



SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary Newsletter

November 2021

RIPON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY LUNCHEON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2021

**12 PM at the
GREEN LAKE AMERICAN LEGION HALL
518 WATER STREET, GREEN LAKE**

Mitchell Matuszeski, Ripon Emergency Medical Services chief, will present on the services his department provides to Ripon and the surrounding areas.

Come enjoy a hot entrée (broasted chicken and baked ham) buffet catered by Webster's Marketplace. The cost of the meal is \$10 and can be paid at the door. Coffee and water will be provided.

RSVP to Diane Shady, program chairperson, no later than Friday, November 19 by calling 920-539-2150 or by email at kanddshady@gmail.com.

Please indicate if you have any special dietary needs when making your reservation. Reservations made and not honored will be charged the cost of the lunch.

If you have any suggestions about future programs you would like to see at our luncheon meetings, please contact Diane.

Diane Shady, Chairperson, Programs
kanddshady@gmail.com
920-539-2150



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the trees turn some beautiful colors, and the temperatures drop, we know that winter is just around the corner. Where has 2021 gone? Even though it was a rather unusual year, the time sure did fly!

Many of our local Auxiliary Board meetings have been held virtually, along with our state convention on October 5 & 6 with Bobbie Pollesch and Julie Stellmacher attending. It was a shortened version of the original convention that had been planned as face-to-face. Due to COVID-19 numbers being higher at that time it was decided to go virtually. Advocacy Day is scheduled for March 23, 2022. There will also be a gift shop event held at the Marriott West Convention Center in Madison on May 3-5, 2022. The Fall Lakes District meeting has not yet been held.

The renaming of our hospital occurred on September 29. We are now known as SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital. That will be our Auxiliary's public name.

On September 20, a luncheon was held at the Green Lake American Legion Hall with approximately 20 people attending. Election of officers was held with the following people being elected by unanimous consent: Julie Stellmacher - President (2021-2023), Barbara Behlen - Vice President (2021-2023), Mary Park - Secretary (2021-2022), and Bobbie Pollesch - Treasurer (2020-2022). A program was held with Noreen Johnson, speaking on the new Ripon Senior Center.

On November 29, our usual luncheon held at Maple Crest will be held at the Green Lake American Legion at noon. Diane Shady has planned a very nice program for us with our Ripon EMS chief speaking.

Lights of Love will be observed with a tree lighting at the hospital on December 9. Raffle tickets are available for five trees, along with the opportunity to purchase lights for the tree. Remember the money raised is used for scholarships and items that our hospital needs.

We are always looking for new members in our Auxiliary. Presently, we have three openings on our board which are Public Policy Education, Community Health Education, and a Sewing Chairperson. Thank you to Jackie Halverson for taking on the Membership Chairperson and Sunshine position. Let Jackie know if anyone needs a card or a friendly call. We always welcome anyone who wishes to join us at one of our Board meetings. It is a good way to see what your Board is doing and what interests you may have to offer the Auxiliary. We also hope to see you and perhaps volunteering with some of our projects at some upcoming events.

Take care and Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

Julie Stellmacher, President

MEMBERSHIP

Hello RCH Auxiliary members!

My name is Jackie Halverson, and I am your new membership chairperson. Today we have 41 paid members and a few who have not yet paid the 2021-2022 dues. Dues are still \$10 and can be sent to me at 12 Jefferson Street, #2 Ripon, WI 54971. Please make your check for \$10 payable to RCH Auxiliary.

New Members

Welcome new members Jeanne Payton, Donald Bork and Karen Bork. There is so much to be proud of as a member of the RCH Auxiliary and so many ways to share your talents. I look forward to meeting you at our luncheon on November 29.

Thank you to all of our members for all you do.

Jackie Halverson, Chairperson, Membership



TREASURER'S REPORT
Financial Report
September 30, 2021

The financial report from September 30, 2021, was for the first three months of our fiscal year. Our fundraising efforts these first three months were very successful. We are already halfway toward our budget for the year! Net proceeds from the mum sale were \$1,982 plus \$260 in donations, the candy bar sale will net \$1,153 when all candy bars are sold, and we received \$7,291.74 from roundups at the Piggly Wiggly in Markesan and Ace Hardware in Ripon.

Gift Shop sales are a little slower than we had hoped. Traffic in the hospital is still somewhat limited and staffing is an issue, so we are not open as much as we would like. We had \$32,165.35 in cash at the end of September. So, we have the funds to support the needs of Ripon Community Hospital as they are identified.

SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary
Treasurer's Report
Three Months Ended September 30, 2021

	Three Month Actual	Annual Budget
INCOME		
Fundraising	\$ 12,499.74	\$ 24,980.00
Donations	661.50	100.00
Membership Dues	250.00	500.00
Gift Shop Sales	5,211.31	31,175.00
Total Income	\$ 18,622.55	\$ 56,755.00
EXPENSES		
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 3,138.00	\$ 9,605.00
Sewing Supplies	-	-
Luncheons - Net	(58.00)	(18.00)
State Conventions/District Meetings	90.00	1,250.00
Organization Expenses	109.00	247.00
Gift Shop Expenses	2,645.45	21,525.00
Total Expenses	\$ 5,924.45	\$ 32,609.00
Net Income Before Distributions	\$ 12,698.10	\$ 24,146.00
DISTRIBUTIONS		
Scholarships	-	3,000.00
Donations for RCH	-	15,200.00
Total Distributions	\$ -	\$ 18,200.00
NET INCOME AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 12,698.10	\$ 5,946.00
CASH BALANCES	\$ 32,164.35	

**Wherever
there is a
human
being,
there is an
opportunity
for a
kindness.**

~Seneca

Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer

WHAT'S NEW AT SSM HEALTH RIPON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

By DeAnn Thurmer, President, SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital and SSM Health Waupun Memorial Hospital

We have a lot going on at SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital these days - all exciting developments to help us continue our efforts to grow and offer as many services as possible at a local level. I'm proud to share with you but a few of these key advancements.

Rebrand Update

As you know, Agnesian HealthCare and Ripon Medical Center recently celebrated the launch of our new name and united under one brand, SSM Health. The most visible transition to the SSM Health brand includes new logos and name modifications that incorporate the SSM Health brand into Agnesian HealthCare hospitals, clinics, care centers, and services.

Over the coming months you will begin to see our name changing over to the new SSM Health brand and logo on signage, marketing materials, and more; however, patients will see the same providers they have come to know and trust in the same locations they are familiar with.

We are grateful to have been able to share with our community the unveiling ceremony we had here in Ripon in late September. With signs changing, it's becoming even more real that we are now known as SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital. Thanks for your support during this exciting time!

Virtual COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A Forum

We were proud to recently partner with the Ripon Rotary Club and Fond du Lac County Health Department to host a virtual COVID-19 vaccine Q&A forum. It was important to offer this opportunity to help address any questions or uncertainties in our community around the COVID-19 vaccines, and we appreciate that our providers stepped forward to do so using Zoom.

Thanks to Drs. Jeanne Lyke, Ted Miller and Punit Kumar, as well as Dan Wilk, ambulatory care pharmacist, and Kim Mueller, health officer.

We covered an hour worth of questions and finished in time for the Green Bay Packers game! If you have not had an opportunity to view, visit the SSM Health Greater Fond du Lac Facebook page.

New Podiatrist

We will be welcoming Molly Jo Meier, DPM, a board-certified podiatrist (foot & ankle), to Ripon Community Hospital starting in January 2022. She specializes in diabetic foot care and wound care. Dr. Meier has previously served in Berlin and Green Lake, and we anticipate that many of her previous patients will follow her.

VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

Hello Auxilians:

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy as the weather cools off outside. It was a pleasure meeting and getting together with the members that were able to attend the September luncheon.

Annual education has been sent out to those of you that volunteer. Please do not hesitate to contact us if anyone has any questions or requires assistance with their ReadySet account. You may reach out to anyone of us in volunteer services for assistance as we are all happy to help. As a reminder ReadySet is only required for the auxiliary members that actively volunteer with Ripon Community Hospital or with Green Lake hospice. ReadySet is not a requirement for those that only belong to the Auxiliary.

Nutman Sale

In other news the Nutman will be hosting an upcoming sale at Ripon Community Hospital on Wednesday, December 8 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Please note the sale will not be available to the general public due to current restrictions. Patients, volunteers, and staff with legitimate business purposes will be allowed to participate.

If you have any friends interested in volunteering, please encourage them to reach out to us. We have openings at the gift shop, information desk, day surgery, and mobile meals.

Thank you from all of us in volunteer services for everything you do. We wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving and holiday season!

Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Coordinator

Ripon Community Hospital, St. Agnes Hospital, and Waupun Memorial Hospital

Jason.Blonigen@SSMHealth.com

920-926-4873

PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION UPDATE

Ensuring Patients Receive the Medicine They Need, When and Where They Need It

Patients First Wisconsin is an initiative aimed at educating health care stakeholders, legislative leaders and the general public about the threat to health care quality, safety and affordability posed by insurance companies requiring certain drugs to be purchased through their exclusive specialty pharmacies, a practice known as “white bagging.”

What is White Bagging?

Insurance company mandated (also known as payer-mandated) white bagging is a practice by insurance companies requiring that certain life-changing medications be shipped from a source that they dictate, rather than using the patient’s local hospital pharmacy. Patients with conditions like rheumatoid arthritis, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, Crohn’s disease, hemophilia, or cancer, could be impacted by these policies.

According to a recent report, 83% of hospitals surveyed said that specialty medications delivered to them for patient administration through white bagging did not arrive on time, and another 66% of hospitals said that they have received the wrong dose.

Protecting Patients

The growing tendency for health insurers nationally and here in Wisconsin to limit the source of specialty medications creates very real challenges for hospitals and health systems in the state to provide the best possible care to their patients. For this reason, the Wisconsin Hospital Association and other health care organizations are engaging health care stakeholders, elected leaders and the public to develop and implement policy solutions that maximize health care accessibility, affordability and quality throughout Wisconsin-so that our friends, family and neighbors receive the care they deserve.

Take Action

White bagging causes serious, potentially dangerous disruptions to patient care and removes patient choice at the time they deserve it most. This disruption to care is happening right now to patients across the country, including in Wisconsin, because insurance companies are making decisions that belong to doctors and their patients. Lawmakers in states across the country are taking action to end the harmful practice of white bagging. Wisconsin needs to do the same.

Contact your state lawmaker NOW. Tell them it is time to put an end to insurance company white bagging and put patients first in Wisconsin. <https://www.wha.org/Patient-First-Wisconsin/About>

Save the Date: WHA's Advocacy Day

Advocacy Day is just four months away! Save the date now for a day of learning and advocacy in action among 1,000 other hospital employees, trustees, and volunteers. The event will be held on March 23, 2022. More information on the event, including whether it will be held virtual or in-person, and how to register coming soon!



Vacant, Chairperson Public Policy, Education

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

How mRNA Vaccines Work

To trigger an immune response, many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, mRNA vaccines use mRNA created in a laboratory to teach our cells how to make a protein-or even just a piece of a protein-that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies.

First, COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are given in the upper arm muscle. The mRNA will enter the muscle cells and instruct the cells' machinery to produce a harmless piece of what is called the spike protein. The spike protein is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19. After the protein piece is made, our cells break down the mRNA and remove it. mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell where our DNA (genetic material) is located, so it cannot change or influence our genes.

Next, our cells display the spike protein piece on their surface. Our immune system recognizes that the protein doesn't belong there. This triggers our immune system to produce antibodies and activate other immune cells to fight off what it thinks is an infection. This is what your body might do to fight off the infection if you got sick with COVID-19.

At the end of the process, our bodies have learned how to protect against future infection from the virus that causes COVID-19. The benefit of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines, like all vaccines, is that those vaccinated gain this protection without ever having to risk the potentially serious consequences of getting sick with COVID-19. Any temporary discomfort experienced after getting the vaccine is a natural part of the process and an indication that the vaccine is working.

mRNA Vaccines are Newly Available to the Public but Have Been Studied for Decades

Researchers have been studying and working with mRNA vaccines for decades. Interest has grown in these vaccines because they can be developed in a laboratory using readily available materials. This means vaccines can be developed and produced in large quantities faster than with other methods for making vaccines.



mRNA vaccines have been studied before for flu, Zika, rabies, and cytomegalovirus (CMV). As soon as the necessary information about the virus that causes COVID-19 was available, scientists began designing the mRNA instructions for cells to build the unique spike protein into an mRNA vaccine.

Future mRNA vaccine technology may allow for one vaccine to provide protection against multiple diseases, thus decreasing the number of shots needed for protection against common vaccine-preventable diseases.

Beyond vaccines, cancer research has used mRNA to trigger the immune system to target specific cancer cells.

Updated November 3, 2021

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>

Vacant, Chairperson Community Health, Education

GIFT SHOP

Welcome to Jeanne Payton as the new gift shop team leader. Thank you to Mary Schieffer for all the many years she has dedicated to coordinating the gift shop. While you will still see Mary working in the gift shop, she is transitioning her leadership role to Jeanne.

Christmas Shopping

Christmas is fast approaching, and we have many beautiful items for purchase to help celebrate the season. Please stop in if you have appointments in the hospital.

Gift Shop Committee



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Mum Sale

We sold 300 mums for a total profit \$1982 plus \$260 in donations. Nice fall weather was a plus. The entrance to the hospital looked like a greenhouse. Thank you to Radene, Barb, and all who volunteered to make the sale a success.

Candy Bar Sales

Candy bar sales continue to be popular, so we are continuing to sell Vande Walle's Candy Bars. September sales were \$481. The candy bar cost has increased to \$1.50. We'll see if this affects our sales. Anyone interested in selling candy bars can call Georgia at 920-346-5607. All help is appreciated!

Lights of Love

The Lights of Love and the gift tree raffle are going to be a fundraiser again this year. Information will be mailed to all members. There will not be a ceremony for lighting the tree because of COVID-19 restrictions. We need everyone to buy and sell lights and raffle tickets to reach our goal!

Holiday Bake Sale

There will be no bake sale again this year because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Round Up

The round up donation at Ace Hardware, Ripon was \$6,427.90 and at Piggly Wiggly, Markesan was \$863.84. Thank you to all who shopped and did the sale round up to support the Auxiliary.

Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fundraising

2021 LIGHTS OF LOVE AND RAFFLE

The annual Lights of Love fundraiser and raffle has kicked off. By now you should have received your materials in the mail. Please respond generously and share the extra brochures with others. Additional brochures are available at the greeter's station and in the gift shop. Proceeds will be used to fund the purchase of two community transport chairs to lend to nursing home patients who do not have one. These will be returned once the patient has been safely and comfortably transferred from the hospital to the nursing home. We won't be having a tree lighting event again this year, but the tree will still be lit with white and colored lights shining in memory or honor of loved ones. The names of these individuals will be published in the Ripon Commonwealth Press.

Raffle Tickets

Raffle tickets are also available for purchase at the greeter's station and the gift shop. Ticket cost is one for \$5, three for \$10 or ten for \$20. There are five prizes being raffled off, each with a value of at least \$385. We again have a \$400 cash prize generously donated by BMO Harris Bank. The prizes are on display at RCH. If you are willing to help sell raffle tickets, please contact Jason Blonigen.

Bobbie Pollesch, Chairperson, Lights of Love



LIGHTS OF LOVE GIFT TREE RAFFLE



1. MONEY TREE

BMO Harris Bank
Value: \$400



2. DATE NIGHT

Adams Rib, China One, Heidel House, J's BBQ, Knuth Brewing Co., Public House, Reilly's Pub, Thrasher Opera House, Tuscumbia 680 North Restaurant, Vines and Rushes
Value: \$400



3. FAMILY FUN

A&W Restaurant, Aromas Bar & Grill, Christiano's, Culvers, Goose Blind, Kristina's Family Café, McDonald's, Mr. & Mrs. P's, Ripon Drug, Sweet N' Salty Ice Cream Parlor
Value: \$385



4. FAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

Lawsonia Golf Course
Langford's Pub
Value: \$385

5. RETAIL THERAPY

American Alchemy, Back Porch Gatherings, Chic Tique Girls, Culver's, Dear Prudence, Dig Garden Store, Imagineers, Patina Via, Sassafras, Soul Patina, the Collection, Tuscumbia 680 North Restaurant
Value: \$400



RCH AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS

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Barb Ann Behlen, Newsletter

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Vacant, Community Health

Vacant, Public Policy Education

Vacant, Sewing

Lights of Love

Your lights are shining this holiday season on the Lights of Love Tree.

