

SE District 2022 Summer Newsletter



*Note
from
Sue*

SE District Chair Greetings

It has been some time since our SE District members have had the opportunity to share what's been happening with their volunteer organizations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some have had limited activities and some have had to take a "pause" during the past two+ years. As the SE District Chair, I will work with local leaders to stay active with Partners of WHA through regular communication, such as a quarterly newsletter, email, and in-person meetings whenever possible.

A SE District Leadership in-person meeting is scheduled for August 25 to discuss topics that include district preparations for the 2022 Partners of WHA State Convention and a 2023 budget proposal.

As we continue working through a new state of normalcy with hospital volunteering, know that each of your volunteer organizations are important, valued and appreciated for the work you do to support healthcare!

Sue Schuelke-SE District Chair



LOCAL
What's New in the SE District!
UPDATES
Froedtert West Bend Hospital Volunteers

- ❖ Treats, Tokens & Thank You drop in was held in April for FWBH Volunteers. Volunteers could drop-in to pick up delicious Crumbl cookies(treat), order their complimentary Volunteer fleece/polo(token), choose a beautiful 3D pop-up flower bouquet (another token) and allow us to shower them with a million thank you's for their never-ending commitment and very generous gift of time!
- ❖ Crumble Cookie Madness! In April, FWBH Volunteers held their first Crumbl cookie sale and it was a HUGE success. In just 35 minutes, 450 assorted flavors were sold. Another was held in May and 600 cookies sold in just over an hour. A great fundraiser!


Ascension SE WI Hospital - Elmbrook Campus Auxiliary

We are happy to report that we were able to award 3-\$2,000 scholarships to deserving students at the end of May...a tradition since 1970. We are still in a recruitment phase for new Auxiliary Members and increasing our Volunteer Staff. We lost many members during COVID years. No dues have been collected for 3 years. Our Gift Shop is open with limited weekly hours due to staffing. Visitors are still limited in our buildings. We are currently on a Summer Break from any meetings and fundraisers. We will resume our meeting schedule the end of August.

Public Policy Report

Partners of WHA Southeastern District Public Policy Education Report August 2022

It is good to communicate with you again regarding Public Policy Education information. My husband and I have had some health issues this year, but we are both getting better and are thankful for that.

Our state Partners of WHA Public Policy Education Chair, Bill McCullough, has listed a number of websites that are available to gather information regarding various political and health issues which impact Wisconsin Hospitals and Communities. This is on the Partners of WHA website under the Public Policy icon. When I selected some of the sites listed, I needed to make sure I selected the exact web site as it was listed. I have Google on my computer, and when I put in a few of the website titles, some other sites were also listed and did not contain just the information I wanted.

I hope you will find these websites useful. I have found a lot of good content on them. There is a lot of information out there to keep us up to date with public policy issues that pertain to our hospitals and communities.

I recently forwarded an email to you from Bill McCullough that included the revised "Local Public Policy Annual Report" pages 1 and 2. I hope you will find them useful to compile your legislative contacts for the 2022 Annual Public Policy Report.

I keep a folder for Public Policy for the 2022 year and put any contact information I have sent to the legislators using page 2 of the annual reports. I include page 1 to remind me what information will be needed for the annual report at the end of the year.

I have made contacts to my legislators on two topics this year. In February there was the Assembly Bill 960 and Senate Bill 970 to pass legislation that would make violent threats against health care workers a felony. In April there was a call to support delaying the Medicare sequester cuts through the rest of 2022. At the same time a call to support additional funding and flexibility for the Provider Relief Fund was requested through the HEAT Alert. I was unable to participate in the virtual Advocacy Day. There were 925 attendees and 353 virtual Legislative visits during 33 meetings with elected leaders.

WHA President and CEO Eric Borgerding welcomed the 925 attendees representing nearly every hospital and health system in the state to WHA's Advocacy Day. "As we emerge from a second long year with COVID, we are cautiously optimistic for what lies ahead, and firm in our resolve to learn from this experience and take on the residual impacts and lasting challenges we still face."

Governor Evers announced his signing of bipartisan legislation for Wisconsin Hospitals and the patients they serve. Assembly Bill 960 protects Wisconsin health care workers and their families from threats and acts of violence, while Assembly Bill 679 permanently enables hospitals to deliver in-patient level of care in a patient's home.

The 2023 Advocacy Day is April 19, 2023. Let us hope it can be held in person at that time.

Cindy Finger Southeastern District PPE Chair 414-481-5623 tfinger1@wi.rr.com

Community Health Education Report

(Article from August 2022 Reaching Out newsletter)

While we may be taking a summer break from volunteer activities and meetings, there is no break from infectious diseases. Monkeypox, Salmonella, Listeria, and of course, COVID -19 and its variants continue to be part of the daily news.

Monkeypox: (7/1/22) The Wisconsin DHS confirmed the first case of Monkeypox in a WI Resident. Monkeypox is not easily spread from person to person. Monkeypox may become a global health emergency as cases continue to rise around the world.

COVID variant, Omicron B.5: this is the primary COVID virus infecting people at the present time. A booster dose of the COVID vaccine specific to Omicron is being developed for use this Fall. 60% of the US population has been infected with the COVID virus.

Salmonella: Outbreaks in the United States, including Wisconsin, occur every year linked to backyard poultry. Even with healthy chickens and clean backyards, Salmonella can still be present in chicken poop and on their bodies.

Listeria: Big Olaf Creamery ice cream was recently found to cause a Listeria outbreak in people residing in or having visited Florida. If the bacteria is contracted during pregnancy, it can spread to the fetus through the placenta and cause fetal loss. This ice cream product is only sold in Florida.

(The above information in bold categories comes from the CDC and Wisconsin DHS websites)

The next community health education series on Infectious Disease will cover Tuberculosis (TB) and Noroviruses. Look for this information on the Partners of WHA website in the month of August.

Plans for the CHE Special Interest meeting during the Partners of WHA State Convention in October are underway. Learning should be fun as well as interesting so there will be a fun (maybe even challenging) activity during the session. I look forward to seeing many local and district CHE Chairs at convention! As always, stay safe, stay well, and enjoy the rest of the summer months!

Sue Schuelke
State CHE Chair

