

Western District Spring Newsletter
Spring 2023

Happy Spring! As I compose this newsletter the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and tulips and daffodils are peeking their noses up out of the earth. Spring is certainly in the air today, despite the display of extreme weather Mother Nature has given us these past few weeks. We look forward to moving into the season of spring and the opportunities to wake us from our winter lives and renew our interest and energy in our local, district, and state organizations. I am excited to continue to plan events that will bring us together to continue to rebuild and redesign our support and assistance of the health systems we represent. Many of us in our local groups are struggling with membership, finding volunteers, and developing leaders. Very similar to the issues the health systems we represent are facing. What can we do to inspire, encourage, and motivate others to step up or want to join us in our cause?

As I contemplate this question myself, a local member, and your district chair I find myself looking back and remembering those who have inspired me to be a part of my local organization and those who motivated and supported me to step into leadership on the district level. I have been given so much and received more than I have given, I have met amazing individuals who inspire me with their passion, creativity, kindness, and goodness. I have not felt overwhelmed or burdened. I think when we focus on our own purpose and how we can bring good to the world and our organizations we find we all have something to give.

The challenges we all face are real, but I am confident we will grow through these times and come out stronger! I encourage all of you to look inside and see what you can give to support our Western District. We are a large district and a very active one, I am so proud of each of you and all that you do. Please plan to attend all of some of the wonderful activities planned this year and maybe you will find that inspiration you need, just like looking out my window today.

Advocacy Day:

It is back and in person this year! Advocacy Day is designed to educate and motivate healthcare employees, trustees, and volunteers on important health care-related issues to encourage grassroots advocacy opportunities. The keynote speakers this year are Governor Jim Doyle and Governor Tommy Thompson. It also includes a luncheon address by Governor Tony Evers.

This event is free, and you must register to attend. This year's event is April 19, 2023, at the Monona Terrace in Madison. Please plan to attend this wonderful event.

Spring Western District Meeting:

The Western District Spring Meeting is Tuesday April 25, 2023, at the Waterfront Restaurant in Lacrosse, WI. Our hosts are the Gundersen Partners. Registration deadline is Friday April 14.

Invitations have been sent out and please encourage your local organization members to attend. Any questions please contact me or Sheila Erickson at 608.775.3602 or email her at sgericks@gundersenhealth.org.

State Fall Convention:

Our 2023 Convention is being planned for October 3-5, 2023, in Steven Point, WI at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center. The theme of the conference is "Today's Dreams-Tomorrow Reality". More information will be coming but share this with your groups for planning! It promises to be a great conference! A reminder that convention basket for this will be

Western District Fall Meeting:

The fall district meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2023 and is being planned by our Lancaster Partners. More information will be shared closer to the event.

Wave Award:

Wave Award deadline is June 9, 2023. Please look at the incredible things that you do in your locals and submit a nomination or resubmit. The categories are: community service, fundraising, in service, community outreach and/or collaboration, and public policy and advocacy. You can access more information and the registration form on the www.partnersofwha.org. Any question please contact Pat Freeders at pat.freeders@gmail.com.

Western District Officer Nominations:

The Western District has the following nomination for officers for 2023-2024:

District Chair-Donna Nelson (2nd Term)

District Chair elect

District Secretary-Ellen Zwirlien

District Treasurer-Patricia Franks

I encourage you to share this with your local groups, we are still in need to a District Chair Elect. Please consider assisting us in stepping into this position. This position is an opportunity to be mentored for two years to learn the role of the district chair. In addition, once you become the district chair you have the guidance and direction of the outgoing chair to assist you as well. No fears, I am serious, only support. Our district is strong and active, please consider this opportunity. We will be accepting nominations from the floor at our Spring Meeting on 4/25/2023.

Looking forward to a wonderful spring and seeing all of you soon!

Donna Nelson