

SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Newsletter

November 2022



Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon

Monday, November 28, 12 pm

Maplecrest Manor
150 Douglas Street, Ripon

Come and enjoy a wonderful lunch prepared by the chefs at Maplecrest, visit with the residents, and enjoy entertainment by Casey Carney. Cost of the luncheon is \$10 and can be paid at the door.

RSVP to Diane Shady, program chairperson,
no later than Friday, **November 18, 2022**, by calling
920-539-2150 or by email at
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, Chairperson, Programs
kanddshady@gmail.com
920-539-2150

**A meaningful life is not being rich,
being popular, or being perfect.
It's about being real, being humble,
being able to share ourselves and
touch the lives of others.**

~Unknown

Message From The President

We have been having some beautiful fall days. We must enjoy them before winter comes. The brat fry fund-raisers are over until next spring, along with the mum and flower sales.

Jackie Halverson, Bobbie Pollesch, and I were able to attend the 2022 State Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association Convention at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells on Tuesday, October 11 and Wednesday, October 12. The theme was "Volunteers: Helping Hands, Touching Hearts." While the number of people attending was down compared to previous years, it still was informative and good to meet people from other areas and see what their hospitals have been able to do throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also interesting to hear what the hospital CEOs and presidents shared about their workforce, patient load, volunteers, etc. It was very similar to what Ripon Community Hospital has gone through the past couple of years.

We hosted the fall District Meeting on Tuesday, November 1 at the American Legion Hall in Green Lake. About 22 people registered.

We have been invited back to Maplecrest Manor for a luncheon on Monday, November 28 at 12 pm. It's always nice to spend time with some of the residents. More information is found in the newsletter.

Our annual Lights of Love will be held on December 8. We will only be selling lights in memory of loved ones for the tree outside of the hospital again this year. There will be no silent auction or formal program as the hospital is still limiting the number of people allowed in certain areas of the hospital.

We continue to have two openings on our Board which are the Public Policy Education and Community Health Education positions. Please contact a Board member if you have an interest in serving in these areas. We also continue to look for more volunteers to help in the gift shop and information desk areas of the hospital.

I hope you are all doing fine and wish you Happy and Healthy Holidays!

Julie Stellmacher, President

2022 Lights of Love



The annual Lights of Love fund-raiser has kicked off. By now, you should have received your materials in the mail. Please respond generously and share the extra brochures with others. Additional brochures are available at the greeter's station and in the gift shop. Proceeds will be used to fund the purchase of a cardiac ultrasound probe used by anesthesiologists to perform in-depth cardiac assessments prior to surgery. It can also be used in the emergency department to quickly evaluate life-threatening injuries.

We won't be having a tree lighting event again this year, but the tree will still be lit on December 8 with white and colored lights shining in memory of or in honor of loved ones. The names of these individuals will be published in the Ripon Commonwealth Press.

The raffle has been discontinued for lack of interest among our members. It is a lot of work, and since many of our other fund-raisers have been successful, the board decided to eliminate this one.

Bobbie Pollesch, Chairperson, Lights of Love

What's New at SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital

By DeAnn Thurmer, President, 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.

DAISY Award Recipient

Dakota Franke, RN, Medical/Surgical, has been named a DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses winner at SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital. The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses® is part of The DAISY Foundation's mission to recognize the extraordinary, compassionate nursing care they provide patients and families every day.

The DAISY Foundation is a not-for-profit organization, established in memory of J. Patrick Barnes by members of his family. Patrick died at the age of 33 in late 1999 from complications of Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP), a little known but not uncommon auto-immune disease. (DAISY is an acronym for Diseases Attacking the Immune System.) The care Patrick and his family received from nurses while he was ill inspired this unique means of thanking nurses for making a profound difference in the lives of their patients and patient families.

Franke was nominated by a patient's family member who was very complementary of his ability to calm an agitated family member.

"We learned that an amazing young man had taken the time to be compassionate and clear and understanding. Dakota explained clearly what was happening and why it was important to stay a few more days to avoid an unnecessary surgical procedure. Dakota had earned our loved one's trust and respect putting him at ease - not always easy to do!" The patient passed away peacefully the next morning, and the family is forever grateful to Dakota for making the patient's last day peaceful and relaxing.



Day Stabilization Services

SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital will become the first hospital in Wisconsin and the first SSM Health facility to offer a mental health outpatient day stabilization unit. Opening later this year, the unit will offer assistance, services, and support for up to 23 hours to individuals experiencing mental health crises.

This new service is supported by a \$158,000 Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Grant from the Department of Administration (DOA), on behalf of the State of Wisconsin. In late September, representatives from SSM Health, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital, and the State of Wisconsin came together to celebrate the innovative new program with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours of the new Day Stabilization Services area. Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers joined the celebration.

Employees, providers, and referral partners also participated in personalized tours of the unit in late October and early November in preparation for opening.

Joint Commission Survey

Ripon Community Hospital completed a successful three-day clinical review in mid-October by The Joint Commission and did exceedingly well. Waupun Memorial Hospital had surveyors on-site the same days. A few weeks later, a life safety engineer surveyor conducted a successful visit in Ripon, which completes the process. The successful visit was a direct result of leadership from Lecia Huenik, regulatory specialist, as well as the many participants who showcased our excellent patient care, collegial environment, and positive culture.

New Pharmacy Manager

Since October 17, Narendra Kuber has been serving as the new director of Pharmacy for Ripon Community Hospital and Waupun Memorial Hospital. Kuber comes to SSM Health from the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, where he served as director of Pharmacy overseeing pharmacy services at 38 correctional facilities. Narendra has a diverse pharmacy background including experiences in institutional, long-term care, 340b, and community pharmacy practice.

Patient Experience

Ripon Community Hospital leaders are starting leading rounding for all inpatients. While nursing has been visiting inpatients for their input, rounding will also include hospitality, therapies, plant operations, lab, etc. to create a more inclusive team and look at the patient experience from all angles.

Volunteer News and Notes

Greetings Auxilians, we hope everyone is staying safe, warm, and healthy as the days start growing shorter and colder. We can't believe it, but the holidays are already just around the corner. Volunteer Services is just wrapping up with this year's annual education for those that also volunteer. Thank you to everyone that has completed and returned the information to us, we really appreciate it!

We are also approaching SSM Health's due date for on-site volunteer flu vaccinations. Those that volunteer on-site at the hospital have until Friday, November 18 to receive their yearly flu immunization and complete their flu and tuberculosis surveys in ReadySet. Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or any other member of volunteer services if you would like a hand completing these items in ReadySet. We understand this program can be difficult to use and are always happy to help anyone that requests additional assistance. Please note these requirements do not apply to individuals that only belong to the Auxiliary or those that only volunteer off-site such as mobile meals volunteers.

Volunteer Services continues to focus on recruitment efforts in the Greater Fond du Lac area so if you have any friends or family interested in volunteering, please encourage them to reach out to us. We currently have openings at the gift store, information desk, and mobile meals.

Thank you all for everything you do for Ripon Community Hospital and the local community. On behalf of the entire volunteer services team, we wish you all a joyful and blessed upcoming holiday season!

Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Coordinator
Ripon Community Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital
Jason.Blonigen@SSMHealth.com
920-745-3670

Treasurer's Report

Financial Report, September 30, 2022

The financial report on September 30, 2022, is for the first three months of our fiscal year. Our fund-raising efforts the first three months were very successful. Net proceeds from the Mum Sale were \$2,116 plus \$68 in donations, the Candy Bar Sale will net \$930 when all candy bars are sold, and we received \$762 from round-up at the Piggly Wiggly in Markesan. We also had our first Brat Fry fundraiser since COVID-19 shut everything down. We made \$417 after expenses plus \$76 in tips.

Gift shop sales are a still little slower than we had hoped. Traffic in the hospital is somewhat limited and staffing of the gift shop is an issue, so we are not open as much as we would like.

We donated \$7,705 for the purchase of a cardiac ultrasound probe for Ripon Community Hospital. Donations received for the Lights of Love fund-raiser have been earmarked for this and we used other fund-raising money to make up the difference.

We had \$35,108.94 in cash at the end of September. So, we have the funds to support the needs of Ripon Community Hospital as they are identified and provide scholarships in the spring.

**SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary
Treasurer's Report
Three Months Ended September 30, 2022**

	Three Month Actual	Annual Budget
INCOME		
Fund-Raising	\$ 6,865.11	\$ 24,860.00
Donations	144.10	100.00
Membership Dues	280.00	450.00
Gift Shop Sales	4,748.95	26,335.00
Total Income	\$ 12,038.16	\$ 51,745.00
EXPENSES		
Fund-Raising Expenses	\$ 3,834.72	\$ 9,275.00
Sewing Supplies	-	-
Luncheons - Net	18.00	320.00
State Conventions/District Meetings	245.00	1,250.00
Organization Expenses	56.40	225.00
Gift Shop Expenses	2,281.12	16,462.00
Total Expenses	\$ 6,435.24	\$ 27,532.00
Net Income Before Distributions	\$ 5,602.92	\$ 24,213.00
DISTRIBUTIONS		
Scholarships	-	3,000.00
Donations for RCH	7,705.00	14,708.00
Total Distributions	\$ 7,705.00	\$ 17,708.00
Net Income After Distributions	\$ (2,102.08)	\$ 6,505.00
CASH BALANCES	\$ 35,108.94	

Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer

Membership

Our membership, like others across the state, has been in decline. This is the result of covid and our aging volunteers. So, as of now we have 32 dedicated members. If you know of anyone who might be interested in volunteering, please invite them to consider joining us! In the meantime, thanks to all of you for continuing to help Ripon Community Hospital be an asset to our community.

Jackie Halverson, Chairperson, Membership

Public Policy Education

Why Join HEAT?

As the leading voice on health care in Wisconsin, WHA's **Hospitals Education & Advocacy Team (HEAT)** is the statewide network designed to facilitate YOUR grassroots involvement in health care public policy. The HEAT program provides you with the information, strategy, and assistance you need to share your insight on how legislative issues impact hospitals and the communities they serve.



Stay informed of the issues and join thousands of others in making the voice of Wisconsin hospitals heard loud and clear. Sign-up for HEAT today to receive:

- Action alerts, called **HEAT Alerts**, on important, timely public policy facing the Governor, State Legislature, or Congress that could impact Wisconsin hospitals and health care in the state.
- An invitation to WHA's annual **Advocacy Day** where you will join more than 1,100 hospital administrators, employees, trustees, volunteers, physicians, patients, and others passionate about protecting Wisconsin's high-quality, high-value health care system as they lobby in the state Capitol.
- Periodic **public policy updates** keeping you informed of the status and progress of legislative priorities.
 - **Election resources** so you know where your candidates stand on health care issues.



Be an advocate and speak up! Sign-up for HEAT Alerts to receive notifications on legislative action alerts and important public policy updates at <https://www.wha.org/HEAT-SignUp>.

More information available at: <https://www.wha.org/actioncenter>

Vacant, Chairperson, Public Policy Education

Community Health Education

Common Infectious Diseases - Shingles

Shingles: Also known as Herpes Zoster, Shingles is a viral infection caused by the same virus that causes chicken pox (varicella zoster). It is not the same varicella virus that causes cold sores and genital herpes. If you have had chicken pox, the virus lies dormant in nerve tissue near the brain and spinal cord. If the virus is reactivated, Shingles occurs, lasting two to six weeks.

Symptoms: The most common symptom of Shingles is a painful, burning rash of blisters, usually on one side of the body (torso) but it can present itself around the eye, face, or neck. The rash usually crusts over in seven to 10 days. Other symptoms include itching, sensitivity to touch, headache, fever, chills, fatigue, upset stomach, and light sensitivity.

Risk Factors: Shingles is most common in people over the age of 50 years, those with a weakened immune system such as HIV/AIDS, those undergoing cancer treatment, and individuals with long-term use of certain medications such as steroids or to prevent transplant rejection. A contagious person with Shingles can pass the virus to anyone not immune to chicken pox. That person could then develop chicken pox.

Diagnosis: Generally speaking, diagnosis is made based upon the clinical presentation of signs and symptoms. However, PCR testing (polymerase chain reaction) can be done for an atypical presentation. Swabbing of the blisters is another means of testing for the shingles virus.

Treatment: Prompt treatment is key to early recovery and preventing complications. There are a variety of medications used to treat Shingles depending on the severity. Antiviral medications include Acyclovir (Zovirax), Famciclovir (Famvir), and Valacyclovir (Valtrex). To help relieve pain, other medications may be prescribed: Capsaicin (Qutenza), Gabapentin (Neurontin), tricyclic antidepressants, codeine, lidocaine in spray, gel, cream or patch form, and corticosteroids. For less

severe pain, Tylenol or Ibuprofen can be taken. Cool compresses and colloidal oatmeal baths may also help to sooth the discomfort.

Complications: The most common complication of Shingles is post-herpetic neuralgia. Other complications that can occur are vision loss, encephalitis, facial paralysis, hearing or balance problems, bacterial skin infections.

Prevention: The CDC recommends several steps in preventing the occurrence and spread of the Shingles virus.

1. Vaccination: Shingrix- recommended for people 50+ years whether having had Shingles. Two doses.
2. Stay away from pregnant women (no vaccine/no chickenpox), newborns, those with weakened immune system.
3. Cover the rash; avoid touching or scratching the lesions.
4. Wash your hands often.

<https://www.partnersofwha.org/copy-of-health-education>

Vacant, Chairperson, Community Health Education

2022 Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association Annual Convention

The 2022 Wisconsin State Partners Convention was held from October 11-13 at the Chula Vista Resort and Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells. The theme for the event was “Volunteers: Helping Hands Touching Hearts.” A face-to-face convention had not been held in two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was great to be together again, able to communicate and see one another! It was a smaller group compared to before COVID-19, with about 150 people attending. Attending this year’s event were Jackie Halverson, Bobbie Pollesch, and Julie Stellmacher.

The resort offered a pleasing venue with wonderful food and the staff providing us with a great experience. We had some outstanding keynote and closing speakers, an exceptional CEO panel and 11 interesting workshops. There was also the installation of new state officers. Our Auxiliary was one out of 23 to receive Honor Point recognition. It’s always nice to receive this recognition for our efforts. I personally found it very interesting talking to people from other hospitals about their fund-raising efforts, the number of volunteers they have and their relationships with their hospitals. You can always bring something of benefit back to your local group.

Next year’s convention is scheduled on October 3-5, 2023, at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center. We are looking forward to another exciting and interesting event!

Julie Stellmacher, President



Fall 2022 Lakes District Meeting

The 2022 fall Lakes District Meeting was hosted by the Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary on Tuesday, November 1 at the American Legion Hall in Green Lake. We were supposed to host the 2023 Spring District Meeting but were asked to exchange spots with St. Vincent's Hospital. They were unable to host the fall meeting. With a group of very hard-working people, we were able to host a successful event.

There were 22 people in attendance from Calumet Medical Center Auxiliary, Bellin Advisory Council, Ascension Mercy Hospital Volunteers, Volunteers of Theda Care Medical Center-Waupaca, and Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary. DeAnn Thurmer, RCH president, welcomed everyone and participated in much of our discussions. Lois Kreeger, Lakes District Chair, conducted the business meeting. There was good discussion and interaction among people regarding fundraising, scholarships, volunteer hours, etc. Everyone was so able to be together and see one another again.

Tiffany Parker, from the RCH Day Stabilization Services unit, spoke to the group about the new department and what it has to offer people coming in with mental health issues. It is an exciting new service and very much needed. Our hospital is the first one in the State of Wisconsin to be able to offer this to our patients.

It was an enjoyable, interesting, and very beneficial day spent with everyone in attendance.

Julie Stellmacher, President



Gift Shop

What a beautiful fall we had! The colors were amazing. But with the changing of the leaves and the seasons, we are also making changes in the gift shop. Christmas has arrived! We are now ready for the next season. We have Christmas signs, Christmas gnomes, snowmen, candles, towels, gloves, scarves, and fleece lined wool mittens (NOTE: if anyone has any wool sweaters that they no longer want, please feel free to drop them off at the gift shop).

We are running our current promotion, a mystery gift box worth \$50. Anyone who makes a purchase can enter to win this prize to be drawn on November 17, 2022. After that, we are giving anyone who makes a jewelry purchase a one-of-a-kind drawstring gift bag.

We hope you will stop in to browse our Christmas collection and check out the fall items that are now on sale.

Jeanne Payton, Chairperson, Gift Shop



Fund-Raising Opportunities

Thank you to all who made our fund-raisers a **success** this year!

Upcoming Events

Lights of Love

Promote selling tree lights in honor or memory of loved ones.

Flower Basket Sale

A flower basket sale will be held at Ripon Community Hospital in May 2023. Radene Abel, Chairperson

Brat Fry Fund-Raisers 2023

Two brat fry fund-raisers will be held at Websters Market Place in summer 2023. Pat Albright, Chairperson

Fall Mum Sale

The fall mum sale will be held at Ripon Community Hospital in September 2023. Radene Abel, Chairperson

Candy Bar Sales

Ongoing sales of Vande Walle's Candy Bars. 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 to sell candy bars can call Georgia at 920-346-5607.

Cash Register Roundups

Contacting Ace Hardware in Ripon, Piggly Wiggly in Markesan, and Crossroads in Green Lake to be part of their roundup programs.

Please contact a board member if you have new ideas for fund raisers.

Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fund-Raising

Julie



Barb



Bobbie



Mary

*Wishing You A
Happy Holiday
Season*



Jeanne



Georgia



Diane



Jackie

The Board



Pat



Jason



Radene

RCH Auxiliary Board

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