

# SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Newsletter

September 2023



## Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon

**Monday, September 25, 2023, at 12 pm**

Ripon Community Hospital Green Lake Room  
845 Parkside Street, Ripon

Come enjoy a sandwich buffet and dessert prepared by the  
Ripon Community Hospital Food Service.

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Ryan Pizinger, SSM Health Fond du Lac  
Regional Clinic Orthopedics, who will present on the common  
conditions and treatments for shoulder pain.



The cost of the luncheon is \$10 and can be paid at the door.

RSVP to Diane Shady, program chairperson,  
no later than Friday, September 15 by calling 920-539-2150 or by email  
at [kanddshady@gmail.com](mailto: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 Chairperson*

[kanddshady@gmail.com](mailto:kanddshady@gmail.com)

920-539-2150

**“Some of you don’t even realize  
how you light up rooms, shift  
atmospheres and carry  
inspiration just by being you.  
[You are] a walking love letter  
and don’t know it.”  
—Author Unknown**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We certainly have had a beautiful summer with lots of sunshine. We definitely could use more rain, but there still is more time for an increase in our rainfall. We did not hold a board meeting in July, as usual, due to everyone being extra busy during the summer months. We did resume our monthly meetings on Wednesday, August 9.

We are looking forward to one of our bigger fund raisers, the Mum Sale. It is scheduled in front of the hospital on Monday, September 11 and Tuesday, September 12. If you are able, please volunteer to help sell these beautiful plants and/or purchase them. As always, the proceeds will help us purchase some items that will help our hospital.

We have our Fall Luncheon coming up at the hospital. It will be held on Monday, September 25 at noon in the Green Lake Room. Dr. Ryan Pizinger our new orthopedic surgeon, will be speaking on shoulder pain and its common conditions and treatments. Please RSVP to Diane Shady by September 15.

Our WHA Partners State Convention...Today's Dream...Tomorrow's Reality will be held on October 3-5, 2023, at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point. If you are interested, please consider joining our fellow Partners for two days of fellowship, educational workshops, CEO Panel discussions, business meetings, enlightening speakers, and fun evening activities.

The Lakes District will be holding their Fall Luncheon hosted by the Ascension Calumet Hospital Auxiliary on October 17, 2023, at the Altona Supper Club in New Holstein. Please let me or Bobbie Pollesch know if you might be interested in attending either one of these events and we will help you get registered.

Lights of Love will be coming up on December 7. There will be no formal event held but the tree will be officially lit, and letters will be going out, enabling you to purchase lights in memory or in honor of loved ones. These names will also be listed in the local newspaper.

Two spots continue to remain open on the Auxiliary Board. They are the Community Health Education and Public Policy Education positions. Anyone on the Board would be happy to discuss what these positions involve and where this information can be found to be shared with everyone. If you would like to become more involved in the Auxiliary, please consider helping out in one of these positions.

If you are considering doing some volunteering in the hospital, we are still looking for more help in the Gift Shop, the Information Desk and Mobile Meals. Jason Blonigen, our volunteer coordinator, would be more than happy to help you get started in any of those areas.

I'm looking forward to seeing you around the hospital, at our luncheons or at some of our fund raisers. Take care, stay healthy and see you soon.

*Julie Stellmacher, President*



**MUM SALE**  
**September 11 & 12**

## 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*

### 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.

### SSM Health Leadership Role Expansion

SSM Health Wisconsin took another significant strategic step this week in our journey to further strengthen the continuity of care we provide across our region by promoting three of our proven operational leaders to expanding areas of responsibility.

Kyle Nondorf and Dawit Tesfasilassie, regional vice presidents for Acute Care Operations, made the announcement about the changing roles for hospital presidents Eric Thornton, Jane Curran-Meuli and DeAnn Thurmer. The moves will continue to "reinforce for our patients that there is no differentiation in the level of exceptional care we can offer as One Wisconsin."

As president of our Ripon Community and Waupun Memorial Hospitals, Thurmer will now expand her oversight role to include St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo. A proven health care leader, she was instrumental in leading the mergers of Ripon Medical Center and Waupun Memorial Hospital with Agnesian HealthCare and then overseeing their becoming part of our SSM Health family. A DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award-winning registered nurse, Thurmer has served as an exceptional executive since 1995, leading and mentoring our teams in Ripon and Waupun to achieve clinical excellence. She now will be able to bring her wealth of knowledge and experience to lead our team in Baraboo.

Nondorf acknowledged "the strength of the operational teams already in place across our region" and expressed his "deep gratitude for their consistent efforts to provide such exceptional care throughout all of our communities."

The leadership moves are, Tesfasilassie said, "proof of our desire to be good stewards in developing the rich talent within our ministries so that we can continue to thrive today and for the future. Our success depends on our continuous improvement through shared leadership at every level within our organization. Together we can achieve exceptional results for our patients and remain nimble enough to assess changing community needs so that we can put our resources to work at the bedside where they are most needed."

### Day Stabilization Services Updates

Here are two recent developments from the SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Day Stabilization Services.

Day Stabilization Services is available to help individuals experiencing any of these common concerns: depression, mood disturbances, anxiety, stress, grief reactions, psychosis, distortion or disconnection from reality, and more.

Outpatient hospital services are offered to individuals 18 years and above with an urgent need of care for mental health crises. This service provides immediate access to behavioral health care to address non-emergent issues.

- We have welcomed two new providers, including Racheal Bergmann, LCSW, CSAC, a psychotherapist, and Jessica Garcia, DNP, PMHNP-BC, advanced practice nurse practitioner.
- A mental health and/or substance use screening and assessment through an SSM Health emergency department is no longer required.

## Pediatric Readiness

For the Goeldi family, a November Saturday evening in their Ripon home was like any other. It was bedtime, and their son, Vincent, who was two years old at the time went to bed for a restful night of sleep.

That carefree evening quickly changed when Vincent woke up unexpectedly in the middle of the night with a fever, wheezing, and having difficulty breathing. He later fell asleep on the couch as mom held him. By 4 am, he was awake again and his breathing had worsened.

At that time, Vincent's dad, Nick, brought him to the SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Emergency Department.

Thanks to steps taken as part of the Wisconsin Pediatric Readiness Program for Community Emergency Departments (Pediatric Readiness Program), led by Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services for Children (WI EMSC), Ripon Community Hospital was ready!

Vincent's story has been shared on NBC 26, Green Bay, as well as other media outlets and social media.



## New Orthopedic Provider

The SSM Health Fond du Lac Regional Clinic will be welcoming Paula Kasubowski, APNP, a new nurse practitioner, this fall to its orthopedic team in Ripon. She will join Drs. Benjamin Wiseley and Ryan Pizinger.

In addition, Dr. Pizinger is offering a "Common Conditions & Treatment Options for Shoulder Pain" at noon on Friday, October 20 at the Ripon Senior Activity Center, 388 Murray Park Drive. He will discuss painful shoulder conditions and options for non-surgical and surgical interventions. To reserve a space, visit [www.ripon.recdeck.com](http://www.ripon.recdeck.com).



## Regional Leader Visits

In late July, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital welcomed SSM Health Wisconsin Region leaders for step back reviews at several departments. The step back reviews provide departments the opportunity to share performance improvement efforts, as well as offer an overview of the many services and programs offered at our critical access hospital. Region leaders were very impressed with ongoing efforts within the Ripon hospital to provide quality services close to home.

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## MEMBERSHIP

Our paid membership as of today stands at 36. That's the lowest it has been for several years. However, we are still doing the job. We gave three \$1,000 scholarships this spring to students pursuing a career in health care, have donated a transport ventilator for COVID-19 patients, supplied hygiene items for Samaritan Clinic, make quilts and lap blankets, supply patient comfort items, staff appreciation treats and continue to have volunteers for the front desk, gift shop and deliver meals. We could, of course, use more help! So, if you know anyone who might like to volunteer invite them to our fall luncheon and/or give me their names.

From the past...this member has been giving of her time and talents for the past 25 years. She has helped at flower sales, brat fires, bake sales, was a guide for school tours, worked on Lights of Love, sewing and served on our local Board as President, Membership, newsletter, programs, Public Policy, and Scholarship, as well as was on the District Partners of WHA Board and was Registration Hostess at Old Hospital, Co-chaired State Convention in Green Lake and was Auxiliary Representative on Hospital Foundation Board. **Thank you, Betsy Blazek!**

*Jackie Halverson, Chairperson, Membership*

## **VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES**

**Hello RCH Auxilians,**

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer so far. Ours has been busy, but the wonderful moments spending time with family and friends are worth every second.

As activities wind down and children prepare for school the Volunteer Services department is busy preparing for this year's annual education sessions and yearly paperwork. Annual education session invites have been mailed to volunteers who actively volunteer on-site. Please note individuals that only belong to the RCH Auxiliary or those that hold "off-site" volunteer roles such as mobile meals are not expected to attend. Volunteer Services will be holding annual education at Ripon Community Hospital the following dates and times:

Tuesday September 26: 9 am - 12 pm, Green Lake Room

Thursday September 28: 1:30 - 4:30 pm, Green Lake Room

Volunteers are only expected to attend one event and those unable to attend will have their annual education paperwork mailed to them.

I also wanted to share a friendly reminder, we are still in need of additional Gift Shop (afternoons) and Mobile Meal volunteers. Please contact me or any other member of volunteer services if you know anyone that might be interested in helping.

Wishing you all the best and a fantastic upcoming Fall. Thank each of you for making our community a better place!

**Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Coordinator**

*Ripon Community Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital*

[Jason.Blonigen@SSMHealth.com](mailto:Jason.Blonigen@SSMHealth.com)

920-745-3670

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## **TREASURER'S UPDATE**

**Financial Report - Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

Here are the financial results for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, and ending June 30, 2023, compared to the three previous years. Fiscal years 2020 and 2021 were both affected by COVID-19. The gift shop was closed for part of each year and in-house fund raisers were not held. The gift shop was open all of fiscal year 2022 and 2023. Sales were down from pre-covid days because of less traffic in the hospital. However, FY 2023 sales were 3.2% higher than FY 2022. Expenses were also reduced so profit was about the same as pre-COVID-19 years. We were able to raise \$12,932 after expenses from the fundraisers of Lights of Love, Flower Basket Sale, Mum Sale, Candy Bar Sales, Brat Fry Sales and Store Roundups. We did not hold a raffle this year.

We awarded three \$1,000 scholarships this Spring. We provided funds to RCH for a cardiac ultrasound probe and five temporal artery thermometers, as well as supplies for the Samaritan Clinic and the inpatient hospitality cart. We also provided an appreciation treatment for the hospital and clinic staff that was very well received. Cash remaining at the end of the fiscal year was \$43,246, enabling us to make a significant donation to RCH in fiscal year 2024.

We had 32 paid members in fiscal year 2023 who did great and important work for the hospital and the community. Thank you to all.

## RMC Auxiliary, Inc. - Treasurer's Report - June 2023

Treasurer's Report	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
June 30	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
<b>INCOME</b>				
Fund Raising	\$ 22,121.74	\$ 16,576.70	\$ 27,353.35	\$ 23,959.75
Donations	232.15	61.77	477.46	391.17
Membership Dues	630.00	500.00	430.00	320.00
Gift Shop Sales	27,142.72	8,796.84	26,165.58	26,999.40
Total Income	\$ 50,126.61	\$ 25,935.31	\$ 54,426.39	\$ 51,670.32
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Fund Raising Expenses	\$ 7,395.28	\$ 6,911.70	\$ 7,674.95	\$ 11,027.67
Luncheons	(96.00)	-	58.00	15.60
State Conventions/District Meetings	536.98	-	90.00	484.50
Organization Expenses	169.16	102.45	216.05	208.63
Gift Shop Expenses	22,242.74	5,094.43	15,627.67	17,717.80
Total Expenses	\$ 30,248.16	\$ 12,108.58	\$ 23,666.67	\$ 29,454.20
Net Income Before Distributions	\$ 19,878.45	\$ 13,826.73	\$ 30,759.72	\$ 22,216.12
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>				
Scholarships	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Donations for RCH	30,079.58	211.92	11,853.01	10,303.83
Total Distributions	\$ 33,079.58	\$ 3,211.92	\$ 14,853.01	\$ 13,303.83
NET INCOME AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ (13,201.13)	\$ 10,614.81	\$ 15,906.71	\$ 8,912.29
CASH BALANCES	\$ 11,594.84	\$ 18,217.09	\$ 36,585.07	\$ 43,246.38



**Mark your calendars!**  
**The Christmas Bake Sale is back?**  
**December 5, 2023**  
**8:30 am until sold out.**

**RMC Auxiliary Budget  
FY 2024**

<b>INCOME</b>	
Fund Raising	\$ 24,000
Membership Dues	350
Gift Shop Sales	26,596
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 50,946</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Fund-Raising Expenses	\$ 10,720
Luncheons - net	55
State Conventions/District Meetings	1,500
Organizational Expenses	218
Gift Shop Expenses	17,240
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 29,733</b>
<b>NET INCOME BEFORE DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 21,213</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	
Transfers to RCH	\$ 24,500
Donation to Samaritan Clinic	500
Staff Appreciation Treats	500
Hospitality Cart Supplies	50
Scholarships	4,500
<b>TOTAL DISTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 30,050</b>

The FY 2024 budget anticipates income from fund raising and the gift shop to exceed expenses by \$21,213. Because we are starting out the year with excess funds, \$25,550 is budgeted to distribute to RCH and scholarships have been increased to three \$1,500 awards.

We will continue the Lights of Love fund-raiser along with the Flower Basket Sale, Mum Sale, Brat Frys, Candy Bar Sales and Store Roundup. This year, we plan to bring back the Christmas Bake Sale.

FY 2024 Gift Shop sales and expenses were budgeted to be about the same as FY 2023.

Membership continues to decline since COVID-19, but we are planning to remain strong. There were 32 members in FY 2023 and the budget anticipates 35 members for FY 2024. Please try to recruit your family, friends and neighbors to join this amazing organization.

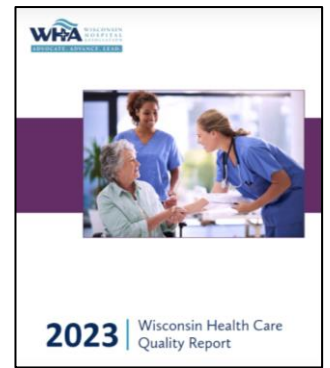
*Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer*



## PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION

### 2023 Quality Report

The 2023 Wisconsin Health Care Quality Report provides an overview of the numerous initiatives and outcomes associated with quality improvement and patient safety efforts in Wisconsin hospitals and health systems. Despite lingering challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and hospital staffing vacancy rates, this year's report shows the state's hospitals and health systems continue to provide high-quality care across Wisconsin with the number of four and five-star hospitals exceeding the national average, as recognized by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Star Ratings.



In addition to providing snapshots of many key health care quality metrics, this year's report also features stories of innovation by numerous hospitals and health systems that have taken steps to improve patient outcomes in 2022.

Full report can be found at: <https://www.wha.org/MediaRoom/DataandPublications/WHAREports/Quality/2023>

*Vacant, Chairperson, Public Policy Education*

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## COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

### New COVID Strain May Evade Vaccines, Alarming Health Officials

Aug. 24, 2023 – A new strain of COVID-19 that was only identified a week ago in the U.S. has prompted the CDC to take the rare step of issuing a formal message that it could evade vaccines or the protection of natural immunity. The strain is called BA.2.86 and is of particular concern because of its more than 30 mutations, which means it may behave very differently than previous versions of the virus. That number of mutations is on par with the difference between variants so serious that they were formally named, such as between Delta and Omicron, the CDC explained in the risk assessment issued Wednesday.

Worldwide, health agencies are issuing a flurry of updates on BA.2.86. The strain only recently landed on the World Health Organization's radar when it was named a "variant under monitoring" on August 17. The CDC announced the same day that it had been detected in the U.S.

Among the characteristics the CDC monitors for are how contagious a strain is, how well it responds to treatment, and how severely it affects people.

Article written by Lisa O'Mary. More information is available at: <https://www.webmd.com/covid/news/20230824/new-covid-strain-may-evade-vaccines-alarming-health-officials>

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## GIFT SHOP

Are you looking forward to fall? Soon it will feel like fall is in the air. We will have all of our fall items on display starting the first weekend in September. We will be getting many new items this year, along with our normal assortment of favorites.

We also carry locally created items, such as jewelry, and books. We have two books in the gift shop now that were written by local authors. The first is a children's book called the Spotted Pony, written by Kim Bond and the second is called "Dartford Days" written by Daine Egbert. It is a postcard history of early Green Lake and is sponsored by the Dartford Historical Society. I hope you stop in and check out these delightful additions to the shop.



We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your continued support.

*Jeanne Payton, Chairperson, Gift Shop*



## FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES

### Fall Mum Sale

The fall mum sale will be held at Ripon Community Hospital.  
*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 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. We collected \$149 in the donation jar at Culvers during June.

### Brat Fry Fund-Raisers 2023

Thank you to Pat and Wayne Albright and all those who assisted for doing a super job with the brat fry sales this year. Two were completed with a combined profit of \$981.05 in sales and \$149.07 in donations.

### Christmas Bake Sale

We are bringing back the Christmas Bake Sale on Tuesday, December 5 starting at 8:30 am until gone. The sale will be in the hospital lobby near the gift shop. Look for your favorite recipes to bake for the sale. We will pack on Monday, December 4 at 1 pm. Drop off baked goods in the RCH Volunteer Room. If you are unable to bake a cash donation would be appreciated. Ready to bake items are also available for purchase at the Bakers Outlet in Little Chute.

*Barb Behlen, Chairperson*

*Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fund-Raising*

### 2023 Lights of Love



Lights of Love will go on sale November 1. You will receive Lights of Love materials in the mail. The materials will also be available at the front desk and in the Gift Shop. Proceeds from this year's Lights of Love will be used to fund the purchase of a Sit-To-Stand lift for inpatients who have trouble standing up by themselves. It is difficult and dangerous for nurses and other caregivers to help lift them. The hospital currently has one, but it needs to be replaced.

The tree will be lit on December 7 and the list of names will be published in the Ripon paper after that. Names will also be in the Lights of Love book in the hospital lobby. There will be no raffle or program this year.

Please support this very meaningful event.

*Bobbie Pollesch, Chairperson, Lights of Love*

Ripon Community Hospital

## MUM SALE



*Join the SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary*

**Monday, September 11 & Tuesday, September 12**  
**9 am - 5 pm**

Ripon Community Hospital Main Entrance • 845 Parkside Street

The sale will feature a choice of high-quality 8, 9, 10 and 12-inch fall blooming plants with some new choices added. These include mums in various colors and sizes, kale, lavender, rudbeckia and two varieties of grasses. The 10-inch mums will be multicolored.

**Prices range from \$12 to 30 each.**

**Cash • Check • Employee Quick Charge • No Credit Cards**

All proceeds will support Ripon Community Hospital programs and services.  
For more information, call (920) 229-9827.

## OTHER NEWS

### 2023 Partners of WHA Convention

You are invited to the 2023 Partners Convention...Today's Dream...Tomorrow's Reality, October 3-5 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.



Tuesday, October 3 ~ 1 - 6 pm | Wednesday, October 4 ~ 7 am - 7:30 pm | Thursday, October 5 ~ 7 - 11:30 am

Registration Full Conference Registration ~ Member \$150 | One Day Only ~ Member \$95

Eight workshops will take place over the three days.

1. How You and Your Hospital Can Play a Role in the Financial Health of a New Baby
2. Livable Communities for All Ages
3. How Does Your Garden Grow....to Help Your Community
4. Domestic violence awareness and advocacy
5. Hospitals Education and Advocacy Team (HEAT)
6. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)
7. What Do We Do Now?
8. Mental Fitness

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Servant Leadership Tom Thibodeau is an Associate Professor at Viterbo University and is the founder of the Master of Arts in Servant Leadership. He inspires all through his infectious enthusiasm, compassion and commitment to leadership and service.

**CLOSING SPEAKER:** Positive Intelligence Terri Donlin is a Partner volunteer, Professional coach, and leader with a history of service and leadership. She applies mentoring, training and her learned coaching skills in serving others to become their best selves.

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### Partner of WHA Lakes District Fall Meeting

Please join Ascension Calumet Hospital Auxiliary on October 17, 2023, at the Altona Supper Club (2306 Calumet Drive, New Holstein WI 53061).

Registration begins at 8:30 am with a continental breakfast to follow. The district meeting will begin at 9:30 am. Lunch will be served at 12 p.m. Cost is \$25 and must be paid in advance. Reservations are due by October 12.

Presentation by Sarah Bassing-Sutton, suicide prevention coordinator for Northeast Wisconsin (NEW) Mental Health Connection on Mental Health services and Project Zero.

*Rosemary Born, President Calumet Hospital Auxiliary*

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### RCH AUXILIARY BOARD

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**Pat Albright, Brat Fry Fundraisers**

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