WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT/PARTNERS OF WHA

Spring/Summer 2018 Newsletter

**CHAIR NOTES:**

Finally I can safely say “Happy Spring - Happy Summer!”. It is so nice to hear the birds chirping , grass getting green, flowers popping out of the ground and new life! I am excited also about the Partners of WHA and being a part of the organization. Volunteers do so much for their local hospital and always with a smile on their face. Attitude is everything and anything is possible!

I am sorry, however, that Rice Lake Volunteer Partners of Lakeview Medical Center have decided to no longer be a part of the Volunteer Partners of WHA. We will miss the members and their dedication and efforts in their organization, the Partners of WHA and the West Central District.

The Partners of WHA advocate for better healthcare for communities. The Mission is as follows:

Partners of WHA is committed to advocating for the health of our communities and advancing the success of local healthcare volunteer organizations through the coordination and provision of volunteer education development resources and leadership opportunities.

As volunteers and members of the Partners of the Wisconsin Hospital Association Inc. we are making a difference! As I read the reports by the presidents of each organization, I am amazed at the work and contributions made by the volunteers. The fundraising events take a lot of work and organization, the scholarships given by the volunteers require time and work by a scholarship committee to make sure the money goes to those deserving of a scholarship, the social activities, the Public Policy reports and the Community Health Education reports take time and research, plus the hours volunteering! All of the activities in addition to the volunteer shift at the information desk, the gift shop or whatever is needed to be done. The hospital volunteers really make a difference in the healthcare in their community!

 If you have concerns, questions, suggestions or comments regarding your organization or the Partners of WHA, please contact me or someone on the State level. Names and contact information is on the website: www.Partners of WHA.org

Jaci Fuller, Chair

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(I started this in the spring - it is now officially summer! Better send this before it is winter!)

**COMING EVENTS**

**Tuesday, September 11, 2018: Fall District Meeting**: Hosted by the Volunteer Partners of WHA of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, the fall meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2018. A Planning Committee has been formed and registration forms will be sent out in August. More information will be available soon. Mark your calendar for September 11th!

**Wednesday and Thursday, October 3 & 4, 2018:** Partners of WHA convention, Holiday Inn, Stevens Point. The theme is “Super Heroes” (Volunteers are the Super Heroes”!)

Everyone is encouraged to sell the raffle tickets! Bring money and raffle stubs to the convention. (Do not mail!)

The Committee is asking volunteers to bring a bottle of wine for the Wine Raffle at the convention.

Cumberland volunteered to bring the District basket to be raffled. ( Reimbursement up to $150).

Thank you, Cumberland!!

The Conference Planning Committee is planning a time for each district to get together during the convention for about an hour to discuss issues, goals, financial status, etc. I encourage everyone from West Central district to attend so we can brainstorm, collect ideas and make the District better!

**SPRING DISTRICT MEETING**

The spring West Central District meeting was held on Wednesday, April 25, 2018, at the Bethany Lutheran Church, Rice Lake, hosted by the Lakeview Medical Center Volunteer Partners. The State officers attending included Jan Molaska, President; Ginny Bosse, President Elect; Barb

Filla, Public Policy Education Chair and Sherry Jelic, Community Health Education Chair.

Jan Molaska spoke about the challenges in the healthcare industry and that members of Partners are committed to continuing to advocate for affordable healthcare for our community and support our hospitals.

Ginny Bosse reviewed the State Partners bylaws to attendees as updates were needed. The changes will be voted on at the annual convention in October. Barb Filla reported on advocacy contacts with legislators, being a member of HEAT and receiving the Valued Voice. Sherry Jelic spoke about the Opioid Epidemic and treating the disease.

The main speaker in the morning was Sheriff Chris Fitzgerald who gave a very interesting talk on the Methamphetamine Crisis. Following a delicious lunch, Trish Withal, ADRC Dementia Specialist provided tips for volunteers on how to interact and support guests and patients at our hospitals who are dealing with dementia. The West Central District business meeting was then conducted. Reports were given and Ann Bergmann, Cumberland Healthcare, volunteered to make up the district basket to be raffled at the State convention. Thank you, Ann! The 50/50 raffle ticket was then drawn. Tickets were sold for a lovely summer hat and purse, donated by President Jan Molaska, and the winning ticket drawn. Thanks to Jan for the donation. And of course, thank you to Lynn Koob, John Tully, DVS/Hospital Liaison Tammy Koger and the Lakeview Medical Center Volunteer Partners for hosting a successful district meeting.

**SUMMER PLANNING MEETING**

A Summer Planning and Leadership Meeting for West Central District was held on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital. Al hospital volunteer organizations except one were represented, with 13 present. The proposed budget for 2019 was approved by the group and will be presented for a vote at the September 11, 2018 Fall West Central District meeting hosted by the Sacred Heart Hospital Volunteer Partners. Schedules of futures meetings, future elections and schedules for the Nominating Committee were distributed. Discussions were held regarding the problems and successes of volunteer organizations, leadership, brainstorming and sharing information.

**PRESIDENTS REPORTS**

**PARTNERS OF HSHS ST. JOSEPH’S HOSPITAL - CHIPPEWA FALLS**

The three-fold purpose of the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital is to bring volunteer services to patients and visitors, raise funds for Hospital use and promote greater community interest and understanding of the Hospital.

Our most recent fundraising event was the 47th annual Charity Ball held on May 19, 2018, with a theme of Cead Mile Failce (One Hundred Thousand Welcomes to the British Iles). Funds raised will go toward the Partners’ $25,000 pledge to the Hospital for mental and behavioral health education and treatment. Over 200 guests, many in tasteful British Iles dress, descended upon the Avalon Hotel and Conference Center.

The Partners are committed to supporting St. Joseph’s Hospital and the Western Wisconsin Division in their ongoing efforts to provide community education and treatment related to mental and behavioral health, and at reducing the stigma that is too long associated with mental health. The most recent County Community Health Assessment revealed mental health, alcohol misuse and substance use are the top three health issues that need attention and intervention. Just as we expect and require rigorous medical care and compassion for broken bones, cancer, chronic health conditions and a myriad of other diagnoses, we must also demand the same level of care and attention for mental and behavioral health.

Jan Giedd, President

Partners of HSHS St. Joseph’s Hospital, Chippewa Valls

**CUMBERLAND HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEER PARTNERS - CUMBERLAND**

Summer doesn’t slow down our great volunteers! The Third Annual Volunteer Partner Garage Sale was held June 8 & 9. It was huge! Freshly baked cookies using our Otis Spunkmeyer oven were sold for 50 cents each, plus a regular bake sale. A volunteer crew will be selling brats out of Louie’s Brat Stand at Louie’s Finer Meats in Cumberland in July.

 In August all volunteers are invited to a social evening and brief business meeting to be held at Vermillion Lake hosted by three lake home owners who are also volunteers.

Where did the summer go?

Ann Bergmann, President, Cumberland Healthcare Volunteer Partners

Volunteer Coordinator - Cumberland Healthcare

**VOLUNTEER PARTNERS OF HSHS SACRED HEART HOSPITAL - EAU CLAIRE**

 Sacred Heart Hospital Volunteer Partners have been busy this spring.

A Red Cross Blood Drive was held in May, at which volunteers volunteered in registration and refreshments**.** Volunteers also assisted in a cardiac/stroke screening which was open to the public, and a Rehab Reunion luncheon for former patients on the rehab floor. An Advanced Directives Seminar was held on June 4, 2018 which was open to the public. It was informative and a great opportunity for people to get questions answered concerning their future healthcare wishes.

We are also preparing for the fall district meeting, lining up speakers and making preparations. We look forward to many of you attending on September 11, 2018.

This fall we will be hosting a social for all volunteer partners at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital. We have several entertainment venues scheduled. We are anticipating a fun afternoon that will give us the opportunity to enjoy some camaraderie with other volunteer partners.

Sandy Gobler, 2017/18 President,

Volunteer Partners of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire

**PARTNERS OF OSCEOLA MEDICAL CENTER - OSCEOLA**

In November a Vendor Fair was held, which was the most successful ever held. The Partners participated in Herberger’s Community Day Sale and decorated the facility for the holidays. The Partners also contributed toys and games to the local Toys for Tots, awarded three scholarships and contributed to the Pennies for Leukemia Patients Drive. It was reported the Gift Shop had the best year ever in 2017.

Osceola Medical Center recently installed a new Athena Health Electronic Medical Records system so our Partners’ members who volunteer at the Concierge Desk have been very busy helping patients and staff navigate the new system. We also are working hard at various fundraising projects to fulfill the commitments we made to fund several mini-grant requests from the staff. Another project we are working is updating our Bylaws/Constitution and perhaps making some changes to our organization’s operations.

JoAnn Kuntz. President

Partners of Osceola Medical Center, Osceola

**VOLUNTEER PARTNERS OF RIVER FALLS AREA HOSPITAL - RIVER FALLS**

Volunteer Partners of River Falls Area Hospital no longer have a Board of Directors. The contact people are Erin Jennings, Director of Volunteer Services and Donna Miller. Erin and Donna attended the West Central District Summer Planning meeting held on June 21, 2018 at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire.

**ST. CROIX REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER VOLUNTEER PARTNERS - ST. CROIX FALLS**

The Board of Directors status was dissolved in favor of a council. Meetings were changed to every other month and those who are currently working on a project attend the meetings to report on the status, to ask for funding and to hear about other projects that are being done. This seems to be working very well and eliminates asking members to commit to two year terms as well as attending a board of directors meeting every month. Times are different and “as volunteers (or Super Hero’s)” we are all busy doing other things. It is working well for us as members come prepared to the meeting thus making for a shorter meeting.

A pamphlet covering “everything you would ever want to know about opioids”, which was the suggestion of Carolyn Ward, CHE Chair, and developed by the Marketing Department and Head Pharmacist, is available for patients and community to be informed consumers.

Because the council felt the mission and project of the Polk County Health Task Force align with the WHA State direction of the Opioid Epidemic, we made a donation to St. Croix Regional Medical Center so they could increase their matching grant to the GiveBIG effort.

Kathy Lucken, Representative,

St. Croix Regional Medical Center Volunteer Partners

**PARTNERS WITH OUR LADY OF VICTORY HOSPITAL - STANLEY**

We are happy to say that we are still “afloat”! Our current treasurer has consented to continue until spring when our secretary will be retiring from work to take over the treasurer position, leaving the position of secretary to be filled. We are a very small group but do mighty work! At our May, 2018 meeting we voted to pay for the purchase of a bariatric wheelchair so the hospital can treat and keep a bariatric patient at our hospital rather than transfer them out! This is the last bariatric piece of equipment that was needed. We are now ready to consider our next purchase!

We gave two high school scholarships, in the amount of $500 each to a Thorp High School student and a Stanley Boyd student, plus one $500 scholarship to a hospital employee. We raised this last year from $300. Money for the scholarships comes from our annual book fair and sometimes from a pie sale or other fundraiser. Money for the purchase of items needed for the hospital but not covered in the budget comes from the Love Lights.

We are proud of what we do for our hospital even though our numbers are small! Our goal is to continue to be a Partners group as long a we can.

Donella Chiristianson, President

Partners with our Lady of Victory Hospital - Stanley

**COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION REPORT**

***Working together to Fight the Opioid & Illicit Drug Epidemic***

The **OPIOID** crisis in 2017 in Wisconsin resulted in the deaths of 883 people more than were killed in car crashes in Wisconsin! In the United States almost 200 more people die every day from opioid overdose. The drug **NALOXNE (Narcan, Evizo)** is available in over 170 pharmacies in Wisconsin. This is the medication designed to rapidly reverse opioid overdose.

The federal government working with Wisconsin elected officials granted Wisconsin a two-year federal grant totaling **$15,273,876** to help this drug crisis. **$2.4** million of this grant funding was delivered to Wisconsin counties and tribes to support local prevention, treatment and recovery efforts in May 2018.

In our area and Northwestern Wisconsin the **METH MONSTER (methamphetamine)** seems to be the highly illegal drug that threatens to destroy more families and communities across Wisconsin. This is the number 1 problem in Barron County and may soon be the No. 1 drug across the state of Wisconsin.

The **METH fueled crimes** can be shocking and dangerous. These crimes are leading the higher medical costs and over-crowding in the jails.

The website for more about **methamphetamine** abuse, prevention and treatment is:

***knowmethwi.orgf***

Respectfully submitted by Bonnie Olson,

CHE Chair, West Central District

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**PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION REPORT**

Communication regarding the status and quality of healthcare in Wisconsin is critical and regularly available through “The Valued Voice”, a service of WHA through membership in HEAT (Hospitals, Education and Advocacy Team). While numerous areas of concern exist for healthcare, two primary areas are those of affordability and access to quality healthcare. The following is a brief summary of those issues and actions taken by the state of Wisconsin. For further detail, we suggest you review “The Valued Voice.”

By the year 2030, the Wisconsin population over age 65 is expected to double while almost 400 physicians plan to leave their practice. The Wisconsin Graduate medical Program has recently responded with a 13 million dollar grant program enacted with bipartisan support from Governor Walker and the Legislature to address this critical issue.

In February, 2018, Senate Bill 770 was enacted to keep local healthcare accessible and affordable by creating a State Reinsurance program to stabilize rising health insurance premiums in the individual health insurance market. The bill is in response to failure at the National level to address the issue.

Access in rural areas of the State to the expertise of specialists located anywhere in the country is being addressed through the concept of “Telemedicine.” These services are brought to the bedside or exam room to diagnose, monitor and treat patients. Over 75% of Wisconsin hospitals have implemented some form of Telemedicine to assure the expertise of a specialist can be available to hospitals and clinics in remote and rural areas of the State.

Bill McCullough, Public Policy Education Chair

West Central District

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 **CHANGES**

With Rice Lake Volunteer Partners no longer participating in the Partners of WHA, the district meeting schedule has changed, as follows:

 **SPRING FALL**

2019 - Chippewa Falls 2019 - River Falls

2020 - Cumberland 2020 - Stanley

2021 - Osceola 2021 - St. Croix Falls

**DISTRICT ROTATION FOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

2019 - Cumberland, St. Croix Falls & Osceola

2021 - Eau Claire & Stanley

2023 - Chippewa Falls & River Falls

**EDITORS’ INFORMATION**

Perhaps you have wondered what “HSHS” stands for on hospitals’ names. HSHS, the Hospital Sisters Health System, is a multi-institutional heath care system comprised of 15 hospitals and an integrated physician network across Illinois and Wisconsin, As the name implies, HSHS is a healing ministry guided by the historic mission of the Hospital Sisters of St Francis and at the same time, firmly grounded in modern best practices. A significant part of the mission is to reach beyond the walls of the hospital to provide benefits to the local communities, especially to those who are in need, are poor, uninsured or underinsured.

More information regarding The Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) can be found at http//www.hshs.org/home.aspx

*SILENT GIVING*

*It seems all news we hear today*

*Is bad as it can be,*

*But there are things that happen*

*With no publicity.*

*The good deeds done by many.*

*The gifts of food and toys,*

*The helping hands extended,*

*Bring many people joy.*

*If we could hear as much about*

*The good deeds done today,*

*We’d be surprised how big a part*

*Faith and love still play.*

*Good things happen all year round,*

*True givers seldom talk*

*Of things they’ve done to help someone*

*As in God’s way they walk.*

 *-Ruth G. Lockwood*