

Partners of WHA
Fall Meeting
October 6, 2025
President-Elect Report

Fall has arrived with its sense of renewal and commitment after a summer filled the lazy days and fun. We have been focused on sharing the value of Partners with leaders, volunteer coordinators and the members of our organization.

It is my pleasure to work with District Chairs. At the March Spring Board Meeting District Chairs and Board members participated in an interactive exercise to identify strengths, challenges, and needed support for district organizations and the locals they serve. Strengths included dedicated volunteers who demonstrate positive attitudes and care and concern for others, Local groups within districts are eager to share specific activities and programs that are valued by the healthcare organization and patients, and strong leadership.

Challenges include having consistent and timely communication, developing an effective onboarding process for new volunteers that includes sharing the importance of Partners to the local and district organizations, developing new and different fundraising projects, providing training for completing Partners annual forms, attracting younger volunteers, and the need for consistent administrative support for volunteer programs and Partners.

Strategies to support groups and/or individuals to address the challenges include development of materials to share with districts and locals regarding the importance and value of Partners to hospitals, provide annual conference programming that aligns with member preferences and needs, local membership appreciates Partners district and state leadership attending their events and interacting with the group, revise/simplify required forms and explain the value of the information, and offer webinars to share information on specific topics that includes networking opportunities.

In response to these requests/suggestions an article on the characteristics and value of networking was published in Reaching Out. The District Chair session at the fall board meeting will focus on Partners forms and offer suggestions for completion and offer an opportunity for questions. **November 5, 2025 at 1:00 PM, there will be an online Teams listening session for Partners' members. Leigh Ann Larson will send out an invitation and link to join the meeting. If you have specific requests for discussion items, please email them to me at clhermel@hotmail.com by October 30, 2025.**

Thank you for your enthusiastic involvement of Partners and for your volunteer support for your hospitals and communities!

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Hermel