

WHA Partners
Western District Spring Newsletter 2022

Signs of spring are certainly around us, as mother nature and winter seems to be tightening its grip at times. From the melting of the snow, return of the robins, redwing black birds, sandhill cranes, geese, and mother nature teases with warm days mixed yet with snow!

We are so excited to be able to have our spring district meeting in person!! With COVID cases declining, we feel it is safe to hold our meeting in person. The Western District meeting will be held in person on Thursday May 5, 2022 at the Cottonwood Sports Bar and Supper Club in Fennimore, WI. The meeting will begin at 10:30am, and we will be joined by our WHA State Board members. Our hosts for the event is Gundersen Boscobel Area Hospital and Clinics Partners. We hope that you will join us for this meeting.

It has been certainly challenging for all of us during this pandemic, reopening and re-entering into social activities again. The WHA State Board had its first in person meeting in February 2022 in Madison. It was overwhelming to be able to put names to faces and to be able to hug friends again. As we emerge and begin to return to activities please know that we are all in this together. The activities in each of our hospitals has varied through the pandemic. Many closed, and some never closed. A few organizations that began re-opening in 2021 closed again due to the omicron surge and are now just re-opening from the long winter.

Some of you members may be wondering and concerned about how do we move forward, what will we look like, will our same volunteers return, how do we encourage people to join us in volunteering?

I have enjoyed my recent conversations with each of you in reaching out to introduce myself to you and to check in how you are doing. I think the pandemic will leave its mark on all of us in one way or another. One thing I have heard from you is concern about how to recruit new members to our volunteer organizations-many of our organizations are having volunteers aging out, leaving us with vacancies and duties to perform with less assist. It is an issue for all of us. Even on our state board and district positions are needing assist.

Volunteering is good for your spiritual health-giving of yourself and your valuable time is so needed by your hospitals. Our hospitals more than ever need our support and energy. They are tired and worn from providing care without a pause.....for us.

I do not have the answers for moving forward on my own, but I know that together we can be a powerful force. I look forward to our meeting and taking those first steps together...

Best of the Best Award:

The Best of the Best Award time is here. Please consider recognizing your hospital administrators or executive officer who is a strong advocate of your volunteer organization. Even if you have submitted a nominee in the past and have not been selected, please nominate them again. Applications are available on the WHA Partners website (www.partnersofwha.org) and are due on or before June 3, 2022. This is a wonderful opportunity for your organization to acknowledge how proud you are to work with an administrator who is vital part of your volunteer program, hospital and community.

Wave Award

The Wave Award (Wisconsin Awards for Volunteer Excellence) is to recognize outstanding contributions or organized volunteer programs. There are five categories for eligibility contribution: Community Service, Fundraising, In-Service, Community Outreach and or Collaboration, and Public Policy and Advocacy. The application form can be accessed on the WHA Partners website (www.partnersofwha.org) and are due by June 3, 2022. This is an opportunity for your organization to celebrate the impactful work that is done by its volunteers. From the annual reports I received from you I know that some of you have done a lot of work during this time regarding Public Policy and Advocacy, and should consider submitting your story.

Thank you to Iva Mullhern our past district president for her guidance and assist during my transition into this role. As all of you who know Iva, know that she is a wonderful role model and leaves some big shoes to be filled. The Western District is in need of assistance with a District PPE position, Patsy Pippin as been in this role and is now our president-elect so we are needing assist. If you have any persons in your organizations that you think would be a wonderful addition please contact me.

Thank you for turning your annual reports into me on time. I appreciate it so much! I cannot wait to put names and voices with faces in person, and look forward to our district meeting!

Sincerely,
Donna Nelson
Western District Chair

Upcoming Dates:

WHA Partners Gift Shop and Fundraising Symposium for Healthcare —————May 3-5,2022
(Marriott West, Madison WI)
2022 WHA State Partners Convention—————October 11-13, 2022
(Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells)
WHA Advocacy Day—————April 19, 2023