

PARTNERS

of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.

Northwestern District Newsletter Winter 2020

Message from Northwestern District Co-Chairs

Greetings from Northern Wisconsin. This is the first district report being done by your new District Co-chairs, so bear with us if we omit anything. You know where to find us. Anyway we thought that it would be good to start out with an introduction. I think a lot of you know Bev and I from the District meetings, but a little background may be called for.

I have been volunteering with Partners for over 12 years since I retired from the Spooner Hospital. I have worn a few hats serving as local CHE chair, Public Policy chair and two terms as president for Partners of Spooner Health. I was honored and a bit scared to take this position with Bev, but I look forward to serving this district and all of you to the best of my ability. Many thanks to Ginny Bosse for all that she has done and continues to do for Partners as she is continuing to cover the public policy chair position.

Beverly has been involved with the Partners of Ladysmith as an active member since 2009, holding the offices of Vice President and gift shop manager. She lives in Hawkins, Wisconsin and is married with a huge family. She is very much looking forward to getting involved with the District Co-Chair position.

There is not very much to update due to our lack of access to volunteering at our facilities, but we will carry on the best we can in the next few months. The upcoming event in 2021 will be the Spring Tour hosted by Superior on May 12th. More on that in the next newsletter.

As you will see in this newsletter, Ginny has sent out a shortened public policy report but a longer version is also available through your local presidents. I would like to remind all our local presidents, CHE chairs and PPE chairs about the annual reports that come to myself or Bev by the end of January. I know there is not much to say, but they are needed anyway for the records.

I just want to add that the next few months will continue to be challenging but we are very creative in helping our hospitals and communities. Just reading the presidents' reports for this article makes Bev and I proud to be able to help us succeed. Let's keep on moving toward the light at the end of the tunnel and look forward to being together soon in 2021.

Have a safe and blessed Christmas and a happier New Year.

**Beth Burnham and Beverly Lazar,
Co-Chairs of Northwestern Wisconsin District**

PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION REPORT

(Submitted by Ginny Bosse)

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Partners members' advocacy in support of our hospitals is needed more than ever. Our voices are respected voices, so we all must do our part to convince our state and federal representatives to do the right things.

#1 The current stimulus package is about to expire, and a new one is needed. Please contact Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Tom Tiffany to advocate for our hospitals, so they receive the help they need in the next stimulus bill.

#2 The still unmitigated spread of COVID compounds the exhaustion, and increasing frustration, of the health care heroes who staff our state's hospitals. Please contact our top state officials Governor Tony Evers, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, Sen. Majority Leader-elect Devin LeMahieu, Senate Minority Leader Janet Bewley, and Assembly Minority Leader Gordon Hintz, asking them to come together immediately with unified actions to slow demand for care by mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and to increase the capacity for care.

A separate email with contact information for those named above and more information about these issues two has been sent to all Northwestern District Presidents and PPE Chairs. For further information, ask them to forward it to you, or email me at gbose@live.com.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT

(Submitted by Beth Burnham)

Greetings everyone. This my final report this year on our topic of Mental Health. Who knew that this issue would become so crucial to the nation as a whole? We have been inundated with tons of statistics on this subject, so I just wanted to finish with an overview of where we are in this crisis.

Due to this pandemic, hardly anyone will escape the effects of it on our mental health. It has affected people in varying degrees depending on whether they already had an existing disease or not. The various aspects of this pandemic have taken a toll. They include isolation due to quarantining, stress brought on by the fear of the unknown, separation from our loved ones, and the lack of human contact like hugging. All ages have been impacted from the children forced to do virtual school to our nursing home residents who are the most vulnerable.

However, in these perilous times we have seen countless acts of heroism from front line workers not only in hospitals but in grocery stores and post offices and many more who had to work to keep us all safe. I have been heartened by all the random acts of kindness and just plain humanity that have been shown by ordinary citizens such as donating time and goods to food banks, and calling those who are isolated at home just to talk and provide comfort. So with the promise on the horizon of a vaccine, I remain hopeful that soon we will be able to hug our loved ones again.

I was remiss in sharing our next health topic for 2021. It is “wait for it” -- infectious diseases. More on that in the next newsletter. For now, I would like to quote Nora O’Donnell of CBS news who always closes her show with “stay positive and test negative”.

PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

(Note: There are no new updates from Park Falls.)

Report from Volunteer Partners of Spooner Health (Submitted by Allison Posso)

We had a “No Bake” Bake Sale and raised \$520. Volunteers were very generous.

We donated \$1,000 to the hospitals Resilience Team. They have been providing education and treats to the hospital staff since April during this stressful time.

Our Virtual Love Light Ceremony is December 7th at 2:00 pm. We have already received great response. It will be available to view from the ceremony through the end of December. It can be accessed through Spooner Health’s Facebook page or on the website at www.SpoonerHealth.com

The Gift Shop Sale for staff by appointment went well with sales over \$1,500 for the two days. We are going to have two days in December for staff also.

Report from MMC, Ashland

(Submitted by Linda Fish)

Since June the Thrift Shop began being open for limited hours. In July our Gift/Coffee Shop became a concession stand for food sales. Both have been closed at intervals due to causes related to the virus.

We will have a modified cookie walk on December 18. This is always a hit with the employees. We tried a virtual Nutman Sale in October and had less than half our normal sales. This was due in part to a very short time to advertise.

As we have celebrated our first 50 years, we have also been in the process of a New Beginning. There is no one to take on the position of president. So beginning January 1, 2021 Partners of MMC will cease to be the independent organization it has been since two

years before MMC opened. We will become part of the MMC family. We have had excellent support from MMC Administration. There will be an Advisory Board rather than a Board of Directors. Fortunately much of the work needed to facilitate the transition was completed before COVID hit.

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Our new Surgery Center will open early in 2021. This will cause some changes for the Information Desk volunteers to include the possibility of the discontinuing of that area of our service. This illustrates the saying that the only thing constant in life is change. May 2021 be a better year for everyone everywhere.

Report from HAMH&WE (Hayward)

(Submitted by Denise Williams)

Congratulations and a huge thank-you to Beth Burnham and Bev Lazar on assuming the Co-President role for the Northwestern District. They are sure to do a wonderful job in their new role.

The Partners of HAMH&WE continue to look for ways to support our hospital and care facility. Our hospital is in its next phase of reconstruction which includes the Gift Shop and hospital lobby along with many other areas. Even if we didn't have a pandemic, we would have had to shut our doors for a while, but we are looking forward to our new location and shop by the end of 2021.

Because we were not allowed in the facility, our volunteer coordinator, Ann Kozak, essentially packed up the shop and moved everything to storage at the end of September. Despite all that entailed, she held a two-day sale for employees which was appreciated greatly! Then she made up Halloween bags for residents and tenants of WE. We appreciate all she does for the Partners.

Many holiday festivities were/are cancelled such as the Halloween Treat night for area children at the facility, the cookie bake, and the traditional Christmas concert. We have, however, been able to have the annual nut and candy sale via on-line orders, and we hope we can still present patients in the hospital with a flower on Christmas Eve. We have many volunteers who have been writing and

corresponding with residents and we continue to look for ways to show the staff how much they are appreciated.

The down-time has enabled us a little more time to devote to revamping our scholarship application form and process and also to update our By-Laws. We look forward to when we can have an in-person Board meeting. I think I speak for many in our organization that we are looking forward to putting this very strange, depressing, and somber year behind us as we move towards better times. Best wishes to all for a safe and healthy New Year.

Report from Ladysmith

(Submitted by Bev Lazar)

November 19, 2020

Good afternoon,

FINALLY, I have my computer back and running. Hurray. My main source of communication was hard to live without. The following are the updates from the hospital.

Our hospital is almost to full capacity with all the sick people around our state. Although having a full hospital will look good at the bottom line, it's so sad that there are so many sick. Some very sad news, Ray Lubner has passed away. As far as I know it was not Covid related. Ray was a very prominent member of our Partners and of the volunteers at our hospital. I have not been able to find out if the family would like a donation sent to somewhere in his memory.

Beth Burnham from Spooner and I are the co-chairs for the Northwestern District. Nothing should change with our Partners; this is just for your FYI.

I have spoken to Roberta Copas regarding the decorating of the front lobby of the hospital. I have not heard back from Roberta, but was told that we will NOT be able to decorate as it is too hard to keep it sanitized. Paula and I reviewed the possibility of the Love Light Tree. We will NOT be sponsoring the tree this year. In an effort to avoid all face-to-face communication, we thought it best to not do this event. The hospital may light the tree anyway.

I have received some thank you cards from employees and staff at the hospital for the donuts and sweet rolls that we donated on the day of the Flu shots. A call was received that the bariatric chair will be purchased. This is from our WISH LIST last January. We have not received a bill for it yet. Pauline Lundgren will pay upon receipt, as we voted that in already. It is my knowledge that the hospital does not need any more cloth masks. If you would like to continue to make them, please contact the local schools. A huge thank you to all of you that contributed to this cause. If you sent me an email or notice by computer, please send again. I have not been able to sort thru all the emails at this time. Thank you.

Report from Superior

(Submitted by Jane, Patti, Becky and Lani)



Hello and Happy Holidays!

We know it has been a long time (9 months) since we were all busily doing our volunteer activities at SMHS and that it will be a while yet before we are able to return and volunteer our time and services again. However we just want to say Happy Holidays to all and that we miss you and hope you will be willing and able to return when we can.

Remember that verification of Flu shots is required so make sure you keep documentation of yours to provide to us.

To give you an update on what has been going on since we've last seen you:

I am sorry to say that the scholarship applications reviewed and approved for this fall semester were not issued due to college enrollment issues.

Mary Lou Monson has managed to re-activate her blanket ladies and is making blankets to keep the patients warm and cozy. She hand delivers the material to participants weekly and picks up the finished blankets and delivers them to the hospital. Good job ladies!

Essentia pharmacy requested a grant from our Auxiliary to help fund the new pill packaging machine at the new Essentia Pharmacy to be located in the old Super One Store in Belknap Plaza. It was a joint request of all 3 hospital Auxiliary so if you see it opening up, take pride in knowing that we had a hand in making it a reality.

Kim Pearson, SMHS Administrator requested a grant for \$995 from the Auxiliary to purchase a washer and dryer to use for cleaning masks and swing bed patients clothing. This was approved and it is installed and used almost daily.

A small group met at Jane's house one day for lunch and a work day. We made up 100 small treat bags that included snacks, motivational card and guardian angel charm and presented them to Kim Pearson to distribute to staff in the clinic and hospital to let them know that they are very much appreciated and thanked them for doing an amazing job.

Patti, Mary Lou and Jean Hennessey have been busy making masks for the hospital, clinics and schools. Thank you all; they are very much appreciated .

October, Patti and Becky got together at Becky's house to participate in a "zoom" convention meeting with the State WHA Partners to learn what is going on within the State. New officers were installed and will assume their new roles on January 1, 2021. The 2021 state convention is scheduled for October 2021 in Madison. More on that to come.

On October 27, Patti, Becky and Jane met at Becky's for another zoom meeting for the NW District. Was nice to see and hear representatives for the other hospitals and state Officers . Everyone is staying busy thinking and planning ways to help our hospitals when we are once again able to actively participate. The new officers were elected and installed by outgoing state president, Jan Molaska.

We know that we have had some illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths in our group
We were sorry to hear of them and hope and pray that all have recovered and are doing well now.