

SE District 2023 Summer Newsletter



*Note
from
Sue*

SE District Chair Greetings

With the end of summer nearing, volunteers and leaders gear up for a busy time with preparations for Fall activities, district meetings and Partners of WHA State Convention!

The SE District Leadership meeting was held on August 24 in virtual format with the majority of local organizations represented. The remaining expenditures for 2023 and a 2024 budget was discussed. The 2024 budget will be prepared and brought to the general membership at the 2023 Fall SE District meeting for approval.

The 2023 Partners of WHA State Convention is a time to learn and network with other volunteer organizations. It is also a time to “display” your local organization’s involvement with Partners. There are a number of opportunities to do this: hospital poster board, silent auction donation, participation in workshops, but most of all attendance to the convention!

Hope to see many of you there!

Sue Schuelke-SE District Chair



SAVE THE DATES!

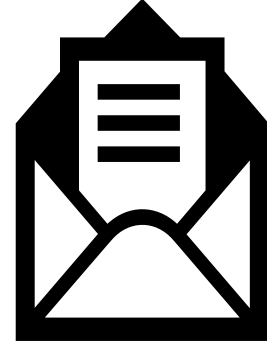
- ❖ The Power of Connection-“The Concierge Admissions Program” on September 12, 2023. 10-11:30am
- ❖ The 2023 Partners of WHA State Convention held October 3-5 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Stevens Point.
- ❖ 2023 Fall SE District Meeting on October 18 from 8:30-11:30am at Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital.

LOCAL
What's New in the SE District!
UPDATES

Partners of WHA continues to be challenged with local membership, a lingering result of the COVID-19 pandemic and organizational changes. The SE District is just one example. Recently, our district had 2 local volunteer organizations drop membership with Partners of WHA: Ascension St. Francis Guild and Aurora West Allis Medical Center volunteers. Their contribution to Partners of WHA over the years is greatly appreciated.

As we look ahead, the door is always open to local hospitals rejoining Partners of WHA/SE District in the future as well as new members.

The SE District is offering one scholarship to the 2023 Partners of WHA State Convention. New this year is the offering to any qualifying volunteer regardless if he/she is a first time attendee or past attendee. Registration forms are available through your local DVS and Auxiliary President. Deadline to submit your application is September 11.


Public Policy Report

Wisconsin Hospital Association(WHA) has a great website that shares information on how this organization supports and promotes interests of our health care facilities, patients, and communities. A couple examples of this includes the areas of Behavioral Health (ties in with Community Health Education topic of Mental Health) and Workforce in Healthcare.

With the advocacy WHA provides and changes to public policy, health systems and hospitals have been able to create more access for mental health and substance use disorders.

Long term solutions to the healthcare workforce crisis are being developed through WHA strategies that support growth of new workforce at a faster pace, recruitment and retention of current healthcare employees, and protection from burnout.

Further information on these and other state and federal issues that WHA is addressing can be found at wha.org and in the Valued Voice newsletter.

Resource: wha.org

Community Health Education Report



Alcohol and Women: While alcohol related deaths have generally been higher in men than women, the trend is changing. Women in the US are dying of alcohol-related causes at a much higher rate than US men according to Women's Health from WebMD. Reasons being women are drinking more, engaging in more high risk drinking, and increasingly developing alcohol use disorder. Alcohol affects women differently than men:

- Women have lower concentrations of the enzyme called alcohol dehydrogenase, which helps breakdown and metabolize alcohol.
- In women, the concentration of fat to water is higher so that leads to a possibly higher concentration of alcohol.
- Differences in metabolism from men.
- The impact of hormones.
- Increasing prevalence of obesity and bariatric surgery in women.

Obsessive/Compulsive Disorder: An individual can be obsessive, compulsive, or both. Diagnosis is generally made in young adulthood although symptoms may begin presenting around age 10. What is the difference? The National Institute on Mental Health defines these as:

- ❖ Obsessions: repeated thoughts, urges, mental images that cause anxiety.
- ❖ Compulsions: repetitive behaviors a person feels an urge to do in response to an obsessive thought.

The causes are not known but certain factors are thought to contribute to a person developing this disorder. These include genetics, biological, strep infection during childhood, and possibly childhood trauma.

Resources: webmd.com; Nimh.nih.gov

