

# PARTNERS

*of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.*

## Northwestern District Newsletter Fall 2022

### NORTHWEST DISTRICT CHAIR REPORT

Hi everyone. I hope that all of you have had a fun filled summer. It seems as though things are more open as we move into fall, but we still need to pay attention to any changes that may occur going forward. I realize that our volunteers are still not allowed access to their hospitals, but they persist in holding some events depending on where they live.

A few weeks ago I was pleased to attend the Annual Meeting for our Superior Volunteer group where I installed new officers for another term. It was wonderful to meet in person with the members and to hear how they have been doing. We even had two photos taken for the occasion and they are in our newsletter. Even with masks, we were smiling.

Now for upcoming events. The convention this year is in person (God willing) at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. You have already received some information through your presidents and hopefully some of you will be able to attend. The dates are October 11th-13th. It promises to be fun and informative not to mention a great opportunity to see and network with our fellow volunteers. The other event upcoming is the Fall District Meeting. Due to the loss of our Hayward group, we needed to rearrange the schedule and Superior offered to host the fall meeting. Bless them!! It is planned to be in person but the virtual option can be available if some people choose to attend that way. We will need those who are planning to attend to contact your local presidents and let them know also whether you will be in person or virtual. It would help to have the number of attendees sent to me no later than October 1st. More details will be coming in the next week or so.

Two weeks ago Bev and I tuned in to a Webinar sponsored by the group from the Iowa Hospital Volunteers. There were attendees from Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota and the main topic by the guest speaker was Recruitment of New Volunteers as we navigate in this new normal environment. Those attending were able to share their challenges, and most of them were very similar to those we have been facing in our district. The main point expressed was that there needs to be a strategy in place to attract new volunteers. I am sure that we will hear more about this at the convention and can discuss it further at our Fall meeting which I forgot to mention is on Monday, October 17th after the convention.

That is all I have for now. I know that we are all still trying to hang on and doing our best to persist, so thank you so much for all of your efforts in these trying times.

Respectfully submitted August 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2022

Beth Burnham and Bev Lazar  
Co-Chairs Northwestern District

## PPE Report for Fall 2022 NW District Newsletter

The 2022 midterm (not a presidential election year) elections will determine the course of our cities, counties, state, and country. This is not an exaggeration. It is the truth of every election held! Because many Americans think only presidential elections are important, midterm elections have low voter turnout. More people voted in the primary elections held earlier this year than in other years' primaries, but it was still a sadly low percentage of the eligible voters in Wisconsin.

This November, Wisconsin has a U.S. Senate seat to fill for the next 6-year term and the Governor's seat to fill for a four-year term. Every Wisconsin Assembly seat (Ours is #74) and our own Wisconsin Senate 75th District elections are this year, too. Yes, we can express our opinions on things to whoever our legislators are, but the best way to get things to happen in the ways you want them to happen is to vote into office the candidates who share your values. Please do your research and vote!

Communicating with our legislators is important no matter their or your political party. Through the HEAT program (Hospital Education and Advocacy Team), Wisconsin hospitals, hospital employees, and Partners members positively impact the legislative process on issues they care about and speak with one voice. If you aren't already a HEAT member, please join the thousands of others in making the voice of Wisconsin hospitals heard loud and clear. Sign-up for HEAT today to receive:

- Action alerts, called HEAT Alerts, on important, timely public policy facing the Governor, State Legislature, or Congress that could impact Wisconsin hospitals and health care in the state.

- An invitation to WHA's annual Advocacy Day where you will join more than 1,100 hospital administrators, employees, trustees, volunteers, physicians, patients, and others passionate protecting Wisconsin's high-quality, high-value health care system as they lobby in the state Capitol.

- Periodic public policy updates keeping you informed of the status and progress of legislative priorities.

- Election resources so you know where your candidates stand on health care issues.

If not already a member (or if you joined long ago and have not given them your email address and don't receive the email alerts) please become a healthcare advocate through the HEAT program and encourage members of your Partners group to sign-up for HEAT and engage in advocacy, because how will they know the impact of their decisions on your hospital if you don't tell them?

Ginny Bosse

## Partners of MMC, Ashland

I heard from Carol Huhn in Ashland and actually met her for lunch a few weeks ago. As of now they are still meeting virtually but have not had any events to report on. Their Advisory Board consists of 7 volunteers and they liaise with Kevin Stranberg for any events or fundraising. Hopefully we will have some of their members at the district meeting. I continue to keep in touch with them and they want to continue to be included in Partners.

*Submitted by Beth Burnham*

## Marshfield Medical Center-Park Falls Auxiliary Report

Running the MMC-PF Auxiliary Thrift Store is the main project of our auxiliary. Pre-pandemic, it was open from 10:00 to 4:00 Monday through Friday and 10:00 to 1:00 on Saturdays. Now open only four days a week (Tuesdays 10:00-3:00, Wednesdays 10:00-1:00, Thursdays, 11:00-3:00, and Saturdays 10:00-1:00), we aren't taking in as much money as we used to. Despite that, we gave four \$1000 scholarships to full-time students and two \$500 scholarships to part-time students this summer. Unlike many organizations and individuals who give scholarships to high school seniors, our scholarship applicants must have successfully completed at least one year of post-secondary education before they can apply. We started in the 1990s with one \$400 scholarship and have been giving up to \$6000 each year for quite a few years.

Because our hospital changed ownership during a pandemic, we are still transitioning into the new name and new requirements for our organization. Tammy Koger, who is Volunteer Services Manager for the Rice Lake and Ladysmith hospitals, has been helping our Thrift Store volunteers through the paperwork and other requirements for "becoming" a Marshfield Clinic-Park Falls volunteer. She will be returning to Park Falls the morning of September 13th and will attend at least part of our meeting to talk to the Board about her role. She'll also visit the Thrift Store for a "meet-and-greet" with the Thrift Store volunteers and help any of us who haven't completed our "paperwork". I'm very hopeful that our volunteers, who were used to nearly full autonomy for 90+ years, will come to understand the Marshfield Clinic Health System changes in process.

Ginny Bosse

# Essentia Health St. Marys Hospital Superior Auxiliary

Hello All,

Since our last report in April we have been given the “green light” to hold in-person meetings and fundraisers in the hospital. Of course, face masks must be worn appropriately.

I believe I speak for everyone when I say we are very happy about this.

On May 26 we held our auxiliary meeting in the Community Room and there 16 members in attendance and an addition four zoom attendees

On June 22 we held our first in-person fundraiser since prior to Covid!  
Our Book Sale brought in \$280.75 and it was great getting back in the swing of things!  
This was an all cash sale including employee payroll deduction.

On July 25 we held our Annual Meeting/Auxiliary Meeting which included the election and installation of officers.

The officers are:

Patti Francisco- President

Chris Swanson - Vice President

Secretary - Mary Lou Monson

Co- Treasurers- Rose Reijo

Co- Treasurers - Kay Johnson

Jane Cheever passed out existing By/Laws

July 28 Jane Cheever met me at The Good Garden Company in Billings Park where we picked out a fountain to be placed in the Courtyard outside of the cafeteria. This will include a plaque in memory of volunteers who recently have passed away

This is an attractive 3-tier fountain that we hope will be enjoyed by all.  
The Missinne Greenhouse south of Superior did not have fountains to purchase.

We are waiting for the OK from Kim Pearson, hospital administrator, and Robb from maintenance, who will be installing for us. Jane and I will be ordering sometime after Labor Day.

Installation will be spring of 2023.

On August 8 a very nice volunteer picnic was held at Heritage Park in Superior.  
The company was great and food delicious. Thank you to all who provided dishes to share.

A special thank you to Jane Cheever who planned and arranged everything.  
Not only this day but every picnic as long as I have been here,  
Our next auxiliary meeting will be held August 22.

On September 19 and 20 we will hold our next in-person fundraiser. The Nutman is back selling goodies which have been a hit in the past. The auxiliary takes 15% of sales from this successful sale.

Last time we held the Nutman Sale was 2019!

October 11-13 are the dates for the WHA Convention to be held at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. All information and sign-up sheets are in the volunteer office along with raffle tickets that are for sale. You do not need to be present to win.

On Monday, October 17 Superior will be hosting the Fall District meeting. This in-person meeting will be held in the Community Room and lunch will be served in the Courtyard Room. More to come on this.

### Upcoming Events

*(All of these events are subject to change due to any health alerts.)*

- November 8 and 9 - Gift Shop Christmas Show  
(9 am -3:00 pm - Community Room)
- Possible Pie Sale
- Tree of Lights Ceremony



### Installation of officers at Essentia Health St. Marys Hospital Superior Auxiliary

*Pictured (left to right) are President Patti Francisco, Vice President Chris Swanson, Beth Burnham, Secretary Mary Lou Monson, and Co-Treasurers Kay Johnson and Rose Rejo.*

*Picture on the right: Beth Burnham and Patti Francisco*

## Volunteer Partners of Spooner Health

It is so nice to have summer here. Everything is so green and plenty of blue skies.

Volunteering is different now with Covid. The Gift Shop is open Monday - Friday 11am-2pm. It is still not open to the public unless you are already in the hospital for an appointment or visiting. The staff is grateful it is opened. We do not do the volume we used to when it was open to the public. The funds we raise from sales help cover scholarships and a few other projects. The Gift Shop is all decorated for fall. We have some great fall décor, new fall candles and towels.

Love Light fundraiser did very well this year with funds going to the scholarship program. We awarded three scholarships: McKenzie Anderson, attending the University of Minnesota for bioIogy, pursuing a career in oph- thalmology; Jazmyn Wilson, attending Western Technical College for surgical technology; Molly Arf, attending Min- nesota State-Mankato in nursing. I feel scholarship support is something important we need to continue to provide as long as we can. Giving local scholarships to those who are going into a health-related field is very important, especially at this time. I want to thank the scholarship committee for their time and participation in the selections. The committee this year was: Kathy Laird, Beth Burnham, Lee Weiss, Mike Schafer and Cara Walters, who is the Scholarship Chair.

Partners purchased 12 rodeo tickets for the residents of Maple Ridge Care Center, like we have done for many years. This is something they request and enjoy.

Greeter/escort services is still on hold.

We had a No Bake-Bake Sale fundraiser with around \$700 dollars raised. The funds raised go towards scholarships like our Bake Sale fundraiser always did.

We will be able to have the Silent Auction again this year. We have not had it for two years. It will not be open to the public, just the staff. The staff are very generous with this fundraiser and donate items and or baskets. It is a fun day with great gifts for Christmas. It will be on November 14th.

We will have the virtual Love Light ceremony and fundraiser again this year. It is something the community and staff look forward to.

I hope you are enjoying your summer. I love fall in Wisconsin.

*“Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth”* - Muhammad Ali

Allison Posso

## ***Northwestern District Community Health Report***

Hello everyone. Just sharing an update on a couple of health related issues for this newsletter.

First of all, Covid and all its variants are still with us so we remain alert and aware of any changes occurring. As far as our part of the state, the risk level in Washburn and Ashland counties is moderate and in Rusk county the risk is still high. So the use of masks in all of these areas depends on where you live. The main thing is to use common sense when out and about around others indoors or out. At this writing, approval for a new booster shot covering most of the variants is still pending, but I feel confident that it will be available this fall with the flu shot for all who are in the higher risk category so stay tuned.

Of course we are hearing about Monkey Pox in the news, but it really has not impacted our state very much as yet but it should make us aware that Public Health is serious business and not to become complacent. The appearance of the Polio virus in New York City is also concerning since it was eradicated decades ago. The point being is that vaccinations work, and if you are not protected then you are at risk. We have learned a lot this past two years and I believe we are more prepared now for what may come.

That is all for now, so stay safe and keep alert for the latest health news as we move into the Fall season.

Respectfully submitted August 2022  
Beth Burnham Northwestern District  
Community Health Chair