



## **SOUTHERN DISTRICT END OF SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER**

**Barbara Lauersdorf -- *Southern District Chair***

Days are undeniably getting cooler and shorter. Thank you for your contributions.

If you have any questions, comments, concerns regarding the Southern District or the Partners of WHA....or to get involved and serve in any capacity call or email any one of the officers.

· **District Chair**

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**Chair-Elect**

**Terri Donlin**  
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· **District Secretary/Treasurer**

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**608-516-0893**

**CHE CHAIR**

**Sherry Jelic**  
**sjelic@msn.com**  
**608-235-9526**

**The Southern District has dates to remember**

- ✓ Fall 2022 Southern District Meeting September 29, 2022  
Hosted by: Partners of Stoughton Hospital  
Location: Stoughton Health, Bryant Center
- ✓ WHA State Partners Convention “Volunteers – Helping Hands, Touching Hearts” October 11-13, 2022 (Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells)
- ✓ WHA Advocacy Day April 19, 2023
- ✓ Partners of WHA State Convention 2023

October 3-5, 2023 Holiday Inn, Stevens Point

### **Edgerton Hospital Auxiliary President**

**Cathy Raethz**

Edgerton Hospital and Health Services has purchased office space in downtown Edgerton to accommodate our Clinic physicians. The hospital is also actively recruiting Mental health, Pediatric and Womens' Health physicians to staff the Clinic which is scheduled to open next Spring.

### **Partners of Stoughton Hospital**

**Judeen Reese, President**

As the post-pandemic summer of 2022 winds down, Partners of Stoughton Hospital has brought several projects to fruition. Our traditional plant sales were held and again, brought in good profit. Our new summer project found us participating at the Community Farmers Market held on Saturday mornings in our downtown. We planned weekly events and interacted with our local supporters. Events included a muffin sale, cookie sale, summer planter sale and an apple fest. We promoted our fall mum sale and will finish off the season selling pumpkins and gourds.

Fall finds us making plans for our Annual Meeting, hosting the district meeting, hosting a community card party and our Fall Fundraiser. This year we have chosen a new venture which we refer to as “Pumpkins on Parade.” We are asking local community celebrities to carve and donate a special pumpkin which will be displayed the evening of the event held at our Community Health and Wellness Center. Those who attend, will have the opportunity to view the pumpkins and purchase tickets for a chance to win their favorite pumpkin. At the end of the evening, a drawing will take place for each pumpkin. The lucky winner will take it home to enjoy during the Halloween season. We hope to have a collection of 20 or more awesome pumpkins.

### **COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION REPORT**

**Sherry Jelic – CHE Chair, Southern District of Partners of WHA/September 2022**

**988** On July 16, 2022, Wisconsin transitioned to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The new calling code of 988 will allow people of all ages who are experiencing a crisis—whether that is thoughts of suicide, a mental health concern or substance use issue, or any other kind of emotional distress—to get help for themselves or a loved one by connecting them with a trained crisis counselor. The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a free and confidential service that is available 24/7, and anyone can

access the Lifeline by calling 988 (multiple languages available), texting a message to 988 (English only), or using the chat feature at [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org)

Two animals in the state have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). A bird from Milwaukee County and a horse from Trempealeau County are the first reported WNV infections in the state this year. An average of 20 cases of WNV were reported among Wisconsin residents each year during the period from 2017 – 2021. No human cases of WNV have been reported yet in 2022. The presence of animals with WNV confirms that there are mosquitoes infected with WNV in the state, acquired by feeding on infected birds, which then can transmit the virus to people and other animals. 80% of people infected with WNV do not get sick. Those who do become ill usually have mild symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle ache, rash, and fatigue. But some people (less than 1%) with the virus get seriously ill - high fever, muscle weakness, stiff neck, disorientation, mental confusion, tremors, confusion, paralysis, and coma. Older adults and those with compromised immune systems are at greater risk of developing severe illness that can be fatal. This is another reminder of the importance of taking precautions to protect ourselves from mosquitoes and the viruses they carry. The best way is to reduce exposure to mosquitoes and eliminate mosquito breeding sites. Evening or early morning hours are when mosquitoes that spread WNV are most active.

We've been hearing lots of news about Monkeypox. Monkeypox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. Monkeypox virus is part of the same family of viruses that cause smallpox.

As of September 2, 2022, 62 cases of orthopoxvirus, presumed to be monkeypox, have been confirmed in Wisconsin. As of September 2022, there have been 19,465 confirmed cases of monkeypox and orthopoxvirus in the United States.

The risk of widespread transmission of monkeypox to the public is relatively low. People most at risk for monkeypox include: those who had close physical contact with a person who has monkeypox or who had close physical contact with a person who had a rash that looks like monkeypox. The rash can initially look like pimples or blisters and may be painful or itchy. Monkeypox symptoms usually start within 3 weeks of exposure to the virus. If someone has flu-like symptoms, they will usually develop a rash 1-4 days later. For more information on symptoms go to **Wisconsin Department of Health Services**.

**REMINDER – PREVENT THE FLU BY ROLLING UP YOUR SLEEVE  
AND GETTING VACINATED!!**