel – excellent, well organized, congenial,

and appreciative of volunteers’ force and interaction with community

- I thought choice of workshops very beneficial for the mixed audience and current to the times
- Presenters were very knowledgeable & interacted with groups
- A lot of vendors – enjoyed the choices
- Great food, convention area was spacious, and wait staff was exceptional
- Best convention ever

Most of the comments were very positive but, yes, there were negative comments as well:

- Rooms needed to be marked with room numbers
- Presenters need lessons in talking into the microphone
- Almost every person using technology had trouble because they did not check it out first
- Do not like discord so that bothered me—but handled as best as could be
- So disappointed in the controversy over the bylaws
- The shouting into the microphone was uncalled for
- What an eye-opener for first time attendees! This might discourage anyone thinking of becoming involved in joining the board/officers to change their minds
- Membership meeting very poorly run
- The bylaws need to be relooked at and presented in a more understandable manner
- Please figure out a “different” way to present the Honor Points ceremony – what a mass mess!

*(Continued on page 2)*

### A Message from the President-Elect

## Continued Work on Bylaws

During the Annual Meeting on October 2, Partners delegates elected exceptional people to fill our three elected offices. Congratulations to Peg Larson, who will be President-Elect of Partners on January 1, 2019!



Ginny Bosse

The Partners Convention is always a wonderful time to learn new things about health care in Wisconsin and other topics, to meet new people and reconnect with old friends, and to conduct the business of Partners. Thank you, Sheree Schaefer, and Vice-Chair Sharon Scott, for a very enjoyable convention!

One of the items of business at this year’s Annual Meeting was to vote on the adoption of the proposed bylaws. To be adopted, a two-thirds majority vote was needed, but was not reached. This, of course, was a huge disappointment to all who had worked on them so thoughtfully and diligently for 18 months.

Particularly disappointing to me was the misinterpretation of the Removal sections in the proposed Bylaws. They were added to Article 5 Districts and Article 7 Officers, in order to provide a process for the Partners of WHA to use at the state or district level in case there is a need to remove an officer. It allows

*(Continued on page 3)*

### *A Message from the President...continued from page 1*

From the evaluations, it appears Sheree Schaefer, Sharon Scott, and members of the North Central and Northwestern districts did an exceptional job of organizing a thought-provoking, educational, and inspiring program. Hopefully everyone in attendance gleaned insights that can be shared with other members of their organizations, realized that our CEOs and WHA recognize the impact volunteers have in our hospitals and communities, met new friends, and came away revitalized and ready to meet the demands of the “New face of Volunteers.”

Sharon Scott, 2019 convention chair, the Convention Committee, and the Partners Board will look closely at the comments and recommendations. There is always room for improvement and we will address the concerns and comments as best we can.

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank Sheree Schaefer, convention chair; Sharon Scott, 2019 convention chair; members of the North Central and Northwestern Districts; our keynote and closing speakers; workshop presenters; WHA; Eric Borgerding, WHA president; Jennifer Frank, our special EVERYDAY hero; hospital sponsors who generously supported the convention; the CEO panel; vendors; everyone who donated to the silent auction; those who bought raffle tickets and those who supported the SHARE THE WEALTH and wine raffle; and the Wetherby Cranberry Company. To everyone who was part of the 2018 convention in any way—THANK YOU!

Congratulations to the WAVE and HAVE award recipients and to Jenny Derks, Partners of WHA 2018 Best of the Best Administrative Award recipient. Congratulations to everyone who submitted applications.

You all are winners as well.

The challenges we face today in the areas of health care and volunteering are far more involved than those of previous generations. We need to “think outside the box” in order to attract, recruit, and retain volunteers. You, the volunteers, the SUPERHEROES, are on the front lines. As was mentioned by many of the speakers, “word of mouth” and “personally asking” someone to join an organization are the best tools for recruiting new members.

In my opinion, the 2018 Partners of WHA convention was a great success. The Partners members have spoken and have offered suggestions as to topics and situations they would like addressed in the future. I pledge to all members that the Partners Board will be transparent, will communicate and value comments and suggestions from all members, and serve you, the members, to the best of our ability. One of the comments on an evaluation form stated, “We will get things done by working together.”

In the welcome program, I suggested, “Laughter is the best medicine with no side effects.” Hopefully everyone who attended the conference took their medicine and continues to take it on a daily basis.

Please feel free to contact me—text, call, email, snail mail, or whatever—at any time. I look forward to working with each and every one of you and your organizations.

With gratitude and respect!

Jan Molaska, 715-359-9303 (H); 715-581-9304 (C)

Email: [jmolaska@gmail.com](mailto:jmolaska@gmail.com)

## **New Brand Reflects WHA’s Advocacy Leadership**

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) is known for its superior government relations results and impactful bipartisan advocacy on behalf of its members. To reflect that and make WHA’s mission abundantly clear, WHA recently announced an updated rebranding of its logo and tagline. While the overall look remains consistent to capitalize on WHA’s reputation, they have updated their tag line from “A Valued Voice” to “Advocate. Advance. Lead.” This more clearly reflects WHA’s growth and strong advocacy leadership in Wisconsin and Washington, D.C.

Former Brand



New Brand



As part of WHA’s rebranding, we have also redesigned our website at [www.wha.org](http://www.wha.org). We strive to make WHA the premier source of information on Wisconsin health policy and legislative activity, and our new site will support WHA’s vision and advocacy efforts. The new site has improved navigation and layout to find key information more easily, including a featured “Health Care Topics A-Z” section easily access from the Home page. You are encouraged to visit the site and share any feedback with [Stephanie Marquis](#), Vice President of Communications.

# Strategic Planning Report

The Strategic Planning Committee has worked very hard to complete the goals they have established for 2017-2018.

## **The four major goals for 2017-2018 are:**

1. Address the Changing Face of Volunteers
2. Continuous Improvement of Communications within All Levels of the Partners of WHA Organization
3. Strengthen Partners of WHA/WADVS Relationship/ Collaboration
4. Increase Advocacy Activity

### **Address the Changing Face of Volunteers**

- The Bylaws were presented at the 2018 Convention
- Posters were created for the Spring Tour Meetings and hand outs were given to explain "WHO ARE WE"
- Mentors were assigned to newly appointed leaders.
- The Mentor list will have to be updated as needed. Who will assign the mentor to new leaders? Suggestion - this could be reevaluated at the first meeting of a new Strategic Planning committee.
- District Chairs were encouraged to recommend to local partners groups to include a State Partners update on all local meeting agendas. (District Chairs and Partners Board members can submit names of individuals who would be a good candidate for a local, district, or state positions.)

### **Continuous Improvement of Communications within all Levels of the Partners of WHA Organization**

- The Organizational Chart has been revised.
- Teleconference calls were held on the Bylaws, Wave and Best of the Best Award.
- Job descriptions have been completed and will be on the website soon.

### **Strengthen Partners of WHA/WADVS Relationship/Collaboration**

- Ongoing communication with the WADVS President and ours.
- WADVS President attended our meeting in March and a WADVS representative attended our convention.
- Partners president attended the WADVS meeting and their convention in 2017.

### **Increase Advocacy Activity**

- Promoted the Valued Voice--165 new subscriptions , Heat - 12 new members.
- Sought out and obtained CEO's for the CEO Panel - attended meetings in Washington DC.
- Developed a Monthly Advocacy Tracking Report.
- Shared handouts to attendees at the Spring District Meetings and many local groups.
- Held listening and brainstorming sessions - prepared articles for Reaching Out.

A big thank you to my committee and Jennifer Frank for all of your help!!

### ***A Message from the President-elect... continued from page 1***

a two-thirds majority of the delegates of the district to remove a district officer or two-thirds of the state delegates to remove a state officer. This need could arise from a serious illness, e.g. if an officer has a debilitating stroke or is in a coma, that officer would be unable to resign, much less serve. The language "for any reason" is deliberate. If there is a list of reasons that allow for removal, it is likely that very valid reasons for removal would be left off. If the reason for removal listed embezzlement from their district or from Partners, a person who had embezzled from their employers could not, technically, be removed. However, having an officer who had committed such a crime would not be good for Partners or its reputation. If you are thinking, "Well, that's a pretty extreme example and probably will never happen," you are correct. But it is precisely for extreme situations like strokes or criminal behavior that the language is needed and that the process for removal has a two-thirds majority vote at the level the officer is serving! We hope there is never a need for Removal, but if it ever is, then we would be thankful a process is in our Bylaws. I wish that people who had issues with the Removal language had brought them up during the Bylaws Conference Call on September 21, so their misconceptions could have been dispelled.

Partners will not throw out all the work the Bylaws Committee has done over the last 18 months. They will build on that work, and, I'm guessing, bring forward a proposed Bylaws document next October. With everyone working in the best interest of our Partners organization, we will find a way to make our Bylaws reflect our beliefs and, through them, direct the path of the Partners of WHA.

*Ginny Bosse*  
715-762-3193; Email: [gbosse@live.com](mailto:gbosse@live.com)

# Wisconsin Ranks Among Top U.S. States for Health Care Access and Patient Safety

*Wisconsin ranks 4th highest overall in nation and #1 in the Midwest*



We are lucky to live in a state known for its high-quality, high-value health care. Wisconsin is a national leader ranked fourth in the nation for highest overall health care quality among all 50 states and first in the Midwest, from the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).

On October 1, 2018, the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) issued its State Snapshots ranking, naming Wisconsin fourth in the nation—and first

in the Midwest—for highest overall health care quality among all 50 states. AHRQ's State Snapshots web tool helps state health leaders, researchers, and consumers understand the status of health care quality, including each state's strengths.

The AHRQ uses more than 120 statistical measures to evaluate health care performance across care settings, including access to care and patient safety. AHRQ began issuing its State Snapshots in 2006, and Wisconsin has consistently ranked in the top four states in 10 of 12 years (AHRQ did not issue a report in 2012) – and was ranked first in the nation in 2006, 2008, and 2017. Wisconsin was ranked second in the U.S. in 2007, 2009, 2011, and 2015.

This success doesn't just happen. For over a decade, Wisconsin's health care has consistently been ranked among the top in the nation. This reflects the long-standing commitment of Wisconsin hospitals to deliver affordable, accessible, and quality health care for our state's healthy families and thriving communities.

Protecting our high-quality health care in Wisconsin must be a public policy priority. As the elections wind down and we prepare for the next legislative session, it will be important for lawmakers to understand this and all the factors that make high-quality care possible in Wisconsin. You can help set the stage now with these four action items:

- Remind your legislators every time you see them, "Wisconsin's nation-leading health care must be protected and made a priority in the next legislative session."
- Become a member of WHA's free Hospitals Education & Advocacy Team (HEAT). HEAT helps you know who, what, where, when, why, and how to positively influence your legislators on this priority issue. Contact Kari Hofer at [khofer@wha.org](mailto:khofer@wha.org) or 608-268-1816 or join online at [www.wha.org](http://www.wha.org). Click on Advocacy & Public Policy, and look for the HEAT logo.
- Engage others you know into speaking out on behalf of your community hospitals.
- Watch for more education updates in the near future.

*Submitted by Kari Hofer, WHA Vice President, Advocacy*

Wisconsin Quality Ranks Top in the Midwest & Fourth Highest in the Nation AHRQ State Snapshots – 2018 Scores	
Maine	72.53
New Hampshire	69.77
Rhode Island	68.89
Wisconsin	68.29
Massachusetts	67.48
Pennsylvania	65.38
Iowa	64.17
Minnesota	63.87
Vermont	62.87
North Carolina	62.20

## As I get older I realize . . .

- I talk to myself because sometimes I need expert advice.
- Sometimes I roll my eyes outbound.
- My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance of idiots that needs work.
- The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
- When I was a child, I thought naptime was a punishment. Now it's like a mini-vacation.
- Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound.
- Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes, come out wrinkle-free, and three sizes smaller?



## 2018 Convention Report

Volunteers—Our Super Heroes! e certainly were all heroes at the Partners of WHA convention held at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center, Stevens Point. I want to thank the 255 volunteers who attended, some for the first time, as well as the two winners of the Mary Licht Scholarship. It would not have been such a successful convention without the help of the North Central & Northwestern Districts. All committees put in 100% and it showed! Our hospital sponsors contributed \$16,000. They are listed in the program, so be sure to thank them for supporting Partners.

I would like to thank Jan Molaska for the great job she has done since last October. We were all sad with the passing of Mary Licht, but Jan stepped in to take on the president's duties to finish Mary's term. Now Jan will serve her own term as president of an organization that is based on service to our hospitals, communities, and our volunteers.

Thanks to all who helped make the 2018 convention a success!

*Sheree Schaefer, 2018 Convention Chair*



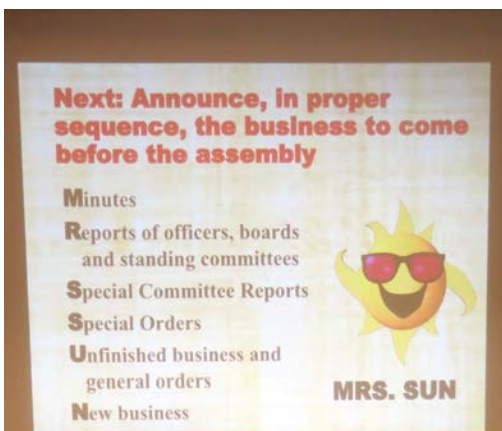
*Partners President Jan Molaska and her husband*



*Jennifer Frank received the "Everyday Hero" award from Partners*



*One of the raffles at convention*



*One of the centerpieces*



*Registration*



*Robert G. Schuck, Registered Parliamentarian, spoke at one of the workshops regarding "Running a Meeting & Three Basic Motions."*



*The volunteers from Black River having fun!*



*Sheree Schaefer as Superwoman*



## More Convention Photos . . .



*The closing speaker, Beverly Epps, Director, Patient Support Services and Volunteer Coordinator, John Randolph Medical Center in Hopewell, VA*



*The CEO panel, from left: Eric Borgerding, WHA President/CEO; Darrell Lentz, CEO, Aspirus Wausau Hospital; Mary Beth White-Jacobs, CEO, Black River Memorial Hospital; Dawn Gapko, CEO, Ascension Our Lady of Victory Hospital and Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital; David Hartberg, CEO, Gundersen Boscobel Area Hospital & Clinics*



*Partners of WHA Board of Directors*



*The opening speaker, Michael Koles, Executive Director, Wisconsin Towns Association*

## Jennifer Derks Receives Best of the Best Award

Jennifer Derks, Chief Administrative Officer of Ascension Calumet Hospital and Clinic in Chilton, Wisconsin is the 2018 Best of the Best. In nominating Jenny for this award, the Calumet Medical Center Auxiliary shared she “takes time to learn and know every volunteer by name and even includes stops by each of them when doing her hospital rounds. This building of relationships and trust carries over into the entire philosophy of seeing her being a great leader and the volunteers wanting to follow in her footsteps in every aspect.”

She also prioritizes making time to attend WHA’s Advocacy Day each year and encourages and welcomes as many volunteers and staff that want to ride the bus “to be that voice and presence.”

In closing, their nomination of Jenny for the 2018 Best of the Best Administrative Award, her volunteers noted...she has built a strong foundation with our volunteers and made them feel important, needed, and to be a shining example of positive leadership.”

Congratulations to Jenny for winning this award.

*Mary Lou Bausch, Chair*



*Mary Lou Bausch presents the “Best of the Best” Award to Jenny Derks (right)*



*Congratulations to the  
Partners of WHA 2018 Honor  
Point Award Winners!*





## 2018 WAVE Awards Given at October Convention

It was a pleasure to chair the WAVE Committee this year. I had a wonderful committee to work with. The committee members were Julie Steiner, Western District; Jan Christiansen, Southwestern District; and Joyce Breen, West Central District. Also, Jennifer Frank, from WHA, was extremely helpful throughout the whole process.

The 2018 WAVE Recipients were:

- Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls, for their program "Babysitting Clinic" in the Community Service category.
- SSM Health-St. Mary's Auxiliary, Madison, in the In-Service category for their program "Patient Comfort Hand Massage."
- Aurora West Allis Medical Center Women's Auxiliary for their program "Snowflake Bazaar" in the Fundraising category.
- Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington Volunteers for their program "Healthy Kids Club" in the Community Outreach and/or Collaboration program.

There were many wonderful programs submitted for the WAVE Awards this year. It was difficult to pick one winner in each category. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who do such great work for their hospitals and their patients.

*Pat Freeders, WAVE Chair, 608-291-0422, Email: pat.freeders@gmail.com*



**Community Service Programs**  
**"Babysitting Clinic"**

Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls



**In-service Hospital Volunteer Programs**  
**"Patient Comfort Hand Massage"**

SSM Health-St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, Madison



**Fundraising Program**  
**"Snowflake Bazaar"**

Aurora West Allis Medical Center Women's Auxiliary



**Community Outreach and/or Collaboration Programs**  
**"Healthy Kids Club"**

Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington Volunteers



## Volunteers Accept HAVE Award for Gardening

On September 30, 2018, the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls received the Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence (HAVE Award) for the program category *Community Outreach and/or Collaboration* for the Community Garden project. The award was presented at the annual convention of the Association for Healthcare Volunteer Resource Professionals. This organization is affiliated with the American Hospital Association.



*Jan Giedd accepts the HAVE Award*

How does a community hospital get food to people and people to food? The 2010 census of Chippewa County revealed that 14% of Chippewa County residents were considered “food insecure.” This means that almost 10,000 people in Chippewa County experience hunger on a daily basis! HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital's mission of providing services to those in need inspired the hospital to look at ways to relieve hunger for the people of Chippewa County.

With initial planning in 2012 by the Hospital's Reverence for the Earth Committee chaired by Roger Elliott, the St. Joseph's Hospital Community Garden was established in 2013. Land was secured on St. Joseph's Hospital campus with 24 garden plots established. An irrigation system supplier installed an irrigation system for the garden at a discounted price. Guidelines for use were established, which offers households in need an opportunity to grow their own vegetables and volunteers to grow food and donate 100% of their crop to those in need through area food pantries.

The garden is tilled free of charge early each spring; mowing and weed control around the garden is provided by a lawn care company; and horse manure that is mixed with sawdust as bedding material and then mixed with

grass clippings is donated and composted into a rich source of fertilizer for use in the garden.

In 2013, the first year, six garden plots were planted and 102 pounds of produce were distributed to Chippewa County food pantries. The produce was limited because of our “deer” friends—a fence was needed. In 2014, funding from the Hospital Foundation allowed for a secure 10-foot tall deer fence.

In 2015, the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital were asked to provide financial support and have since maintained a line item for the garden in their annual budget. The Garden Committee, made up of five Partners members, manage the operations of the garden. The Partners promote the garden by publicizing stories in its newsletter and through various media outlets.

A local beekeeper placed 50,000 bees in two hives in the garden. This year (2018), the bees have produced 11 quarts of honey as a result of their pollination of the Community Garden and the surrounding fields. In 2016, 20 apple tree seedlings were purchased from a local apple orchard and donated to the garden. These trees will provide an easily sustainable source of apples in future years requiring little maintenance. In 2017, an Eagle Scout project involved many members of the community in funding and construction of a garden shed with an overhead door for use in the garden. Extra funds from this project provided needed garden tools.

Many community organizations have come together to assist with this project, either as financial contributors, advisors, or promoters. Partners members, individuals, families, service organizations, businesses, and others, plant sustain and harvest the plots—all done on a volunteer basis. At the end of each season, all are invited to a Harvest Celebration where Life Partner Member Roger Elliott, the coordinator of the Community Garden, who is also known as the “Green Beanie,” reviews the successes of the year.

The garden has contributed to seven food pantries and a local food kitchen in Chippewa County. The produce taken from the Community Garden is weighed and tallied each year. From slightly over 100 pounds of produce in 2013 to nearly 3,000 pounds of produce in 2018, the Community Garden has delivered over four and one-half tons of food to the hungry people in Chippewa County during the past six years.

*Jan Giedd, President,  
Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital,  
Chippewa Falls, WI*

# Public Policy Education Report

1. **2019 WHA Advocacy Day is April 17, 2019**—Mark your calendars NOW and attend then. Also, please share this information with employees, trustees and all volunteers. Annual event features national speakers and state legislator visits. Healthcare advocacy is one of our main duties as WHA Partners members.



*Barb Filla*

2. Kari Hofer is our new Advocacy contact for Partners replacing Jenny Boese. Welcome, Kari!! Kari was a very gracious, surprise visitor with us at convention, expanding on several topics discussed there.
3. **Wisconsin Ranks Among Top U.S. States for Health Care Access and Patient Safety.** Wisconsin ranks 4th highest overall in the nation and #1 in the Midwest.
4. **Identifying Challenges, Achieving Solutions - Eric Borgerding's message to ACHE members**  
On September 18, WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding spoke at the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Wisconsin Chapter annual meeting about the top issues facing Wisconsin hospital CEOs, and how WHA is helping our members with solutions to meet those challenges. Borgerding delivered an overview of the health care environment in Wisconsin, including the top challenges facing WHA members, and detailed how WHA uses public policy and advocacy to impact these issues. According to WHA member surveys, the top issues threatening the ability of hospitals and health systems to provide high-quality care are:
  1. Workforce shortages
  2. Uncertainty in the insurance market
  3. Government health care program underpayment

5. **WHA 2019 Public Policy Agenda Development – AND the Rebranding, Expanding Focus to Meet Client Needs**  
Eric Borgerding, WHA President/CEO, shared that WHA is in the process of developing next year's legislative agenda based upon feedback from members and other key stakeholders. WHA has put together a variety of workgroups, including the following, to gather input over the past year to meet these expanded client needs and programs:
  - Medicaid Policy/State Budget Workgroup
  - Telemedicine Workgroup
  - Post-acute Care Workgroup
  - Behavior Health Task Force
  - Dental Access Workgroup

"We go where our members are going—that's what makes us relevant and impactful," said Borgerding.

6. **Wisconsin Hospital Association Rebranding Includes a Newly-Launched and Redesigned Website**

[www.wha.org](http://www.wha.org)

[www.PartnersOfWHA.org](http://www.PartnersOfWHA.org)

Check out these websites often. The new WHA website is much more viewer-friendly with easier-to-find information on health care policy, legislative updates, WHA's advocacy efforts, and much more. One example: Topics are listed A through Z.

7. **State PPE Reports Due—2018 will be over before we know it**

Make it easy to complete for you and district & state PPE Chairs! Use the new Monthly Tracking Report, available on Partners website: <https://www.partnersofwha.org/new-forms>. Gather info now year-to-date, and add through 12-31-2018. You'll hear more from me later on this too.

8. **THANK YOU!** I feel so grateful for having the opportunity to serve YOU as an individual volunteer and every Partners organization (local, district, state) for this two-year term, which ends on December 31, 2018!

It was and IS a pleasure to meet so many of you, learn about you and your local and district groups! Your smiles, sincere expressions of sharing about you and your group, asking questions, and making requests has inspired and energized me to want to place ALL of you together as one large, cohesive TEAM working and advocating for our hospitals and health care organizations! I cherish lasting memories about you volunteers (every individual volunteer and leaders, and DVSSs) for your cooperation, support, smiles. and everything you did for/with me during my term! THANK YOU!

So important.. I experienced for two years as PPE Chair—hearing and seeing Eric Borgerding, Jennifer Frank, and all the long-term and new people at WHA so willing to support Partners and me so joyfully no matter what—Thank you WHA!

I'm with you and here to serve you through December 31, 2018, so feel free to contact me anytime. I will be out of town at times this Fall, so please use my alternative email address if no prompt response. Thank you.

*Barb Filla, PPE Chair*

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## Community Health Education Report



*Sherry Jelic*

With this, my last Reaching Out article on the opioid epidemic, my thoughts go back to the beginning of this project and how much I've learned about this subject. The crisis touches all ages, socioeconomic groups, and ethnicities. Opioids describe legal prescription pain medications, as well as illegal drugs such as heroin, and recently synthetic fentanyl. Deaths from heroin increased until 2015. In 2016, overdose deaths from fentanyl surpassed those from all other opioids. Over 70,000 deaths from opioid overdose were recorded in 2017. There is no TYPICAL user.

We are becoming aware of the impact of opioids on the brain and subsequent behavior changes. Brain images show changes in areas of the brain used in motivation, decision making, judgement, learning, and behavior control. (During adolescence, areas of the brain are still developing. Introducing drugs at this stage of development can cause brain changes and lack of brain development that have long-lasting consequences.) Other studies look at dopamine, a brain chemical that rewards a behavior with feelings of pleasure. Drugs activate this "reward" area, causing release of dopamine in amounts 2 to 10 times the amount that natural rewards do, and the effects last longer, causing a person to take drugs again and again.

Prescription opioid pain relievers can improve the quality of life for people living with acute or chronic pain. Drastic increases in the number of prescriptions written and dispensed, social acceptability for using medications for different purposes, and aggressive marketing by pharmaceutical companies helped create the "environmental availability" of prescription medications, leading to misuse, abuse, and dependence. Surplus opioids got into the hands of anyone who wanted them. When state and government agencies began regulating and decreasing numbers of opioid prescriptions, those dependent on them turned to the illegal opioid heroin. Often a teen's first exposure to opioids was after a dental procedure or sports injury.

These facts indicate the dilemma—there is no short-term fix because substance use disorder is a long-term struggle. There is a need for improved access to treatment and recovery services, accepted use of overdose-reversing drugs (Narcan), and support for research on pain treatment and addiction.

In the world of this epidemic, IGNORENCE IS NOT BLISS. Become aware of new developments. Encourage and advance education on better and acceptable pain management. And above all start in your own home—lock/secure any opioid prescriptions. Dispose of any unused opioids. Discuss alternative treatments for pain with your health care provider. Continue to educate yourself and others. I hope I have introduced facts to help with this process. My deepest thanks for your support with this project.

*Sherry Jelic, CHE Chair*  
608-235-9526  
Email: [sjelic@msn.com](mailto:sjelic@msn.com)

## Treasurer Shares Budget Information

Thank you for the opportunity to be your Treasurer. During the last four years, the hospitals and the Wisconsin Hospital Association have supported their volunteers by contributing almost \$75,000 toward the convention. These contributions have allowed us to keep the Registration Fee consistently at the \$150 per person that covers the cost of each participant's meals. The 2019 budget continues to hold the Registration Fee at that amount to keep the convention affordable for our members. Our leaders have negotiated with the convention sites to keep room rates as low as the market in that area will allow.

Please look at [www.partnersofwha.org](http://www.partnersofwha.org) to find the updated list of Convention Donors and thank the leadership of your organization if they contributed. If they are not listed, ask them to consider it for 2019. One of the challenges for the Convention Chair and Treasurer is navigating the donation request system. As hospitals combine into larger networks, finding the right person/place to ask gets more difficult. You can help by passing any information you have about donation request procedures to Convention Chair Sharon Scott and Incoming Treasurer Julie Steiner.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to continuing to serve you as your President-Elect.

*Peg Larson, Treasurer*

## Around the State

### **St. Croix Regional Medical Center, St. Croix Falls:**

"Crazy Socks Day" was held in their gift shop and people came in to purchase funny striped ones to designed patterns in very bright colors – was easily a fun day for everyone to welcome Spring.

### **Volunteer Partners of Spooner Health, Spooner:**

At their July potluck meeting at the Potters Shed in Shell Lake, members painted pottery, which was fired in the kiln, and they were able to take it home with them. This was a very different event and fun for all.

### **Friends of Vernon Memorial Healthcare, Viroqua:**

In August, they held a "Brat and Hot Dog Sale" in the hospital parking lot for employees, volunteers, and anyone that showed up. This included a choice of "dog," chips, bottled water, and dessert of a cookie or bar, all for the price of \$5.00! Proceeds went to the scholarship fund or hospital equipment.

### **Osceola Medical Center Partners, Osceola:**

Twenty one Partner's members went on a "Mystery Outing" meeting for lunch first and then carpooled to the Taylors Falls Bead Store. Everyone selected a style and color and made a bracelet to take home. Next, a stop for ice cream!

### **Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls:**

How about a Steak Fry? This was another unique way to make money for the hospital and scholarships. The event was both successful and very profitable!

*Kay Lyndahl, Editor*

## Dear Friends of Partners of WHA

As my term of office is coming to a close at the end of December, 2018; I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for electing me to serve as your Secretary to Wisconsin Partners of WHA Executive Board. I believe in the integrity of this organization and its members and have been proud to perform the duties of the office of Secretary for you.

Wishing you the Best of Luck in going forward.

*Rose A. Raska, Secretary*

## Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
February 2019	Mon., January 14, 2019
May 2019	Sat., April 13, 2019
August 2019	Mon., July 15, 2019
November 2019	Sat., October 12, 2019

## Website and Facebook Need Your Help

Thank you for helping the website and Facebook page!! I need your pictures, articles, and dates to keep the website and Facebook page fresh and up to date. If your organization has an event, send a picture with names of the people involved. If you find interesting information regarding our health, send me a link. If you are scheduling an event, send me the date and topic. I will add the information to the website or the Facebook page.

*Peg Larson, Website Chair*  
Email: [pegvoluntr@hotmail.com](mailto:pegvoluntr@hotmail.com)

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