

# PARTNERS

*of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.*

## Northwestern District Newsletter

Winter 2022

### NORTHWEST DISTRICT CHAIR REPORT

Greetings Everyone,

So the holidays are upon us and as usual I am not totally prepared, thus our newsletter is a bit late — but better late than never. Since our August issue, there have been a couple of events to report on.

In October, Partners was finally able to hold an in-person convention at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. There was a good showing from our district with eight attending. There were not as many vendors or hospital displays, but it was a fairly good turnout of volunteers from around the state. The keynote speakers were very good as usual with emphasis on keeping motivated and inspired especially with all of the changes taking place with our volunteer groups following Covid.

The CEO panel I thought was one of the best we have ever heard from. Mainly, they represented smaller hospitals and related some of the challenges that they faced during the pandemic and how they have been able to recover while providing great patient care. They really heaped high praise on their volunteers for all of the help they were able to give and, in general, expressed thanks to all volunteers who have supported their hospital in the hard times. It was very emotional and heartening to hear that we have made a difference and will continue to do so despite difficult situations.

On the Monday after the convention, our Fall District meeting was held in Superior. Patti Francisco and her group did a fantastic job putting it together on short notice. It was so good to see people in person, and we were able to meet in their community room without masks. St Mary's Hospital Administrator gave a nice presentation about the passion and commitment of volunteering. There was a candid discussion about organizing a nominating committee of one person from each of the five groups to seek out persons willing to accept a nomination for any of the District officer positions. Bev, Ginny and I will be ending our terms in 2023, so it was important to find out if we would have anyone to replace us.

## Chair Report (Continued)

We also decided that there needs to be more discussion going forward about the future of our district based on the changes we have been seeing in membership and lack of activities in the various groups. At this juncture, we three district officers will be meeting in the New Year to discuss issues concerning how to proceed and the viability of our district. We will, of course, keep everyone apprised of what is taking place.

Upcoming events in the New Year are the Spring Tour hosted by Park Falls and Advocacy Day both occurring in April. The Spring tour is on for now but there may be a change in the new year. Just a little reminder that in January the end of year reports will be due to us, and the forms can be downloaded on the Partners website or let Bev or I know if you need paper forms sent to you. These reports are just meant to summarize what has happened with your groups in 2022. Notify me if you have any questions.

Bev and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy Healthy New Year. Also, thank you so much for all of your hard work this year as volunteers in your individual communities. Believe me, it is very much appreciated by us and your hospitals.

Respectfully submitted December 2022

**Beth Burnham and Bev Lazar**

Co-Chairs of the Northwestern District

## Partners of Marshfield Medical Center -Ladysmith

(I am enclosing an article written about the Partners of Marshfield Medical Center- Ladysmith. In the article, the details of a brick walkway for our new hospital is outlined. I could not get it on an electronic to send to you so I am sending the actual newspaper clipping. The plan is to open the new hospital to the public in March of 2023, if all goes well. We are very excited about getting back in the hospital to help with the opening and to volunteer again.)

Our Partners group has been a little more active than in the last years. We attended the Convention, the Fall District Meeting, sponsored a Kringle Sale and now are working on the Love Light Tree. In past years, we always put together a Christmas Tea, but because of still existing Covid restrictions, we will not be able to do that this year.

The Convention was wonderful. It was so great to be together, so see the familiar faces and speak face to face with old friends, and some new ones. Bravo to the group that put this together. It was a wonderful time.

Wishing you and your family, a warm and happy holiday. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you on October 23 at our next convention.

Beverly Lazar,  
President of Partners of MMC-Ladysmith

# Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital of Superior Auxiliary

Hello all!!

Here is an update of activities in a Superior since our last update:

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The bake sale took in \$565 and our gift shop made a very nice total if \$4,129

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The Community Room was so festive and set up with Christmas music and beautiful displays. A big thank you to Lani Kolanczyk for chairing the gift sale portion of this event

On Friday, December 2nd the hospital held its Holiday Luncheon for their employees and volunteers. It was great get together with delicious food and awesome desserts

Wednesday, December 7th a raffle drawing was held for many holiday baskets, homemade gifts and various prizes from our Superior area.

This raffle is usually held during our Tree of Lights Celebration.

Duluth Essentia Hospital treated the volunteers to some delicious Christmas cookies Wednesday, December 14th.

Well that's all for now.

Hope all have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Patti Francisco

# COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT

(Submitted by Beth Burnham, District Community Health Chair)

Hi Everyone,

Just sending out the end-of-the-year community health report. As you may have seen on the news, this winter is going to be a challenge with the emergence of what is being called a “Tridemic” which is the combination of Covid, the flu, and RSV, and unfortunately affecting persons of all ages.

This really means that we continue to maintain precautions even despite our vaccination status. It may even entail returning to mask wearing indoors especially in crowded spaces. The holidays, starting with Thanksgiving and on into Christmas, have provided and will continue to provide a perfect scenario for surge in infections.

I know it is not the best news for this time of celebration, but we must follow safe practices to protect not only ourselves but other family members. Remain up to date on all your vaccinations and that will increase your chances of not getting sick and better able to enjoy a wonderful holiday season.

With that, I wish all of you a safe, healthy Christmas and a Happy and healthier New Year.

## MMC-Park Falls Auxiliary - December 2022 - from Ginny Bosse

During our December 13th Board meeting, our hospital's CAO, Jeff Euclide, reported that inflation is affecting pricing, supply chain issues are unpredictable, and the situation we have (taking down and rebuilding various parts of the hospital while keeping the hospital open) is very different from building a new hospital and moving into it when it's completed. It will be important to have everything needed for rebuilding each area of the hospital before tearing down the existing area. Renovation will begin on the clinic side, and the hope is to have the clinic and hospital renovations completed in 2025. The possible merger with Essentia announced six months ago is in the Due Diligence phase and will be decided by the end of September. The volume of services provided by our hospital continues to grow. An example is Dr. Eisenhower, the first orthopedic doctor to do surgeries at MMC-PF. The hospital has changed the 1990's EMS services agreement with eleven surrounding communities because it has lost \$180,000-\$200,000 annually. All municipalities have accepted the new service agreements, which are now on a per-capita basis.

Our day-to-day liaison Senior Director Bob Pflanz reported that there are weekly meetings about how the new hospital will become a reality, so there are no blueprints yet. He also explained that because of things like HIPPA and firearms, the policy on hospital security has been allowed to lapse and the hospital is now doing its own security. In response to a question about employee security, he said that employees are allowed to park in the front at night, all doors are locked day and night (except the main entrance during the day), there are camera's outside, and that there are virtual staff safety and self-defense trainings as well as awareness and defusing situations. Jeff added that there will be even more security for the new hospital.

Our (shared with Rice Lake and Ladysmith) Manager of Volunteer Services Tammy Koger brought information about the hospital system's scholarships for us to look at. Since at least 1996, our auxiliary has given our own scholarships. This year we gave six: four \$1000 scholarships to full-time students and two \$500 scholarships to part-time students. We hope that the powers that be will allow us to continue doing our own (scholarship) thing! Tammy will work with Senior Communication Specialist Seth Carlson on a volunteer recruitment brochure and other outreach to potential members and volunteers. Tammy shared copies of the updated Volunteer Handbook she created for us. We require much less paperwork now than what was used previously, because the Thrift Store is not physically connected to the hospital. Our newest volunteer is the teenage granddaughter of our Secretary and our first "volunteer"! After the hospital renovation, our volunteer options will be greatly expanded. Concierges and escorts will be needed, especially immediately after the renovations. Being a companion volunteer, going room-to-room with a cart of supplies and/or books and magazines, work in various areas like surgery or oncology, and office work may be some of our volunteer choices. This was exciting news for us! Also exciting is that, at least for now, masks aren't required at the T.S. Though only open for 20 hours a week, the T.S. had its first \$2,000-in-sales week in December!

## Public Policy Education Report — December 2022 NW District Newsletter

Northwestern District PPE Chair Ginny Bosse

These links were copied and pasted straight from the Partners of WHA website. You can keep a paper copy of this as a kind of Site Book like the old phone books that you looked at as you dialed the numbers, but this is a Web Address book you can look at when typing in the web address on your computer or other device. Or, if you can click on the web address on this Word document on your computer and the link will take you to the information you're looking for!

WHA has released a great video about the link between Public Policy and our healthcare. Click here to go to the WHA You Tube link. Policy Websites: There are a number of websites available to gather information regarding various political and health issues which impact Wisconsin Hospitals and communities. Listed below are several that might be of benefit:

· [www.legis.wisconsin.gov](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov) Information specific to Wisconsin Legislature · [www.thehill.com](http://www.thehill.com) Information specific to Washington Legislation

The Hill is an American newspaper published in Washington DC. It focuses on politics, policy, business and international relations. The Hill coverage includes Congress, the White House and federal campaigns. The website features 6 blogs specific to political and policy issues including The Ballot Box, Congress Blog, Floor Action, Blog Briefing Room, In the Know and Twitter Room. · [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) Information specific to the Senate Bills · [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) Information specific to the House Bills

This United States House of Representatives site provides information on current legislation, votes and House documents. In addition you find information on FAQs about specific legislation and the legislative process as well as access to videos of House Floor Proceedings. · [www.clerk.house.gov/floorsummary/floor.html](http://www.clerk.house.gov/floorsummary/floor.html) · [www.political.com](http://www.political.com) General political information · [www.thewheelerreport.com](http://www.thewheelerreport.com) The Wheeler Report is a legislative news service covering the Wisconsin State Legislature. It tracks all legislation introduced including bill referrals, hearing notices, executive session action, floor action and action by the Governor. · [www.wiseye.org](http://www.wiseye.org) The WisconsinEye provides the state's most extensive coverage on Wisconsin legislative races. You can watch/listen to candidate interviews on this site. The interviews will be updated regularly. Coverage began in August and will continue through the inauguration of election winners in 2017. · [www.wha.org](http://www.wha.org) The Valued Voice is posted every Friday. It provides current healthcare related news, legislative updates, annual reports, and educational opportunities pertinent to issues of interest/importance to Wisconsin hospitals, physicians, healthcare providers, volunteers and patients. · [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org) The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit organization focusing

on major health care issues facing the nation, as well as the US role in global health policy. It is a non-partisan source of facts and analysis, polling and journalism for policy makers, the media, the health care community and the general public. The Foundation is known for having the most up-to-date and accurate information on health policy

## Partners of Spooner Health

Allison Posso-President Since we last met, we had our Silent Auction which raised \$988. Hospital departments donate items and/or baskets for this fundraiser along with volunteers and the Gift Shop. It was a fun day with hospital staff bidding.

December 5th was our Virtual Love Light Ceremony. It was a great program. You can view it online at Spoonerhealth.com. It is available to view for the month of December. Please check it out. This fundraiser raised \$1188 which goes to the scholarship fund. Betsy Andrea and Jennifer Ripley co-chaired this event.

The board met after meeting with administration about the best way going forward for our group. The decision was made to leave WHA Partners. Below is the letter that was sent to the district and the state. Our bylaws will need to be rewritten and name change which will go to our volunteer group.

*"I am writing to inform you that Spooner Health volunteers will be leaving WHA Partners. We have been involved with this group for many years. We appreciate the knowledge, support, and the district camaraderie over the years. We will continue as a volunteer group at Spooner Health. We met as a board and with administration to look at the best way going forward for the success of our group.*

*COVID has forever changed the ways we fundraise. With not having changes to our aging core volunteer group and lack of new younger volunteers joining, it is time to restructure how we function.*

*We will still have our Gift Shop open, continue to have the Virtual Love Lights ceremony, Scholarship Committee, provide food for the Red Cross Blood Mobile workers and the Silent Auction. We have long had problems filling leadership roles and will have an advisory committee".*

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and a Healthy, Happy New Year.

Allison Posso

