

Southeastern District of Partners of WHA Newsletter September 2016



District Chair-Cindy Finger

Hello to all of you volunteers in our Southeastern District. It is hard to believe summer is over. Hopefully we will still have some warm weather.

We had a summer district leaders meeting in August and covered a lot of items. We approved our SE District budget, confirmed the district rotation schedule for hosting the spring and fall district meetings, and decided on a theme for our district basket at the convention.

We introduced our new District Community Health Chair, Wayne Pinnow. Welcome Wayne, we are happy to have you join our district board. Wayne's local organization is Oconomowoc Memorial Auxiliary.

In order to help increase our district treasury, it was voted by the leaders to hold a silent auction at our fall district meeting. Each organization will bring an item with a value of at least \$25.00 to auction off during the meeting. We hope it will also help us to mingle with each other at the meeting.

Please join me in congratulating the Volunteers in Partnership Community Memorial Hospital for winning the WAVE award in the Fundraising Category for 2106. They won with their cookie fundraiser. I can tell you as one who has visited their hospital on a Thursday that as soon as you step in the main entrance door, you are surrounded by the fragrance of warm cookies. I can see why it is so successful.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our convention in Appleton. There is a section in the newsletter to give you more information on the convention.

District Chair-Elect Barb Jamerson

Hello again to all of the volunteers in our Southeastern District. Cindy has asked me to share with you a bit about who I am and what I have done.

My husband and I reside in Oconomowoc, WI. We have four children and five grandchildren. I am a graduate of Marquette University, Milwaukee, with a B.S. in Organization and Leadership. I resigned from my position with GE Healthcare located in Menomonee Falls as a Global Product Manager in 2007. In 2008, my husband and I moved to Lancaster in Grant County, Wisconsin. I promptly became involved with the Grant Regional Health Center Auxiliary where I served as President. During our time in Lancaster, I also became active at the district level and served as District Community Health Ed Chair.

We returned to Waukesha County in December 2013. I became active in the Oconomowoc Memorial Auxiliary and currently serve on the Board of Directors. This past Spring I was installed as your Southeastern District Chair-Elect.

It truly is an honor to be a part of Cindy's team as she is doing an amazing job getting to know all of you and assessing the best path for leadership. If I can be of any assistance to you all, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Public Policy Education-Sharon Scott

When it comes to quality health care, Wisconsin is ranked among the best in the United States. According to the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Wisconsin is the third most highly rated state in the country for 2016. Rankings are based on nearly 200 measures that evaluate healthcare performances. Some of those evaluations include patient care satisfaction evaluation responses, fall incidence, re-admittance and pneumonia patients. Areas of extremely strong performances for Wisconsin are in the acute and chronic conditions as well as preventative care. Performance ratings are based on hospitals, nursing homes, home healthcare and hospice settings. An important aspect of this report is recognizing Wisconsin remains very consistent with its outstanding performances. Since 2006 Wisconsin has consistently ranked either first or second for 6 years and no lower than fourth in the other three years. This information has been provided by the Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.

It is nearly impossible to avoid all the chatter about this year's National Elections, but an important reminder from Jenny Boese, Vice President, Federal Affairs and Advocacy for WHA reminds each of us that there are important state level elections that will occur in November, too. These elections include the state representatives and state senators who will represent you in Madison. Please remember elections matter and participation is important...supporting candidates of both parties who value Wisconsin hospitals allows

for the continuation of WHA's integrated approach to advocacy through lobbying directly, H.E.A.T. and Advocacy Day activities.

Community Health Education –Wayne Pinnow

Facts and Myths of COPD

Everyone has heard of heart disease and cancer, and it's well known they're the top causes of death in the U.S. But what about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD? All too often, people have never heard of this lung disease, or they think it is rare or not serious. Nothing could be further from the truth. Still, the more you learn about COPD, the greater your chances of preventing it. In past generations, education and prevention efforts led to a drop in heart attacks-thank you, oatmeal for breakfast! In the same way, experts hope that as more people learn about COPD, fewer will actually get it.

COPD is rare. MYTH: The sad fact is COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the U.S. after heart disease, cancer and stroke. It turns out your lungs are a precious resource-just like your heart-and need to be taken care of.

COPD only strikes smokers. MYTH: The main cause of COPD is smoking, as well as exposure to secondhand smoke. But not everyone with COPD is a current or former smoker.

Shortness of breath is the main symptom. MYTH: People with COPD can also have coughing, wheezing, and a tight feeling in their chest, but shortness of breath is often the first sign.

COPD is incurable. FACT: COPD isn't curable, but it is treatable.

COPD only happens to older people. FACT: People are often diagnosed with COPD in their 50s and 60s.

Early diagnosis helps. FACT: It is crucial to catch COPD early to prevent more damage to the lungs.

Exercise is impossible if you have COPD. MYTH: Shortness of breath can make exercise more difficult. But exercise is an important part of treating COPD.

It is too late to quit smoking. MYTH: It is never too late to quit.

COPD only affects the lungs. MYTH: COPD can also cause high blood pressure and can increase your risk of heart disease.

2016 Partners of WHA Convention



By now all of you have registered for the Partners of WHA 2016 Convention to be held October 4-6 at the Radisson Paper Valley hotel in Appleton, Wisconsin.

The Western theme for the convention is "Kick Up Your Heels for Volunteers". You are invited to wear jeans, denim and western wear except for the dinner and installation of officers on Wednesday evening. On that evening dressy casual should

be worn.

Our Southeastern District leaders decided on a “Paper” theme for our SE district basket at the convention since we will be at the Paper Valley Hotel. Some of the ideas were seasonal paper decorations, adult coloring book and color pencils, wine or champagne (they have paper labels), chocolates (they come in paper boxes), and other good ideas. We have a reputation of a quality district basket, so we will work hard to make it happen again this year. Each of the local hospitals will contribute \$25 and Barb Jamerson and I will purchase the items and make the basket.

There will be bylaw changes to vote on at the convention. They are listed in the August issue of the “Reaching Out”. Each local organization has two votes at the convention. Please read the information in the “Reaching Out” to be ready to vote during the convention.

See you at the convention!

2016 Best of the Best Administrative Award Nominations Are In!

Report by Barb Jamerson- 2016 Best of the Best Chair

This year there were seven nominations for the Best of the Best Administrative Award. This award will be presented at our 2016 Partners of WHA Annual Convention to be held in Appleton, Wisconsin on the Wednesday evening, October 5, 2016.

It has been a thrill for me to learn about all of the wonderful contributions the leaders of our health care facilities throughout this State offer to their teams, volunteers, patients and communities in which they serve. A special thank you to all of you who took the time to share their accomplishments by submitting a nomination form.

I would also like to thank our wonderful Selection Committee members. They have made my job so easy by responding in such a timely manner! These members include our 2015 Best of the Best Administrative Award Recipient, David Gundstrom, now retired President and CEO of HSHS St. Joseph Hospital in Chippewa Falls, WI; Jackie Halverson, Ripon Medical Center Associates, Lake District; Dianne Schmidt, St. Mary’s Auxiliary Madison, southern district; and Diane Brown, Friends of Vernon Memorial Healthcare, Western District.

I would be remiss if I did not give an extra special thank you to Jennifer Frank of WHA for all of her coordination and guidance in this process.

See you at Convention!

Oconomowoc Memorial Auxiliary- Cathy Becker

The auxiliary gave out \$17,500.00 in Scholarships to college students in the medical field and also to our volunteers.

We continue to give baby hats made by our volunteers to all babies born in the hospital. Linus quilts are also given to all children having surgery at the hospital. The Bear Project team has made a total of 2,205 care bears so far.

The auxiliary sponsored Collette tour will be leaving in early September on their Southern Charm tour of Georgia and plans are already underway for the “Heritage of America” tour for 2017.

Through our Outreach committee we continue to donate to the Food Pantry and the Free Clinic. This year donations were also made to Silver Streak, Family Promise, Tricia’s Troops and Zachariah’s Acres. Two years ago we donated 13 AEDs to the local school system. This year we donated dummies for the staff and interested students to practice on. We will be holding our annual coat drive after Labor Day. We are asking for gently used coats, hats and mittens. This will run for two months and coats, etc. received will be donated to Lake Country Caring.

Because fall will soon be here, the committee is starting to prepare for our Love Light fund raiser and ceremony in December. The style show committee will begin meeting in November to prepare for our May 2017 Style show.

See you at Convention!

Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington-Dorothy Hakala

The volunteers at AMHB have been busy undergoing informational meetings and tours of our new Southern Lakes Medical Center which will open to the public on October 17th. Many of us will transfer there to new service opportunities and others will continue in this hospital setting.

This is a beautiful facility in a rural setting with a Healing Garden and pond nestled in the lovely setting. Medical services which will be relocated to the new facility include: Day surgeries, Rehabilitation services, Women’s Imaging, Surgery Specialties clinics including Orthopedics, Podiatry, Pain, GI, General Surgery, Urology, Audiology, and ENT. Cancer Care services will include Medical Oncology, Lab Services and supportive services, and infusion services.

The current hospital will be renovated to still provide ongoing cardiac rehabilitation and inpatient surgeries, as well as many of the existing labs, Emergency Department, and current medical departments. We are excited to be a part of this groundbreaking medical care experience which will serve our communities.

Wheaton Franciscan Elmbrook Memorial Campus-Dawn Hansen

We recently convened at the end of August for our first Auxiliary Board Meeting for the new fiscal year. Elmbrook continues in a state of transition with the change in sponsorship from Wheaton Franciscan to Ascension Wisconsin. No facility changes are anticipated at this time. We have a New Board this coming year so a few position changes were introduced. We are working on new Fund Raisers for the fall to kick off our Scholarship fund raising activities. Looking forward to attending the Fall Convention with Marie Theibes in October. The Elmbrook Gift shop continues to be our main source of fund raising for the year.

Aurora West Allis Medical Center-Pat Hladilek

We are working hard for our annual Snowflake Bazaar to be held November 3 & 4. We make crafts, Christmas arrangements, ornaments, baby blankets, baby hats and baby sweaters. We also sell homemade items for Packer and Badger fans. We work from January until November for the sale. We also sell grab bags at the sale. All of our profits are given to our Scholarship fund. Another fundraiser for the Scholarship fund is our used hard cover and paperback books that we sell near our Surgical Waiting area.

Our Community Love Lite ceremony will be held December 7. It is our spirit lifting event for the community. We sponsor an evening with coffee, cocoa and cookies and dancing performed by a dance school for entertainment.

Community Memorial Hospital-Menomonee Falls-Sue Schuelke

Plans are being finalized for the 48th Annual Cheery Cherry Fall Fair to be held on Sunday, September 25. A successful “kick-off” was held on September 7, selling raffle tickets and Door County Cherry Products, and taking pre-orders for additional cherry products that will be sold at the fair. New this year is a demonstration and book-signing by well-known gardening expert, Melinda Meyers. We are keeping our hopes up for a beautiful fall day of weather!

The Comfort Dog program was implemented in July through a local church ministry program. Comfort dog, Rhoda, has been a big “hit” with the patients and staff. Rhoda and her handlers are scheduled two mornings a week, and soon to be extended to three mornings a week. Six nursing units have had Rhoda visit patients since the beginning.

The Community Garden is producing a record harvest this year. Over 1,700 pounds of fruits and vegetables picked to date! It has been a great growing season. The Community Outreach Health Clinic and local food pantries are benefiting from this labor of love.

Volunteers will be attending their annual meeting mid-October, a time to showcase accomplishments throughout the year. It is also a time when volunteers hear from leaders

whose departments received funding for patient care equipment. Seeing and learning about the benefit of new technology in delivering patient care is very impactful.

Love Lights will return to CMH in December as our newest fundraiser. Proceeds will go to the CMH Heart and Vascular Center.

Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital, West Bend-Sharon Scott

It is with great sadness, that Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital shares the passing of our beloved Charter Member, Blanche Schuelke. Blanche passed peacefully on July 26th at the grand age of 109. Born on February 18, 1907, Blanche spent her entire adult life serving the needs of her beloved community of West Bend, Wisconsin. She was extremely active with the Women's club of West Bend (member since 1935), docent for both the Washington county Historical Society and West Bend Art Museum and a 79 year member, as well as being the last surviving Charter members of her beloved Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital volunteer organization.

Blanche was a petite, gregarious, humble, and inspirational woman whose love of giving and sharing all of life's many journeys touched all who were blest to know her.

Blanche's journey as a hospital volunteer at St. Joseph's hospital began in 1937. Sister Herina, an administrator for St. Joseph's Hospital, called upon a small group of West Bend women to assist in the home projects of sewing diapers and baby blankets. Blanche was an active leader of the Hospital Guild in its formative years. In 1964, formal By-Laws were adopted to organize the volunteers (Pink Ladies) of St. Joseph's Hospital in which Blanche played an integral part. Blanche served on many committees, especially proud of her historian duties and volunteered well over 5,000 service hours-although I suspect she volunteered far more than those posted hours. As Blanche turned 90, she explained that her energy levels were diminishing and active volunteering would be left to the "young ones". She continued to attend all annual meetings, act as an advisor to our organization's Presidents and a prominent attendee to many of our fundraising activities until the age of 107 when health issues made attendance very difficult.

Blanche's last active role as a Partner, at the age of 104, was lighting our annual Love Light Tree. Blanche was overjoyed at being selected to light our tree. She said "such hope, such honor and such love is brought by the simple lighting of a tree filled with white and colorful lights during this Christmas season. Of all my Christmas memories, I shall hold this honor in highest esteem...may all volunteers understand, appreciate, and serve with dignity, respect and love of community."

On a personal note, I had the privilege of knowing Blanche for 20 years and always found her energy, advice and compassion inspired me to reach deeper within myself in all aspects of life. Blanche always "dressed" for the day..."full make-up, hair in place and a positive attitude, one never knows how or when they will be called to serve, so begin each day in order to make a positive memory"

Blanche is survived by two children, six grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild and a community that valued her generosity, commitment and dedication to volunteerism.