

SE District 2023 Spring Newsletter



*Note
from
Sue*

SE District Chair Greetings

The months of April and May are a very busy time for Partners of WHA as well as our district and local hospital members. It is the time of year for celebration of hospital volunteers along with their hospitals and nursing staff.

April 16-22 was National Volunteer Week. Although I do not have specifics to share from the SE district, I'm sure many hospital and volunteer leaders gave special recognition to their volunteer staff through activities such as luncheons, tokens of appreciation, and words of gratitude. Did you know that a volunteer's service is valued at \$31.80/hour for 2023? Multiply that by the number of service hours provided this year to see the astounding cost savings volunteers bring to their local organizations.

Take time to thank your volunteers for their service not only during National Volunteer Week but all year long. They are an invaluable part of hospital service!

Sue Schuelke-SE District Chair



SAVE THE DATES!

- ❖ The 2023 SE District Leadership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 24.
- ❖ The 2023 Fall SE District meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, hosted by Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Volunteers.

LOCAL**What's New in the SE District!****UPDATES**

We welcome two new DVS leaders to the SE District!

- Joan Smasal- Ascension St. Francis Hospital Guild, Milwaukee
 - Marcia Rupp- Prohealth Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital Auxiliary
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**2023 Spring SE District Chair Report**

The 2022 District Chair Annual and District Honor Point reports have been completed with 5 of 7 local organizations reporting. In 2022, local organizations of the SE District reported a total of 669 volunteers (includes lifetime) providing 56,172 volunteer hours and donating \$284,454 to their respective hospitals. \$31,000 was awarded through 3 individual scholarship programs. There are 4 local PPE Chairs and 4 local CHE Chairs.

Public Policy Report

The 2023 WHA Advocacy Day was held on April 19 at the Monona Terrace, Madison, WI. Nearly 1,000 participants met in-person to support Wisconsin's initiatives in providing quality healthcare! This was the first year that Partners of WHA hosted an informational table to promote their organization. Photos and a summary of the event can be found on the WHA website. Representatives from Froedtert West Bend Partners were among the participants!

Community Health Education Report

May is Mental Health Awareness month.



Opioid Crisis: Xylazine

A non-opioid central nervous system (CNS) depressant, Xylazine (also, known as “tranq”, “tranq dope”, and “zombie drug”), has entered the illicit drug scene. It is being detected in fatal drug overdoses. Xylazine is authorized by the US FDA for use by veterinarians on horses, cattle, and other non-human mammals for sedation, muscle relaxation, and analgesia. It is not approved for use in humans.

Currently, it is being used along with fentanyl and combined with drugs like, cocaine, heroin, gabapentin, methadone, prescription opioids, and benzodiazepines. It has longer-lasting effects than fentanyl. It causes symptoms of drowsiness, amnesia, slowed respirations and a decrease in heart rate and blood pressure.

Naloxone (Narcan) is given to counteract the opioids but is not effective on Xylazine.

Xylazine is not considered a controlled substance and is available for purchase on certain internet sites. It is available in liquid and powder form. Xylazine is used by injecting, snorting, swallowing, or inhaling the drug.

Four regions within the US have seen increases in the use of Xylazine from 2020 to 2021.

<i>REGION</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>% Increase</i>
Northeast	346	556	61%
South	198	580	193%
Midwest	110	118	7%
West	77	163	112%

Submitted by Sue Schuelke

SE District Chair

Sources: www.nida.nih.gov (National Institute of Drug Abuse)

www.dea.gov (Drug Enforcement Agency)

Reminder: Deadline to submit 2022 WAVE applications is June 9.

