**Northwestern District**

**Spring 2019 Newsletter**

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***Messages from the Northwestern District Chair* Ginny Bosse – Flambeau Hospital Auxiliary, Park Falls**

As I start writing this newsletter, I am waiting for the snow to start falling in yet another predicted winter storm. The wind has been crazy all afternoon, and I am hoping that the wind will shift a huge branch that has broken off from an evergreen tree, but is stuck in its other branches, enough that its weight will finally make it fall to the ground. That would be the silver lining in this cloudy afternoon. I would be able to stop worrying that it would fall on me when the yard is snow-free and I can walk down to the river again. I wish all of you a silver lining to all of your clouds, as well!

***2018 in Review***

On Tuesday-Thursday, March 19-21st, the Partners of WHA Board and Executive, Finance, Strategic Planning, Bylaws, and Membership (District Chairs) Committees will meet in Madison at the WHA Headquarters. My written report will contain the following information about our Northwestern District:

There are six Partners groups in the Northwestern District: Ashland’s Partners of Memorial Medical Center with 110 members, Hayward Hospital Auxiliary also with 110 members, Partners of Marshfield Medical Center-Ladysmith with 252 members, Park Falls’ Flambeau Hospital Auxiliary with 150 members, Volunteer Partners of Spooner Health with 60 members, and Essentia Health-St. Mary’s Hospital-Superior Auxiliary with 120 members. In 2018, the Northwestern District’s 802 members during some of their 42,988 volunteer hours did 47 fundraising projects that raised the funds to give their hospitals $86,314.08 and give 49 scholarships totaling $38,950.00. In addition, our members and our communities learned about health through 67 health education programs or projects and 26 newsletter articles. Our members learned about legislative issues through 22 public policy newsletter articles. They used that knowledge while making 207 contacts with legislators, and 11 members attended Advocacy Day. I feel very proud to be representing the Northwestern District as your District Chair. Give yourselves a pat on the back!

Because the Partners Board will meet between the writing of this newsletter and our Northwestern District’s spring meeting, I will have a Partners Board report then.

***2019 Spring Tour Northwestern District Meeting***

Tuesday, April 2nd, is the date of our Spring Tour Northwestern District Meeting, hosted by the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital Auxiliary at Water’s Edge Care Center at Hayward Area Memorial Hospital. Each Partners group should have received the invitation/registration form by now. Please encourage your members to attend in order to meet, or get to know better, Partners of WHA President Jan Molaska, President-Elect Peg Larson, state CHE Ron Williams, and state CHE Sherry Jelic. The proposed Partners of WHA Bylaws will be further explained. I used the word explained because it means “to make plain and comprehensible” “define” “serve as a reason or cause or justification of”. District meetings also provide time for us to showcase our own Partners group in the afternoon when we share with each other what our groups have accomplished, and what they have planned. Please remember to bring 11 copies of your Partners group’s report. It is a great way to share your group’s successes and learning experiences. It is a waste of time to re-invent the wheel, so to speak, and it’s not nice to be stingy. Share your ideas, whether they turned out to be good ideas or bad ones. Other groups can use your good ideas, maybe tweak them for their situation, and be successful, too. There’s also no sense in another group re-inventing a square wheel (a plan or idea that didn’t work for your group). If you tell about your not-so-successful experiences, others can either avoid doing the same thing, or figure out a way that will work for them!

Please send your registrations to Ann Kozak/Denise Williams as soon as possible! Whether you are sending your group’s registration check or bringing it with you, please remember that each group also needs to contribute $20.00 for the Northwestern District basket for the raffle at the Partners of WHA Convention. (The Convention will be held at the Red Lion (formerly Paper Valley) Hotel in Appleton on Tuesday-Thursday, October 1-3, 2019). Separate checks made out to HAMH-Auxiliary (Hayward Area Memorial Hospital Auxiliary) with notations on the Memo lines, would be appreciated.

***From the February 2019 Reaching Out newsletter:***

Partners of Rusk County Memorial Hospital – Ladysmith:

This past summer, Rusk County Memorial Hospital became Marshfield Medical Center – Ladysmith and they look forward to the opportunities this partnership will give to the community and hospital. Certain steps for active Partners will be required to carry over their roles to the Marshfield Clinic Health System. Carolyn Welsch, volunteer coordinator, will be in this position.

***Our NW District Leadership:***

Northwestern District’s officer terms end at the Northwestern District Spring Tour meeting in even numbered years. In other words, next April! Here’s where we stand: For elected officers, we are down to two: our Secretary/Treasurer is Linda Fish, and I am the Chair. We have had no Chair-Elect since August of 2016. The positions of district CHE and PPE are appointed. Beth Burnham is our district’s CHE. However, no one volunteered to be PPE, so I volunteered myself to keep our district in good standing. I do not believe that a person serving in a volunteer organization has to find their own replacement! You need to know that I will not be doing that!

All local and district officers’ responsibilities are spelled out in the Partners of WHA handbook, which every local president has, as are those of the CHE and PPE. The duties of CHE and PPE are to provide a newsletter article for each of the three newsletters each year, give a report at each of the two district meetings, and do a district compilation/report from the local CHE and PPE reports for Partners. Each new Partners President chooses a health issue for their two-year term. The PPE usually reports on current public policy issues at the state and national level. The Partners of WHA quarterly newsletter Reaching Out is a great resource and can be downloaded from [www.partnersofwha.org](http://www.partnersofwha.org). All issues 2008-present are available for download. Becoming NW District Chair-Elect now would give the person a full year to “learn the ropes” by working with me and by attending next spring’s Partners Board meeting with me as a guest. There are only two Board meetings scheduled each year. In the spring, the meeting is held at the WHA headquarters in Madison. In the fall, it is held at the site of that year’s Annual Meeting and Convention. If you have any questions, email or call me.

***Mary Licht Scholarships***

Last year, the Mary Licht Scholarship program was created shortly after Mary’s death. The scholarships pay recipients’ Partners Convention registrations. Donations from Board and Committee members, as well as from WHA, totaled $600.00, enough for four scholarships which go to members who have not previously attended a Partners Convention. Two were given out last year, and two will be given out this year. I believe that President Jan Molaska will talk about the scholarships at all the district meetings and will have copies of the application form with her. So, if you have people who have never attended a Partners Convention, but would like to this fall, they can apply and may be one of the lucky two.

***A Message from the Northwestern District CHE Chair***

Beth Burnham – Partners of Spooner Health, Spooner

Hi everyone. I want to focus this report on an overview of the Mental Health issue as it pertains to our state and in particular Northern Wisconsin. Nationwide, the whole area of mental health care has been sorely neglected. Just recently an article in the Eau Claire Leader Telegram reported the dramatic lack of psychiatrists mainly in the counties north of Eau Claire, and that means no providers for patients needing care. This means that for people requiring treatment there are longer wait times, long trips to seek care and even lack of treatment for some, according to their findings. This is a mental health crisis according to mental health officials. I think that this is such an important topic for us to be covering because most of us know of someone who has been or is now struggling with this illness. We can help by keeping educated on this issue and support our hospitals and clinics as they work to provide more and better prevention and treatment. There is a lot to cover over the next year, and in the next newsletter I will report on one of the most well known mental illnesses - Depression.

The other topic that I would like to mention is Vaccinations. It is important to make sure that you are current on these. The two main ones are the flu shot and the Shingles vaccine. The Shingles vaccine is in addition to one you may have already gotten, but check with your providers as there has been a shortage in some areas. Also check with your insurance provider for coverage. It is important that we protect ourselves from these illnesses if we can. That is all for now.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Burnham, NW District Community Health Chair

***A Message from the Northwestern District PPE Chair***

Ginny Bosse – Flambeau Hospital Auxiliary, Park Falls

I hope to see many of you in Madison on Wednesday, April 17th, for WHA’s Advocacy Day. Advocacy Day is both a day to advocate for healthcare in Wisconsin and an educational opportunity. There is always an excellent keynote speaker who informs participants about the process of advocacy, the current political climate, or the “Issues of the Day”. This year’s keynote speaker will be Tommy Thompson, former Wisconsin Governor and President George W. Bush's Secretary of Health and Human Services. There will also be a four-person Legislative Panel, consisting of two State Senators and two Assemblypersons who represent both the Democratic and Republican Parties. It is a chance to hear their positions “straight from the horses’ mouths”. WHA President Eric Borgerding moderates the panel. Governor Tony Evers is invited to speak after lunch. After lunch, there is an Issues Update, when the issues WHA wishes us to include in our conversations with our legislators or their staff that afternoon.

Wisconsin runs on a biennial state budget, and 2019 is a year that a new 2-year budget must be approved. It will be a particularly interesting, and possibly contentious, process this year, with a Democrat governor and Republican majorities in both the state Senate and Assembly. Simply watching this “interesting” situation will do nothing to help get the healthcare, public education, and other funding we want and need for ourselves, our families, and the rest of Wisconsin’s citizens. We must advocate by communicating our views to our legislators. We can do this in many ways: emails, letters, phone calls, face-to-face meetings. Because there is the most two-way communication in face-to-face meetings, they have the most impact. If a person can develop relationships with their representatives, by frequent phone calls and visits (in Madison or back home), their “voice” will have more clout! So remember to be keeping in touch!

***News from around the Northwestern District***

Because this newsletter is coming out so close to the Spring Tour Northwestern District meeting, I did not request news from each president. Instead, Presidents, write those President’s Reports and bring and bring 12 copies with you to the meeting on April 2nd. Give them to the other five presidents, the four Partners guests, and one each to Linda Fish and me. That leaves you one copy for you to keep and you won’t have to have your group’s report-out memorized!

**NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT OFFICERS 4/2018-4/2020**

**CHAIR** **CHAIR-ELECT** **SECRETARY/TREASURER** Ginny Bosse Vacant Linda Fish

1360 Boettcher Ave. 1205 11th Ave. West

Park Falls, WI 54552 Ashland, WI 54806 715-762-3193 715-292-6566

[gbosse@live.com](mailto:gbosse@live.com) [rolnfish@charter.net](mailto:rolnfish@charter.net)

**CHE** **PPE**

Beth Burnham Ginny Bosse

N2579 Willow Trail 1360 Boettcher Rd.

Shell Lake, WI 54871 Park Falls, WI 54552

715-468-2524 715-762-3193 [betheburnham@hotmail.com](mailto:betheburnham@hotmail.com) [gbosse@live.com](mailto:gbosse@live.com)

**LOCAL PRESIDENTS as of 3/10/2019**

**ASHLAND** **HAYWARD** **LADYSMITH**

Linda Fish Denise Williams Bev Lazar

1205 11th Ave. W W411 Southfork Rd.

Ashland, WI 54806 Hayward, WI 54843 Hawkins, WI 54530

715-292-6566 715-634-0212 715- 492-6572

[rolnfish@charter.net](mailto:rolnfish@charter.net) [deniseonround@gmail.com](mailto:deniseonround@gmail.com) [lazar\_beverly@yahoo.com](mailto:lazar_beverly@yahoo.com)

Term expires 1/2020 Term expires 1/15/2020 Term Expires 1/2020

PARK FALLS SPOONER SUPERIOR

Vacant Beth Burnham Patti Francisco

N2579 Willow Trail 4285 E Booker Rd.

Shell Lake, WI 54871 Superior, WI 54880

715-468-2524 715-394-4470

[betheburnham@hotmail.com](mailto:betheburnham@hotmail.com) [patty.francisco@essentiahealth.org](mailto:patty.francisco@essentiahealth.org) Term expires 12/31/19Term expires 6/30/19