

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

Advocacy: People Matter

Advocacy is a critical element of the work of Partners. Partners keeps members informed about the health care industry and the issues facing hospitals and health care volunteers. Partners' advocacy is grounded in the belief that people matter, and their collective voices are powerful in shaping the future of health care by communicating with local, state, and federal legislators on legislative issues that impact our hospitals, clinics, and the well-being of all people.



Julie Steiner

While legislative and public policy advocacy is what we most often think of when we talk about advocacy in Partners, advocacy is truly more than that. Advocacy is also about actively supporting and speaking up for the interests, rights and needs of our local, district and state Partner organizations and what we do as members for our local hospitals. I had the opportunity to "advocate" for us this past year at online regional meetings with hospital leaders to make them aware of all that we do for our hospitals. This was an attempt to promote our value to both leaders who are familiar with what we do and to those who do not have Partners organizations in their hospital systems. I viewed this opportunity as just one more step in our continued efforts to communicate the value of Partners.

Advocacy involves promoting, understanding, providing information, problem-solving, and ensuring our voices are heard, especially as we face the challenges ahead. Our Partners Board of Directors met in Baraboo in January for a one-day brainstorming session. Leigh Ann Larson led us in discussions about our strengths and weaknesses to aid us in charting our path for the future. The goal of this meeting and continued discussion at our March board meeting is to help us better serve our current membership while we seek out new member organizations and at-large members.

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A Message from the President-elect

Looking Ahead

The new year is shaping up to be a busy and impactful year for Partners of WHA. On January 20, 2026, the Partners Board met at SSM Health St. Clare Hospital in Baraboo. Leigh Ann Larson facilitated an exercise to explore Partners options for the future. Stay tuned for more information.



Cindy Hermel

Advocacy Day will be February 25, 2026, at Monona Terrace in Madison. There will be inspiring speakers, interesting and informative discussions, and visits to legislators at the state capitol. If you have not registered yet, [do so today](#).

Spring Tour begins March 24, 2026, when the Northern District meets in Medford. The Lakes District will meet on March 31, and the Southern District gathers in Beloit on April 1. Finally, the Western District will meet in Black River Falls on April 6.

The 2026 Partners Conference and Annual Meeting will be October 14-15 at the Stoney Creek Inn in La Crosse. (Yes, we held last year's conference there.) Attendees at the 2025 annual meeting provided very positive feedback about the facility and location of the event. Look for more details about the conference in upcoming issues of *Reaching Out*.

An online members listening and sharing session will be scheduled in the near future. We will be eager to share with you goals and plans for the future of Partners.

Cindy Hermel, Partners President-elect
Email: clhermel@hotmail.com

Register Now for WHA's 2026 Advocacy Day on February 25!

Join us for WHA's annual Advocacy Day on Wednesday, Feb. 25—a powerful opportunity for hospital employees, trustees and volunteers to make a visible impression in the state capitol. This event offers a chance to connect, learn and influence critical health care issues.

Gather your hospital team and join more than 1,000 peers from across Wisconsin to make 2026 Advocacy Day the most impactful yet.



Event Details:

- Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026
- Time: Doors open at 7:45 a.m. Check-in starts at 8:00 a.m., program starts at 9:00 a.m.
- Location: Monona Terrace, Madison, WI
- Cost: Free ([pre-registration required](#))
- Register [here!](#)
- For event information, visit WHA's [website](#).
- **No onsite registration is planned for the day of the event.**
- A WHA issued name badge will be checked and verified before entry into the meeting room is allowed.

Keynote Speaker: POLITICO's Jonathan Martin

Jonathan Martin, politics bureau chief and senior political columnist at POLITICO, will be the keynote speaker for 2026 WHA Advocacy Day. A highly respected political journalist, Jonathan Martin provides sought-after coverage and regularly drives the news by delivering the inside story from the White House and Capitol Hill to the campaign trail well beyond the beltway. Martin is among the most trusted reporters in the U.S. with deep connections to the political leaders, power players and movers and shakers in Washington, D.C. and across the country. He is a contributor to NBC's *Meet the Press*, and his work has been featured in *The New Republic*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and more.



New this Year: WHA Member & Lawmaker Networking Reception

Kick off Advocacy Day by connecting with colleagues from across Wisconsin's hospitals and health systems and networking directly with state lawmakers. Enjoy light refreshments, build relationships and get energized for the day ahead. Madison Club - Terrace Room, Tues. Feb. 24, 5-7 p.m. **Be sure to RSVP during registration.**

Legislative Visits

Attendees have the opportunity to directly connect with their legislators and/or staff to discuss timely health care issues and share experiences from your hospital or health system. It is highly encouraged that all attendees sign up for legislative visits—the "advocacy in-action" part of Advocacy Day.

Celebrate Health Care Quality Achievements During Advocacy Day

After a day full of learning at the Monona Terrace, we invite you to attend the Health Care Quality Showcase in the Capitol Rotunda from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

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

We are all aware that post-pandemic burnout, less free time, shifting social behaviors and generational differences are contributing factors to our declining volunteer base and the volunteer base of many non-profit organizations. It's so important for us to continue to instill the passion we have for our organization into the hearts and minds of our present and future volunteers.

I look forward to speaking with many of you at Advocacy Day February 25th and at spring district meetings in March and April.

Julie Steiner, Partners President

Email: steinerfam@mwt.net

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) 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

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.

Strategic Planning Committee Report

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to work on our goals for the 2025-2026 years. The last month has been a slower time for the Strategic Planning Committee.

Julie Steiner shared *The Value of Partners* at WHA regional meetings held this past fall.

Cindy Hermel and Julie Steiner held a listening session for all Partners members in November 2025. The virtual meeting was an opportunity for participants to share their ideas, suggestions, successful initiatives, and challenges in the delivery of volunteer services that support hospitals and the patients they serve.

Now that the holidays are over, we will be back working on our goals for this year. At the time of this writing, an in-person meeting day of the full board is planned in January 2026 to explore options for continued relevance and success of the Partners organization.

I want to thank all the committee members for their time and effort in developing our goals to continue making the Partners of WHA a strong organization!

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

Examining Today's Corporate VOICE in Healthcare

Without question, the landscape of healthcare is changing at a rapid pace! In this writing we will attempt to weave recent healthcare-related events into the topic of leadership and "Finding our VOICE." That topic was introduced at the Partners February 2025 Board of Directors meeting in Madison. The purpose of the presentation was to address the challenge of ours and all organizations to enable volunteers to sense their innate worth and potential to contribute their talents and passion; their voice to accomplish the mission of the organization.

We would expect healthcare organizations to have a similar expectation from those at the "helm" of their organization to offer quality, affordable and timely healthcare services.

One year ago, Brian Thompson, CEO of UnitedHealthcare was murdered. A survey following his murder revealed that 68% thought that event to be unacceptable while 17% responded that it was acceptable. From the 19-29 age group, 41% responded unacceptable and 40% acceptable!

We might ask, "What has happened to achieve these levels of disdain for the largest provider of healthcare in the U.S.?" The response from a former UnitedHealthcare CEO to *The New York Times* expressed sympathy with the public frustration over the "flawed" health care system. In a phrase, Brian Thompson's death brought out public reckoning over the abuses of prior authorizations required by many providers in the healthcare industry.

Three previous issues of *Reaching Out* addressed the role of pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) and their misdeeds in carrying out the requirements of 340B, to pass down rebates offered by drug manufactures to needy Disproportionate Share Hospitals. Optum RX, a subsidiary of UnitedHealthcare, was a major player along with three other PBMs that control over 80% of all prescriptions in the U.S. In the first quarter of 2024, Optum RX generated \$35 billion in revenue! UnitedHealthcare has been a strong supporter of Medical Advantage Health Plans (MAHPs), most of which have no up-front premium but many levels of copays. In the first quarter of 2025, the earnings call for United Health Group stated they were caught off guard by the number of MAHP's utilization rates at 2X expectations creating a "damage control" situation requiring immediate steps to restore investor confidence. The stocks of Optum Health, a component of UnitedHealthcare, dropped over 20% in one day.

The acceptance of Medicare Advantage plans has been cancelled in over 40 health systems in the U.S. to include Rochester-Mayo due to slow payments and a high level of prior authorization requests.

In the following, we will change course to gain insight into these problems created, in part, by leadership in the healthcare industry.

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Change

One of life's constants is change. Change in itself is neither bad nor good. Change can help a person grow, which may lead you to understand more about yourself, your limitations, and your desires. In reality, change is occurring all the time. We know our bodies, the weather, and our surroundings are constantly changing. Getting older may also change your desires or expectations. Findings regarding change will vary greatly among age groups. Some feel change is not good. Greek philosophers 2,500 years ago stated, "There is nothing permanent except changes." Stress and confusion may be associated with too much change. Change that is unmanaged or poorly managed may result in a lack of productivity. Mark Twain said, "I'm all for progress—it's change I object to." Change can be complex, requiring data, discussion, planning, resources, and implementation. Putting these all together may result in change.



There are some things we can do to make change less difficult. Letting go of what we know or leaving familiarity or something we know are a start. Accepting change, practicing self-care, or seeking support from others may help with a negative perspective about change. If the first modification does not work as expected, continue to refine the change until the outcome you hoped for is attained. Communication, collaboration, and commitment are the three "Cs" of change leadership. Change gives you the opportunity to develop new skills and improve existing skills. Use your imagination to make positive changes.

Mary Jo Literski,
Aspirus Volunteer Board Member

(Examining Today's Corporate VOICE in Healthcare..cont'd. from page 4)

When we work to find our very OWN VOICE we look at the four segments of our IQ for application. In what ways do mind, body, heart, & spirit influence how we live and make our decisions? Through MIND, we learn and gain VISION; through BODY we live/survive and develop DISCIPLINE; Through HEART we love and gain PASSION, and through SPIRIT we gain meaning and contribution; CONSCIENCE. Organizations have similar IQs that influence their make-up and decision making, each influencing the character of the organization. In that corporate setting, VISION becomes corporate PATHFINDING; the ability of the organization to create order without demanding it; yielding "Visionary Moral Authority." Individual DISCIPLINE becomes ALIGNING which nourishes vision and empowerment yielding institutional moral authority. Individual PASSION becomes institutional EMPOWERMENT which unleashes human potential, moral authority. Finally, individual CONSCIENCE becomes corporate MODELING, inspiring trust yielding personal moral authority.

How then does the above summary and specific reference to UnitedHealth Group (UHG) bring understanding and offer significance to the corporate voice in applying the four roles of leadership?

Let's start with the mission statement for UHG: To make the health system work better for everyone, working to help build a modern, high-performing health system through improved affordability, outcomes and experiences via their two entities, Optum and UnitedHealthcare.

This all sounds like a well thought out strategic corporate plan. Does this description meet the definition of PATHFINDING, to create corporate order? "Visionary Moral Authority?" Recall that from its beginning in 1974, UHG has grown through strategic acquisitions, aggressive expansion into government programs, (Medicare/Medicaid) through vertical integration via Optum, significantly increasing revenue and market share by acquiring major players, to a point of controlling significant portions of the U.S. health insurance market (Reference [Reaching Out, August 2025](#)). Recall that Optum, along with two other pharmacy benefit managers, were sanctioned by the FTC. (See [February 2025 Reaching Out](#)). How does the business activity, known as "Chasing the Rebate," stack up with MODELING - "Inspiring Trust yielding Personal Moral Authority"?

Might the above referenced disdain for the current state of healthcare be in part the result of overreaching business growth and control by a few players to the disadvantage of consumers?

I do hope this brief introduction, summary and application of the 8th Habit, by Stephen Covey might be helpful as we all consider our role as volunteers in finding our individual VOICE to enhance and advance our role of advocacy.

Over the last number of years, I trust articles presented have had a positive impact on achieving that goal.

Bill McCullough (former PPE Chair)

Recipe: Energy Bites

One of the recipes shared from the Bistro Bus (Gentle Nutrition) workshop at the convention was Energy Bites. With the cold weather keeping us indoors and moving a little less, we can all use some extra energy. These easy, tasty bites are a great pick-me-up to get you through the day.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup oatmeal
- ½ cup chocolate chips (or other flavor)
- ½ cup ground flax seed (can add almond, cranberry, or raisins)
- ½ cup peanut butter (or other nut butter)
- 1/3 cup honey or maple syrup
- 1 tsp vanilla.



Directions: Combine all ingredients in a bowl, mix until fully combined. Roll into balls, refrigerate or freeze as desired. Will keep 1 week in the fridge, and 3 months in the freezer.

Community Health Education Report

Happy 2026! It seems like yesterday we were completing our fall conference and the holidays have come and gone. I don't know about you but the older I get I struggle with the change of the seasons and particularly the change from fall to winter. The gray and foggy days we have had in western Wisconsin lately affect my mood and energy. But on a day where the sun shines, I feel energized and happier. We continue to work on our goal of Connection and Community and how these things can affect our mental health. I would like to share with you some information I find helpful as I navigate through the seasons and how seasonal affective disorder is a real and documented condition.



Donna Nelson

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a type of depression that's related to changes in seasons — SAD begins and ends at about the same times every year. If you're like most people with SAD, your symptoms start in the fall and continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel moody. These symptoms often resolve during the spring and summer months. Less often, SAD causes depression in the spring or early summer and resolves during the fall or winter months.

Treatment for SAD may include light therapy (phototherapy), psychotherapy and medications. Don't brush off that yearly feeling as simply a case of the "winter blues" or a seasonal funk that you have to tough out on your own. Take steps to keep your mood and motivation steady throughout the year.

Symptoms

In most cases, seasonal affective disorder (SAD) symptoms appear during late fall or early winter and go away during the sunnier days of spring and summer. Less commonly, people with the opposite pattern have symptoms that begin in spring or summer. In either case, symptoms may start out mild and become more severe as the season progresses.

Signs and symptoms of SAD may include:

- Feeling listless, sad or down most of the day, nearly every day
- Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Having low energy and feeling sluggish
- Having problems with sleeping too much
- Experiencing carbohydrate cravings, overeating and weight gain
- Having difficulty concentrating
- Feeling hopeless, worthless or guilty
- Having thoughts of not wanting to live

Fall and winter SAD

Symptoms specific to winter-onset SAD, sometimes called winter depression, may include:

- Oversleeping
- Appetite changes, especially a craving for foods high in carbohydrates
- Weight gain
- Tiredness or low energy

Spring and summer SAD

Symptoms specific to summer-onset seasonal affective disorder, sometimes called summer depression, may include:

- Trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- Poor appetite
- Weight loss
- Agitation or anxiety
- Increased irritability

Seasonal changes and bipolar disorder

People who have bipolar disorder are at increased risk of seasonal affective disorder. In some people with bipolar disorder, episodes of mania may be linked to a specific season. For example, spring and summer can bring on symptoms of mania or a less intense form of mania (hypomania), anxiety, agitation and irritability. They may also experience depression during the fall and winter months.

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(Community Health Education Report...continued from page 6)

When to see a doctor

It's normal to have some days when you feel down. But if you feel down for days at a time and you can't get motivated to do activities you normally enjoy, see your health care provider. This is especially important if your sleep patterns and appetite have changed, you turn to alcohol for comfort or relaxation, or you feel hopeless or think about suicide.

Causes

The specific cause of seasonal affective disorder remains unknown. Some factors that may come into play include:

- **Your biological clock (circadian rhythm).** The reduced level of sunlight in fall and winter may cause winter-onset seasonal affective disorder (SAD). This decrease in sunlight may disrupt your body's internal clock and lead to feelings of depression.
- **Serotonin levels.** A drop in serotonin, a brain chemical (neurotransmitter) that affects mood, might play a role in SAD. Reduced sunlight can cause a drop in serotonin that may trigger depression.
- **Melatonin levels.** The change in season can disrupt the balance of the body's level of melatonin, which plays a role in sleep patterns and mood.

Risk factors

Seasonal affective disorder is diagnosed more often in women than in men. And SAD occurs more frequently in younger adults than in older adults. Factors that may increase your risk of seasonal affective disorder include:

- **Family history.** People with SAD may be more likely to have blood relatives with SAD or another form of depression.
- **Having major depression or bipolar disorder.** Symptoms of depression may worsen seasonally if you have one of these conditions.
- **Living far from the equator.** SAD appears to be more common among people who live far north or south of the equator. This may be due to decreased sunlight during the winter and longer days during the summer months.
- **Low level of vitamin D.** Some vitamin D is produced in the skin when it's exposed to sunlight. Vitamin D can help to boost serotonin activity. Less sunlight and not getting enough vitamin D from foods and other sources may result in low levels of vitamin D in the body.

Complications

Take signs and symptoms of seasonal affective disorder (SAD) seriously. As with other types of depression, SAD can get worse and lead to problems if it's not treated. These can include:

- Social withdrawal
- School or work problems
- Substance abuse
- Other mental health disorders such as anxiety or eating disorders
- Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Prevention

There's no known way to prevent the development of Seasonal affective disorder (SAD). However, if you take steps early on to manage symptoms, you may be able to prevent them from getting worse over time. You may be able to head off serious changes in mood, appetite and energy levels, as you can predict the time of the year in which these symptoms may start.

Treatment can help prevent complications, especially SAD if is diagnosed and treated before symptoms get bad.

Some people find it helpful to begin treatment before symptoms normally start in the fall or winter, and then continue treatment past the time symptoms would normally go away. Other people need continuous treatment to prevent symptoms from returning.

Be well!

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



**When life gives you snow -
make snow angels!**

Around the State

SSM Health Ripon Community Hospital has donated \$6,000 to the Green Lake County Health Department to support youth mental health programs in local schools, as well as a recent county-wide event to address specific community health needs.

Vernon Health

Pictured below, left to right: Barb Solverson, Linda Wagner and DJ Brown selling baked goods at the Friends of Vernon Health December Bake Sale and Gift Shop Open House.



New Exercise Machine Significantly Enhances Rehab Services in Richland Center

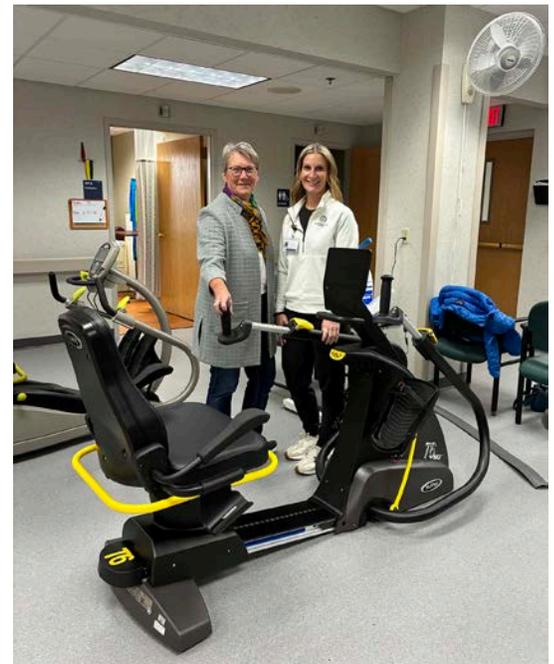
Generous gift from Partners of The Richland Hospital and Clinics helps recovery.

The Richland Hospital and Clinics' Therapy Department added the latest version of the NuStep Recumbent Exercise Machine, a gift made possible from the generous support of Partners of The Richland Hospital and Clinics.

"This contribution will significantly enhance rehabilitation services and patient care at the Frank F. Mohr Rehabilitation Center," says Shelly Maxwell, BS, CEP (certified exercise physiologist). "The NuStep provides patients with a high-quality, low-impact exercise option that supports mobility, strength, and confidence in their rehabilitation journey," Maxwell continues. "It is an asset that will benefit our community for many years to come."

Partners of The Richland Hospital and Clinics, a 100% volunteer group that has served the community for 60 years, funded the purchase through proceeds from the Lobby Shoppe, a boutique gift shop located inside the hospital.

"We are honored to support the incredible work the therapy department does for patients right here in Richland Center," adds Cindy Chicker, president of Partners. "This is a great example of how the funds raised through the Lobby Shoppe are given back to support the community," Chicker explained.



Cindy Chicker, president of Partners of The Richland Hospital and Clinics, joins Shelly Maxwell, Exercise Physiologist, to review the NuStep machine donated by the Partners group for the Frank F. Mohr Rehabilitation Center at TRHC.

(Around the State...continued from page 8)

Gifts of Goodness: Meet the Team Behind Lobby Shoppe

Partners of the Richland Hospital and Clinics Provide Vital Support.

Stepping inside the Lobby Shoppe at The Richland Hospital is like visiting a boutique gift shop. Only in this store, you have the satisfaction of knowing your purchase is making a difference. It doesn't take long to get caught up in the selection of luxuriously soft sweaters and wraps, whimsical winter accessories, tasteful jewelry, meaningful home decor, greeting cards, and more. If you find yourself not quite sure which item is "the one," a welcoming face behind the counter is ready to help.

The Lobby Shoppe is staffed and run by Partners of The Richland Hospital and Clinics, an independent group of volunteers who use their funds to support health care scholarships and vital equipment. "2025 marked our 60th year serving The Richland Hospital and Clinics," adds the group's President, Cindy Chicker. Their work has a positive impact on so many lives, and they do it by offering a real value to shoppers. "We hear all the time how surprised people are by the good prices," she adds. The fast-selling items and quick inventory turn are proof the concept is working.

"I stock the store with things I find on various shopping trips," adds volunteer and main buyer, Connie Dunn. She certainly has an eye for what people want.



Executive Committee of Partners of The Richland Hospital are L to R: Trudy Kinyon, Connie Dosch, Cindy Chicker, Rose Birkholz, Connie Dunn, Joann Tennant, Carolyn Dray. Not pictured: Cindy Hanold and Claudia Berres.

Winter Well-Being

As the winter months set in, it's important to stay proactive about our physical and mental health. Cold weather and shorter days can make it harder to stay active and healthy, but there are plenty of ways to keep well-being a priority this season. Here are a few key areas to focus on:

Stay Active Outdoors (& Indoors). Don't let the cold weather keep you from moving!

Outdoor activities like walking, snowshoeing, or a short winter hike are great ways to stay active. Be mindful of slippery surfaces and dress in layers for warmth. If the weather is too harsh, bring your workouts indoors—try home workouts, yoga, or join a fitness class to keep your routine going.

Boost Your Vitamin D

With less sunlight during winter, many people can experience low vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is essential for bone health and immunity. Whenever possible, spend some time outside during daylight hours to soak up the sun. You can also get vitamin D through foods like fatty fish, fortified cereals, and dairy, or discuss supplements with your healthcare provider if needed.

Winter Safety: Slips, Trips & Falls

Icy sidewalks and snowy paths can be hazardous. To prevent slips and falls: Wear sturdy shoes with good traction. Take shorter steps on slippery surfaces. Clear pathways of snow and ice promptly. Use salt or sand to improve traction on walkways.

Eat Healthy Through the Winter

It's easy to indulge in comfort foods during the colder months, but staying mindful of nutrition is key to feeling your best. Focus on seasonal fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. Warm, hearty soups and stews filled with vegetables can be both comforting and nutritious.

Don't forget to stay hydrated – even in winter, water is essential!

We say THANK YOU and Farewell!

After 45 years of dedicated service to Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Yolanda (Yo) Voigt is retiring—and just like Elvis, “**Yo has left the building.**”

Yo began her career as a patient accounts representative, later moving into human resources, and ultimately assuming leadership as director of volunteer services, a role she held until retirement. Through her vision and leadership, the Aspirus Wausau Volunteers grew into a strong, influential organization, earning the Partners of the Wisconsin Hospital Association’s Award for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE) numerous times. Beyond Aspirus, Yo served on many boards, was president of the National Association for Healthcare Volunteer Resource Professionals,



and for many years acted as a liaison to the Partners of WHA Board, leaving a legacy of service, leadership, and impact. Yo was fun-loving, willing to try anything, and always brimming with new ideas. She delighted in having her group wear costumes for all kinds of occasions, bringing joy, creativity, and laughter into everything they did. Yo was also known for always taking pictures, sending thoughtful notes, and consistently acknowledging every effort made by volunteers—making each person feel seen, valued, and appreciated.

Although we feel a sadness as Yo leaves, we are excited for all that the future holds for her. I’m sure all those who have known Yo will join me in thanking her for the years of support she has shown our organization and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.



Yo was ALWAYS a part of all activities – even 6:00 A.M. cookie sales.



*In the New Year,
never forget to
thank your past
years because they
enabled you to
reach TODAY!
WITHOUT
THE STAIRS
of the PAST
YOU CANNOT
ARRIVE AT THE
FUTURE!*

(Mehmet Murat Ildan)

Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
May 2026	Friday, April 17, 2026
August 2026	Friday, July 17, 2026
November 2026	Friday, Oct. 16, 2026
February 2027	Friday, Jan. 15, 2027

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