

*PARTNERS OF WHA is committed to advocating for the health of our communities and advancing the success of local health care volunteer organizations, through the coordination and provision of volunteer education, development resources, and leadership opportunities for health care volunteers and their organizations.*

### A Message from the Partners of WHA President

## The Power of Unity

Leadership is the ability to influence and guide a group of people toward a common goal through inspiration, communication, and motivation. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bill McCullough for his leadership, serving as our Partners of WHA Public Policy Education (PPE) Chairman for the past six years. Bill has spent considerable time and effort being the "voice of advocacy" for Partners, researching and communicating legislative information on health care-related policy issues. Bill will be stepping down from his PPE position at the end of the year. Thank you, Bill, for your commitment to Partners.



Julie Steiner

Leadership involves providing direction, fostering collaboration, and empowering others. I'd also like to thank our Conference Planning Committee for their leadership, time, and effort in arranging our fall conference October 7 and 8. It was a wonderful gathering. The committee received many positive comments from the 97 attendees who participated. Thank you, Jan Molaska, Sherry Jelic, Peg Larson, Linda Arentz, Linda Gillette, Mary Lou Bausch, Ann Bergmann, Sue Schuelke, Cindy Hermel, Terri Donlin, and Sharon Scott. Thank you, Linda Holdorf, our 2025 WAVE Award Chair. Thank you, members, for your input on the restructuring of our annual conference. Your suggestions led us toward positive change both educationally and financially.

Leaders set a clear vision, make decisions, and provide an organization with the knowledge and tools needed for success, even in the face of change. You as members of Partners are all capable of being leaders not only in your local and district organizations but in Partners of WHA. Please consider taking on a leadership role during this period of "revitalization." Our member numbers are down since the pandemic. Currently, we have 2,474 members in 26 member hospitals. Prior to the pandemic, there were 7,929 members in 54 hospitals.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### A Message from the President-elect

## Stengthening Communication

The Partners of WHA hosted its annual conference, The Power of Unity, October 7 and 8 at the Stoney Creek Inn La Crosse. It was informative, stimulated discussion, generated laughter, challenged participants to think outside the box, and was just plain fun.



Cindy Hermel

Strengthening communication throughout all levels of the Partners organization is one of the goals in our strategic plan. **There will be an opportunity for all Partners members to share their ideas, suggestions, successes and challenges during a virtual meeting on November 5, 2025 at 1:00 PM.** Leigh Ann Larson will send an invitation for the Teams listening session along with the link to join the meeting. If you have specific requests for discussion items, please email them to me at [clhermel@hotmail.com](mailto:clhermel@hotmail.com) by November 2, 2025.

I had the privilege to facilitate the roundtable discussion on recruiting and developing leaders within the Partners local and district organizations. It was a lively and interesting conversation. Participants shared their ideas and experiences in identifying potential leaders. Characteristics of a leader included organization, enthusiasm, commitment, responsibility, and sense of humor to name a few. Strategies for supporting potential and new leaders produced many suggestions including, encourage the pairing of a seasoned leader with a newbie, creating

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Thank You and Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you to the conference committee—Sherry Jelic, Julie Steiner, Peg Larson, Ann Bergmann, Linda Arentz, Linda Gillette, Cindy Hermel, Terri Donlin, Mary Lou Bausch, Sue Schuelke, Sharon Scott, Linda Meldorf, Iva Mulhern and WHA liaisons Leigh Ann Larson and Maria Stuessy—for all the incredible work you did to make the conference such a success. Your dedication, countless hours of effort, and attention to detail brought every aspect together seamlessly. Your teamwork and commitment truly made the event outstanding, and everyone deeply appreciated everything you contributed.

We would also like to extend a sincere thank you to the wonderful staff at the Stoney Creek hotel for their exceptional service and support. From the first meeting to the final day of the conference, Megan Schams, Haylee Thompson and Stephen Dieringer were terrific to work with. They responded to questions promptly, were flexible and willing to make concessions, and communicated clearly throughout the planning process. Their professionalism and helpful suggestions made the planning far less stressful and greatly benefited our attendees.

Everything ran smoothly thanks to their attention to detail, flexibility, and willingness to assist with every request. The meals were excellent, and many attendees commented in their evaluations that they would love to return to this facility next year. Your partnership played a huge role in making this conference a success.

*Jan Molaska, Newsletter Editor*

### ***A Message from the President...continued from page 1***

In addition to the membership decline, there are new CEOs and DVs (directors of volunteer services) who we need to educate about our organization.

MEMBER RETENTION continues to be a high priority, as it impacts Partners' long-term viability as an organization. Speaking with members of organizations who have left our ranks this year has helped us understand that each organization is truly unique. Some have felt that more support from their hospital administration would have been helpful. Others had members "aging out" and not enough "new blood" to carry on. Partners continues to brainstorm ways to retain and grow our membership as part of our strategic plan.

The Partners Board of Directors will be meeting online November 11 to review our new conference format, make plans for a 2026 conference/annual meeting and chart our course for the future. It's the POWER OF UNITY that will help us achieve more significant and positive outcomes when we work together, pooling our strengths, sharing a common goal, and supporting one another.

*Julie Steiner, Partners President*  
Email: [steinerfam@mwt.net](mailto:steinerfam@mwt.net)

### ***A Message from the President-Elect...continued from page 1***

a safety net for the new recruit to learn the basics of the task/project from the experience of someone who has been through it and can provide valuable information and insight. Several ideas about shared leadership formats were mentioned:

- Job sharing an office or chairmanship, making time management more palatable.
- Management/leadership by committee:  
The group divides the essential tasks and responsibilities according to talents, training, and interests. For example, co-presidents could serve joint terms or the terms could be staggered so one person is always able to bring experiential knowledge to the team.

Additional suggestions for making new leaders more comfortable included:

- Make organizational history available.
- Support from hospital CEOs and staff is very important to create a sense of belonging.
- Provide encouragement, compliment a job well done, and show appreciation for the willingness to step up and give leadership a try.

It was a great discussion, and we left with some new ideas to nurture future leaders.

Thank you for all you do for your hospitals and the patients they serve.

*Cindy Hermel, Partners President-elect*  
Email: [clhermel@hotmail.com](mailto:clhermel@hotmail.com)

## “The Power of Unity” - 2025 Partners of WHA Conference Report

The 2025 Partners of WHA conference was a great success and was met with highly favorable feedback.

Centered around the theme “**The Power of Unity**,” volunteers from across the state came together in Onalaska to demonstrate the extraordinary impact that can be achieved when individuals unite behind a common goal. The event provided an opportunity for volunteers to reconnect with colleagues, establish new relationships, and strengthen their shared commitment to service.

The conference began with an inspiring keynote address from **Lisa David Olson**, whose blend of humor, authenticity, and motivation set an energizing tone for the event.



As in past years, the **CEO panel** was a highlight of the conference. WHA President and CEO Kyle O’Brien moderated the panel that consisted of Christopher Brophy, CEO of Crossing Rivers Health; Emily Dilley, CEO of Cumberland Healthcare; and Carl Selvick, President and CEO of Black River Health. The panel brought both expertise and heart to the discussion, tackling the healthcare issues that impact each of us. Their lively exchange and mutual respect made for an engaging and thought-provoking conversation that resonated with attendees.

A wide variety of educational workshops allowed attendees to expand their knowledge and gain practical skills relevant to both their volunteer service and personal lives. Sessions included

- **Healthy Living with Diabetes**
- **Stop the Bleed: Bleeding Control Techniques – Caring for the Caregiver** – Addressed the challenges of caregiving and emphasized the importance of setting boundaries, stress management, and self-care to maintain personal well-being.
- **Trusts, Wills, and Probate** – An overview of essential estate planning tools, helping participants understand the legal processes that ensure security for loved ones.
- **Brain Health and Aging** – Shared research-based practices for keeping the brain active and resilient, including nutrition, exercise, cognitive activities, and social engagement.
- **Healthy and Balanced Relationships with Food** – Encouraged a positive approach to nutrition by focusing on mindful eating, balance, and emotional connections to food.
- **Fall Prevention Strategies** – discussed evidence-based prevention methods and reinforced the importance of safe home and community environments.
- **Building Support Groups** – how to create and sustain groups that foster belonging, provide mutual encouragement, and strengthen meaningful social connections.

Participants in the roundtable discussions demonstrated creativity and collaboration in identifying critical questions and sharing a variety of creative approaches to address the common challenges our organizations face.

Other key elements of the conference included awarding Honor Points and recognizing volunteer excellence through the WAVE Awards (Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence). WAVE awards were presented to:

- Aspirus Volunteers, Medford; (Lites of Love)
- Cumberland Healthcare Volunteer Partners, Cumberland, (Comfort Blankets)
- Emplify Health by Gundersen, La Crosse (Connecting Through Books & Toys Program)
- Volunteers of Prairie Ridge Health, Columbus (Psychiatry Wellness Program)

In addition to the educational sessions, attendees participated in social and fundraising activities including a silent auction, raffles, vendor exhibits, networking events, and shared meals.

The “Power of Unity” conference underscored the vital role of volunteers in health care and provided participants with both practical knowledge and renewed inspiration to continue their service. Throughout the event, the spirit of teamwork, dedication, and enthusiasm was highly apparent. More than just a gathering, this conference embodied the very essence of unity, translating collective vision into meaningful action. As we look ahead, the relationships and momentum built here will continue to inspire progress and strengthen our mission in the year to come.

With gratitude and friendship

*.Jan Molaska, Conference Chair*



## Strategic Planning Committee Report

The Strategic Plan developed for 2025-2026 includes the goals of:

- **Strengthening membership in Partners**
  - State officers attended and interacted with members through 2025 Spring Meetings: emphasized the success and contributions the district and locals within it have achieved in serving their respective hospitals/patients; encouraged the sharing of challenges/concerns and offered support and/or suggested contacts within other districts for information on desired projects and strategies for increasing membership. Julie Steiner shared information on the value of Partners to the districts/locals at Spring District Meetings.
  - Cindy Hermel conducted a District Chair interactive brainstorming activity at the March 2025 Board Meeting to identify strengths and challenges within districts and identify strategies and support Partners state leadership could provide to assist districts with these challenges.
- **Sharing the value of Partners**
  - An article on the Value of Partners was written by Julie Steiner and published in the February 2025 issue of Reaching Out. Julie will continue speaking to CEO's/hospital leaders at online regional meetings, educating them about the Value of Partners. She will also present The Value of Partners at the Packerland Region Meeting, the Southwest Region Meeting, and the Southern and Western Region meeting in October.
- **Improving communication between all members of Partners**
  - Peg Larson held a virtual panel discussion, assisted by Julie Steiner, Ann Bergmann (traveling gift shops and vendors) and Jan Molaska (conference chair), on August 13, 2025, for all members to gain information on the Partners of WHA Conference and Annual Meeting scheduled for October 7-8, 2025.
- **Providing more networking opportunities**
  - Cindy Hermel drafted an article on networking and its value for the May issue of Reaching Out.
  - Partners Conference and Annual Meeting Committee provided structured time for networking through discussions.
  - Cindy Hermel and Julie Steiner have scheduled a listening session for all Partners membership on November 5, 2025, to address concerns, suggestions, and acknowledge successful initiatives in delivery of volunteer services that support hospitals and the patients they serve.

Our committee met virtually on September 23 to discuss our ideas, challenges, and plans for 2026.

- How do we present the value of Partners to more individuals and volunteer groups, address individual volunteer perspectives? What do we offer, or should we offer, that attracts volunteer groups and individuals to become members and take an active part in Partners? **Goal:** contact non-Partners volunteer groups who may be interested, as well as individuals who would like to become members but whose local group are not members of Partners (Members at Large).
- Julie has shared the Value of Partners at several WHA regional meetings, and more are scheduled. District and Partners' Board members emphasize value of Partners and value of their membership to Partners at local meetings. **Suggestion:** is there a possibility for the Partners President or President-elect to attend the DVS meeting in 2026?
- To improve communication and networking, virtual meetings for groups such as Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, or Volunteer directors will be scheduled in 2026. Anyone interested can participate. Regular virtual meetings for District Chairs to be scheduled in 2026 to discuss strengths and weaknesses within district local groups, then communicate to the Partners Board.

**NOTE - The Value of Partners** PowerPoint, document, and recording are available for use by all local chapters. The link is on the [Partners website](#).

[Sherry Jelic](#), Partners of WHA Strategic Planning Committee Chair

## NEW: Roundtable Discussions at the Annual Conference

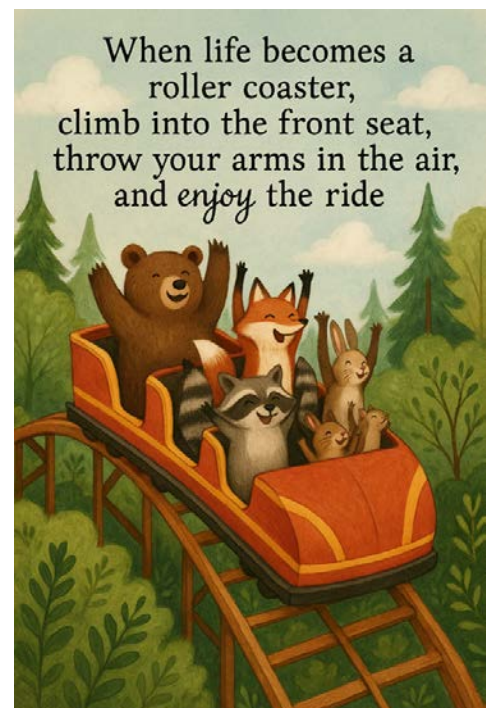
A new feature of this year's annual conference was the introduction of small group roundtable discussions. Participants were able to join various tables to discuss topics relevant to local and district groups.

One of the topics was: "How to remain relevant as a Partners/Auxiliary group in today's environment (the future of hospital volunteerism, adapting to changing needs and trends)." This discussion was facilitated by Donna Nelson. Participants included Greta - Lancaster, Bill, Lori, Jill - Emplify, and Bill - Beloit SSM. They remained engaged with the group throughout and contributed valuable insights and information to the discussion.

Some of the highlights of the discussion are below.

- The word Auxiliary is antiquated and speaks to an old group of people.
- Society is changing—things of the past and structures we have in place are not working locally. A lot of discussion took place about how to attract the younger generation. Those organizations in communities with universities find it is not an issue of attracting younger volunteers, but keeping them involved and encouraging membership in the Partners Organization is an issue.
- The structure of the Partners meetings and membership is varied and different. In some groups, volunteers and Partners are the same, and in others they are separate. It makes it confusing to have two separate entities. The group felt having volunteers and Partners the same is most beneficial.
- Discussion took place on having the Partners organization look different, not primarily fundraising for health organizations, but creating social events. One group shared they sponsored bus trips and other social events for fun and found great success.
- Need to meet volunteers where they are at and provide meaningful work that they can connect with.
- One group offered their gift shop volunteers free membership to the Partners organization.
- One volunteer shared that their reason for becoming a volunteer was getting a discounted fitness membership if he volunteered.
- Concerns were expressed about the decreasing number of volunteers and the aging out of current volunteers.
- Relationships are important in small rural settings with the local community as we are all competing for the same volunteers.
- One of the things that kept being repeated was the relevance we have collectively. We are not competitors in the volunteer role—we share openly and genuinely want to help each other succeed. How do we share that message for attracting volunteers amid the drama that exists in our society?
- Many stressed the importance of providing education at our meetings and sharing important information. We all offer flu shots to our volunteers. Should that be a marketing strategy in today's environment?
- Many shared the important role volunteers play in fundraising for their local healthcare organizations. These funds fill the gaps with requests from hospital foundations, often funding projects the foundation cannot. We should market hospital volunteers/Partner groups as "gap fillers" to the hospitals and communities we serve.
- How do we tap into those retiring from healthcare and encourage their participation? Should they be included and encouraged to join even before retirement? How do we encourage medical providers to join?

The roundtable discussions generated valuable information that can be shared with all members. Participants reported that the experience was positive and expressed interest in having members contribute future discussion topics. However, some attendees noted confusion about the process and were unsure who was expected to attend the groups. Clearer instructions and communication will be necessary moving forward.





## Congratulations to the Partners of WHA 2025 Honor Point Award Winners!

### Lakes District



*Ripon Community Hospital Auxiliary*

### Northern District



*Cumberland Healthcare Volunteers, Aspirus Wausau Volunteers, Aspirus Merrill Volunteers*

### Southern District



*Beloit Health System Auxiliary, Volunteers of Prairie Ridge Health, Edgerton Hospital Auxiliary, Fort Healthcare Partners, SSM Health St Mary's Hospital Madison Volunteers*

### Western District



*Gunderson Partners La Crosse, Grant Regional Healthcare Auxiliary, Partners of Crossing Rivers Health, Friends of Vernon Memorial Healthcare*

## Partners Board Members



*Seated: Cindy Hermel, Donna Nelson, Julie Steiner, Sue Schuelke  
Middle: Patricia Franks, Sharon Scott, Ann Bergmann, Jan Molaska  
Back row, standing: Robert Schuck, Cindy Chicker, Peg Larson, Terri Donlin, Maria Stuessy (WHA)*

## WAVE Awards Presented

As a result of their innovation, creativity, and leadership, four Partners Volunteer Organizations were celebrated at the Conference and Annual Meeting in Onalaska on Oct. 7. Those recognized this year are listed below. Representatives from each of these volunteer programs accepted their award and shared brief program details. You may review programs of WAVE award winners from the last several years on the Partners website. This listing is a great resource if you are looking for new ideas for your local organization.

Thanks to all who submitted programs for the WAVE awards this year. The committee read about many excellent volunteer programs from across the state, and it was challenging to choose only one winner from each category. Thanks to committee members Ginger Arms, Patricia Brabazon, Julie Stellmacher, and Leigh Ann Larson who made the task less difficult.

Linda Holdorf, Chair

### WAVE Awards Presented at Convention 2025

#### Community Service Program



Volunteers of Prairie Ridge Health, Columbus  
*"Psychiatry Wellness Program"*

L to R: Nicole Schaefer, Ellen Sutherland, Marsha Plageman, Linda Holdorf, Julie Steiner

#### In-service Hospital Program



Cumberland Healthcare Volunteer Partners  
*"Comfort Blankets"*

L to R: Julie Steiner, Barb Garling, Ann Bergmann, Linda Holdorf

#### Fundraising Program



Gundersen Partners, La Crosse  
*"Connecting Through Books & Toys Program"*

L to R: Julie Steiner, Jill Blackbourn, Jane Rada, Linda Holdorf

#### Community Outreach and/or Collaboration



Aspirus Medford Volunteers  
*"Lites of Love"*

L to R: Linda Holdorf, Julie Steiner, Liz Emmerich, Barb Enerson



## Conference 2025 Photos - "The Power of Unity"



*Friends of Vernon Health members at convention (l to r)  
Donna Nelson, Garith Steiner, Julie Steiner, Janelle Cisneros, Trudy  
Wallin, Jessica Addington, Kathryn Sutton-Anderson*



*Cumberland Healthcare at the Partners convention*



*Peg Larson, WHA President and CEO Kyle  
O'Brien, Julie Steiner*

### Unity Creates a Tapestry of Strength!



*Cumberland Healthcare Volunteer Partners at convention*



*Keynote speaker Lisa David Olson*



*The cake pops were a big hit - a special treat that everyone enjoyed.*



*The popular CEO panel*



## Conference 2025 Photos (continued)



*Participants enjoying dinner and networking with Partners members from across the state*



*Attendees at one of the conference workshops*

Thank you to our vendors for bringing their amazing creations and offering such a wonderful variety of new and unique items for everyone to enjoy and purchase!



*Jewelry Designs, Judy Pliski*



*The Nutman Company*



*Lee's Unique Designs, Lee Osley*



*Nazka's Handmade, Nazka Serrano*

*"Volunteering is rooted in acts of kindness that create a ripple effect, touching the lives of those in need." - Mark Twain*



## Community Health Education Report

We continue to work on addressing our goals established in discussing mental health issues for our community health education platform for the year. We are working on our goal of the importance of connection and community for our mental health.

Connection and community are vital for mental health, providing a sense of belonging, purpose, and support that protects against depression and anxiety. Building social connections through shared activities, regular communication, and community engagement strengthens resilience and combats feelings of loneliness, which have been linked to serious physical and mental health problems.



Donna Nelson

### How connection and community benefit mental health:

- **Provides a sense of belonging:** Community gives individuals a feeling of being valued and understood, which is essential for mental well-being.
- **Reduces social isolation:** Strong social networks protect against loneliness, which is a significant risk factor for mental health issues like depression and anxiety.
- **Offers emotional support:** Communities provide a safety net where people can share experiences and receive emotional support, especially during difficult times.
- **Improves resilience:** Feeling connected helps individuals and communities to better cope with and recover from challenges.
- **Enhances overall health:** Research shows that people with strong social connections tend to live longer, healthier lives, and loneliness can be as harmful to health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

### Ways to build connection and community:

- **Join groups and clubs:** Participate in activities that align with your interests, such as hobby clubs, sports teams, or volunteer groups, to meet new people with shared interests.
- **Engage with your local community:** Attend local events, workshops, or support programs, which can be found through mental health centers or community service organizations.
- **Prioritize communication:** Make a conscious effort to reach out to friends and family through phone calls, video chats, or in-person visits to stay connected.
- **Volunteer:** Giving back to a cause you care about can be a rewarding way to connect with others and feel a sense of purpose.
- **Utilize online resources:** Join online forums or social media groups focused on mental well-being for quick support, but also be mindful of balancing online and in-person interactions.

Be well -

[Donna Nelson](#), Community Health Education Chair



## Public Policy Education Report



Bill McCullough

The major topic for this report is one covered previously because of its importance and significant impact on those who depend on effective and affordable healthcare. Yes, here we refer specifically to the influence and impact of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and Big Pharma on the cost of prescription drugs.

To that information provided in previous reporting, we now add the attempt by four of the largest pharmaceutical companies; Bristol Myers-Squibb, Eli Lilly, Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems and Novartis Pharmaceuticals, to create and implement models for 340B rebates. Can't everyone see this is clearly the old story of "leaving the hen house door open for the fox?"

A recent [article](#) in WHA's *The Valued Voice* newsletter referenced how WHA, along with 36 other hospital associations, filed an amicus brief on August 8, 2025, in the U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. District, urging the court to uphold the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) decision to reject rebate proposals for distribution from the largest pharmaceutical companies in the nation. The hospital associations noted that allowing manufacturers to unilaterally implement 340B rebate models would transfer enforcement power from HHS to drug companies, permitting them to make their own determinations about whether covered entities are entitled to 340B pricing.

Once again, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) case initiated in September of 2024 against three PBMs—Caremark Rx, Express Scripts, and Optum Rx—has been moved to January 2026. The PBMs are accused of delaying document production. The FTC has stated that in the four months since the agency served Requests for Production on October 23, 2024, "the three respondent groups collectively have produced a total of 409 documents and zero data." This contrasts with third parties, which have produced over 10,000 documents and data. Recall that this case revealed the practices of these three companies to increase Insulin costs of over 1,200% from 2012 to 2022, as Insulin spending for those 10 years has more than tripled from \$8 billion to \$22 billion in 2022.

July 4th of every year brings to mind boundless memories of celebration and the significance of certain events. This year the significance to Wisconsin hospitals, specifically, came as the result of a collaborative effort between WHA, state and federal legislators, and the Governor's office. From that collective effort, Wisconsin hospitals will now be able to collect more from the "provider tax" they are allowed to charge for their services. Wisconsin has continually charged only 1.8% for their services, one of the lowest in the U.S. From the conversation between the above parties on July 3, Gov. Tony Evers agreed to change that 1.8% tax rate to 6%. Revenue generated from this tax helps our state fund our portion of Medicaid (known as BadgerCare Plus) costs. Having executed this action on July 3, the negative impact of the "Big Beautiful Bill" (the federal bill enacted on July 4) would have disallowed any future change in the Wisconsin provider tax rate.

We are fortunate, indeed, to reside in a state where quality healthcare is not taken for granted. Through the extraordinary efforts of WHA, our light shines brightly among the others. We too have a share in that outcome as we collectively ADVOCATE, letting our VOICES be heard.

Bill McCullough, PPE Chair

Email: [webirish5all@gmail.com](mailto:webirish5all@gmail.com)

### Thank you, Bill McCullough!

Partners of WHA would like to extend a very special thank you to Bill McCullough. Bill has served as the Public Policy Education chair for Partners of WHA since 2019. In this role, he has been responsible for keeping us informed with timely updates on political issues impacting hospitals and health care. Bill also coordinates all arrangements for the chief executive officers (CEO) panel at our yearly conventions and serves as a vital liaison between WHA and Partners of WHA. He is stepping down from his position as PPE chair at the end of 2025.

We are deeply grateful for Bill's dedication, commitment, and hard work on behalf of Partners. Thank you, Bill, for all you have done and continue to do!

## Applications for Executive Officer Candidates Now Being Accepted

### Following the guidelines of Partners of WHA Bylaw 7, Article 7.3 (a):

Except as otherwise expressly provided in these bylaws, the President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected biennially at the Annual Meeting. No officer shall be elected as an officer without first having served on the Board of Directors for at least one (1) year. (7.2) Applications for the positions of President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer, to be elected at the October 2026, conference are being solicited.

Incumbent members must also submit a form. The questionnaire for potential officers can be found on the Partners of WHA website ([partnersofwha.org](http://partnersofwha.org)) under Resource Center - Forms. This [form](#) needs to be completed to be considered as a candidate for a position on the Partners executive board.

### Qualified applications will be accepted until March 1, 2026.

Please send completed form to:

Sharon Scott

1101 Hazelwood Court

West Bend, WI 53095

Or email to: [dick-sharon-scott@prodigy.net](mailto:dick-sharon-scott@prodigy.net)

Members of the Nominating Committee announced at the October 2025 Conference are Ramona Hornischer, Northern District; Pat McCarthy, Southern District; Iva Mulhern, Western District. Cindy Hermel, President-Elect, is a non-voting member of the committee.

*An organization's strength and success comes from strong leaders. Please consider sharing your leadership skills.*

## Around the State

### Fort HealthCare Partners, Fort Atkinson

It's time to move. Soon service areas and clinics will be moving, with volunteer services set to move into their new offices toward the end of October. We continue to recruit for new volunteers! Letters have been sent to all the local churches asking for help, a flyer has been sent to all of the local high schools for our *Volunteer* program, and we've spoken at some of the local senior centers. Please spread the word to your family, friends, neighbors, and families.



We are like  
a box of  
crayons. Each  
one of us is  
unique but  
when we get  
together the  
picture is  
complete.

- Becka Schoettle

### Reaching Out Deadlines

| <u>Issue</u>  | <u>Deadline</u>        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| February 2026 | Friday, Jan. 16, 2026  |
| May 2026      | Friday, April 17, 2026 |
| August 2026   | Friday, July 17, 2026  |
| November 2026 | Friday, Oct. 16, 2026  |

Partners *Reaching Out* is published four times a year by Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc. Visit the Partners website at [www.partnersofwha.org](http://www.partnersofwha.org). Direct questions or comments to:

Jan Molaska, Newsletter Editor

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