

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

Welcome to Groundhog Day!



Peg Larson

My life is starting to feel like I am in the movie Groundhog Day where the lead character keeps reliving the same day over and over again. We are seeing COVID cases continuing to rise even though a significant portion of the population is vaccinated. Volunteers across the state are having too many opportunities to help or no opportunity. We each have our own perspective on the risks we face. Studies

are showing serious mental health issues with young people from isolation. I suspect the same is true with many of us. Finding and developing leaders in a virtual environment is very difficult, and yet we don't want to create a situation that makes anyone uncomfortable nor that is unsafe.

With those concerns in mind, we will attempt to have the relatively small board meet in a hybrid format, with those who are vaccinated and feel comfortable at the Madison West Marriott February 22-24 and others online. This will also allow us to test the format in preparation for our Gift Shop/Fundraising workshop May 3-5 at the Marriott. We hope this will allow us to meet safely and enable us to network and learn good marketing, display, and fundraising options. It will allow an opportunity to purchase/evaluate products in person instead of online.

Also, with those concerns in mind and an expected attendance of 1,000, WHA has moved Advocacy Day to the same virtual platform they used last year. Partners of WHA will have a virtual table again, so please send any pictures you have of recent activities to Patricia Franks and Peg Larson.

The regional collaboration group is going to do two virtual roundtables—the first from [10:00 to 11:30 a.m. February 15 on Fundraising](#), and the second on [August 17 on Recruitment and Retention](#). These events will be free to members of Partners.

The spring district meeting schedule has been set and is on page 4 of this newsletter. We hope to have those events in person in some way; however, stay tuned.

(Continued on page 2)

A Message from the President-Elect

Greetings Partners!!

Welcome to the New Year of 2022! I hope this finds each of you healthy, happy, and ready to embrace this new year with a fierce amount of positivity! Always the optimist, I personally look forward to a multitude of different opportunities, adventures, and undertakings yet to be experienced. Won't you join me as we navigate the challenges and changes with optimism, creativity, flexibility and most importantly, the commitment and dedication that has always been the "backbone" in moving Partners of WHA forward.

Speaking of "undertakings," there are several important agenda items to be addressed by our organization this year... the spring Partners board of directors meeting, election of new officers, spring tour, the spring giftshop/fundraising event, and of course convention. The survival of any organization rests on its leadership—do you meet the criteria described in the Partners by-laws, do you like challenges, do you want to be part of solutions, do you realize what an asset you could be, and finally do you want to move Partners forward by sharing your ideas, experiences, and commitment for the good of the whole organization? If so, please, submit a nomination form to Jan Molaska, immediate past president and chair of the Nominating Committee, by March 15, 2022.

(Continued on page 2)



Sharon Scott

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

October 11-13 are the dates for our 2022 Convention, "Volunteers: Helping Hands, Touching Hearts" at the Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. We hope to see you there.

Thank you for your dedication to the health of your communities. Let us all keep moving forward.

Peg Larson

920-231-3005 (H); 920-420-1482 (C)

Email: pegvoluntr@hotmail.com

A Message from the President-Elect...cont'd. from page 1

As we move forward with the other agenda events, it is important to remain hopeful that Partners will have "in-person" attendance. Diligent planning is being staged and, of course, hybrid attendance is a consideration if needed.

Again, this year Advocacy Day, March 23, will be via a virtual platform. Although disappointing, let's embrace the positive, which is an opportunity to attend without traveling to Madison. [Registration is now open](#), and I personally encourage you to attend this highly informative event.

Lastly, I would be remiss for not addressing the significant challenges that face local organizations and the seven districts. Yes, the realities are dwindling membership, paused volunteering/non-activation and the overwhelming question of, "as a volunteer, what can I do?" We must remember to respect the decisions made by volunteers who have chosen to resign. District chairs are desperately holding their districts together and answering their calls for help. Respect the protocols of your local hospitals but also reach out to the leadership with thoughtful, creative, and safe ways to "re-think" how volunteers may serve their respective hospital and remember, it is your gifts of time, talent, and dedication that have inspired you to be a health care volunteer. "Where there is a **will**, there is a **way**."

Thank you for your commitment and dedication maintaining the health of your community.

"When the going gets tough, the tough get going."

Sharon Scott

262-334-6296 (H); 262-707-3159 (C)

Email: Dick-sharon-scott@prodiqy.net

2022 Convention Plans

The 2022 Partners of WHA Convention will be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The Western district is hosting the convention and the dates will be **October 11-13**. The theme of the convention is "Helping Hands, Touching Hearts."

Mark your calendars now!

Patsy Pippin, Co-Chair, 608-485-2129 or 608-375-2473

Email: pat8apippin@gmail.com

Iva Mulhurn, Co-Chair, 319-551-9561 or 608-329-9062

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It's Déjà Vu All Over Again!



Leigh Ann Larson

Have you ever seen the movie "Groundhog Day" with Bill Murray? Murray's character wakes up, every day, to Groundhog Day. He relives this over and over and over again. Sometimes I feel like that is the world we are currently living in. Some of the same experiences we had at the beginning of the pandemic (March 2020) are being relived today (February 2022). However, when I start to feel like this, I try to remember how far we all have come, and of the lessons learned along the way.

For example, I for one have learned so much about virtual learning technology. This has brought the option of being able to provide quality educational programming, along with health care advocacy work, despite not being face-to-face with one another. Last year's Advocacy Day, last year's Partners of WHA Convention, as well as the upcoming virtual 2022 Advocacy Day on March 23 were, and are, possible because of this technology. It has also been successful because of the flexibility and openness you have shown throughout the past two years. For that, I thank you.

Although impossible to predict, I feel that this year will be the year of learning to live in the sometimes-uncomfortable space of uncertainty. I am reminded of the quote by Vivian Greene, which my mother framed and gave to me during a particularly challenging time in my life. I will leave it here for you today as I wish you a very happy 2022: **"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning how to dance in the rain."**

Leigh Ann S. Larson

WHA Vice President of Education and Marketing; Executive Director of the WHA Foundation; Partners of WHA Liaison

Email: llarson@wha.org



Advocacy Day Registration Now Open

Virtual Advocacy Day: March 23, 2022

8:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Registration is live for Advocacy Day! For information and to register, [click here!](#) There is no registration fee to participate in Advocacy Day, but [pre-registration is required](#).

WHA has again contracted with the professional event platform [LeaderPass](#) to deliver this event to advocates across the state *virtually*.

As in years past, attendees can expect to hear from a great lineup of speakers, including opening keynote to be announced soon. The day will also include the always-interesting and popular bipartisan legislative panel discussion.

Attendees have the special opportunity to meet virtually with their legislators and/or capitol staff. All attendees are encouraged to sign up for the legislative visits, as these meetings are an opportunity to speak directly to your representatives on the issues, and they want to hear from you. The meetings, scheduled by WHA staff for you, will take place in 30-minute intervals over the course of three days—March 23, 24, and 25.

Advocates can expect a follow-up from WHA staff a little closer to the event confirming their specific meeting date and time, along with virtual instructions to join the meetings.

WHA encourages and invites hospital CEOs, CFOs, managers, nurse executives, quality managers, hospital volunteers, hospital trustees, WHA Hospitals Education and Advocacy Team (HEAT) grassroots members, Partners of WHA members, WHA corporate members and any other hospital staff interested in helping to shape the future of health care in Wisconsin communities to attend.

As the COVID-19 pandemic maintains its grip on our state, stretching our health care system to its limits, it has never been more important for you and your teams to participate in Advocacy Day and let your voices be heard!

Be An Advocate, Speak up!

Stay informed of the issues and join 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 nearly 1,000 hospital administrators, employees, trustees, volunteers, physicians, patients, and others passionate about protecting Wisconsin's high-quality, high-value health care system as they lobby state lawmakers.
- 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.



Partners of WHA Regional Event, May 3 - 5

Hello all! Can you believe it is already the end of January 2022? As the chair of the 2021 Partners of WHA Annual Convention, I want to send a special thank you to those of you who participated in the virtual convention, and especially those who filled out the survey sent out afterward. Your feedback has helped us create our May 2022 event.

Now, as chair of the May event, let me give you a sneak peek in hopes that you will register and join in the fun! The May event will be in person (fingers crossed) at the Marriott West in Madison, May 3-5. The event focus is going to be on fundraising and finances, with several roundtables on fundraising idea sharing, gift shop organizing and layouts, and finance reporting. We are planning to have vendors that will have items your gift shops can add, as well as items you can purchase.

If you are interested in helping plan this event, please reach out to me. Make sure you give me your name and thoughts—we can then schedule time to chat. I look forward to collaborating with you all and thank you again for your participation!

*Terri Donlin, Chair, Partners of WHA Regional Event
608-225-8337; Email: tmdonlin@yahoo.com*

Spring Tour Schedule

To use the time of the Spring Tour team and treasurer of Partners of WHA wisely, we scheduled the spring district meetings in groups. Thank you for understanding. We hope to meet in person.

<u>Date</u>	<u>District/Location</u>
Tues., April 19	West Central District, Chippewa Falls
Wed., April 20	Northwestern District, Ladysmith
Thurs., April 21	North Central District (location TBD)
Tues., May 3	Southern District, Madison
Thurs., May 5	Western District, Boscobel
Tues., May 10	Southeastern District, West Bend
Wed., May 11	Lakes District, Green Bay

2022 Call for Nominations

The Nominating Committee of Partners of WHA is seeking candidates to represent all members of the organization in the offices of President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. Nominations for these three offices will be accepted until **March 15, 2022**.

Qualifications/Prerequisites: Candidates must be a member of Partners of WHA, to have served on the Partners of WHA State Board for at least one year, be able to attend two Board of Directors meetings per year and attend Partners annual convention.

Process to Reply: Nominations need to be submitted by **March 15, 2022**, to Jan Molaska, chair of the Nominating Committee. Elections and installation of new officers will be held at the Partners annual convention in October. Nominations must include the nomination form and a maximum 200-word statement of the nominee's reason for seeking this position.

Information and nomination forms are posted on the Partners of WHA website, www.partnersofwha.org. Consult the Partners website or a member of the nominating committee with questions or additional information.

Completed forms: Send completed [nomination form](#), a maximum of 200-word statement of the nominee's reason for seeking a position, and a photo to:

Jan Molaska, Partners of WHA Immediate Past President
216 N. 36th Ave., Wausau, WI 54401

OR EMAIL TO:

jmolaska@gmail.com

Partners of WHA 2022 Nominating Committee Questionnaire for Potential Officer Candidates

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

District _____

Organization that you belong to _____

NO OFFICER SHALL BE ELECTED WITHOUT HAVING SERVED ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR.

OFFICE OF INTEREST: President-Elect _____ Treasurer _____ Secretary _____

What skills/talents do you have that will contribute to your success in the office?

What do you see as the primary purpose of Partners of WHA and how would you support and promote it if elected to an office?

List Local, District and State Partners of WHA positions you have held:

Why are you interested in serving as an officer of Partners of WHA?

Please contact NOMINATING CHAIR Jan Molaska with questions and send or email completed questionnaire by **March 15, 2022** to: Jan Molaska, 216 N 36th Ave., Wausau, WI 54401 or jmolaska@gmail.com.

Nominating Committee members:

Jaci Fuller – Tomnjaci58@gmail.com

Ann Korb – askorb617@yahoo.com

Melanie Miller – melanie.miller@wisc.edu

Sharon Scott (non-voting member) – dick-sharon-scott@prodigy.net

Public Policy Education Report



Bill McCullough

KEEPING SCORE: we all engage in this “activity” with differing objectives based on the timing and significance of that which we are measuring. *The “Ball “slowly falls in Times Square,* with the 20-second expectation for 2022, the dawning of a New Year. Resolutions abound, perhaps a time for some thoughtful reflection followed by a good measure of meaningful planning and activity.

At this writing the actual, measurable results from 2021 Public Policy Education activities and initiatives are not known. More will be revealed as each local PPE annual report and tracking form is dutifully completed and forwarded to the respective district PPE chair, who will compile and forward their district’s cumulative activities to the Partners PPE chair for review and reporting. This is the significant part of keeping score—**REPORTING THE SCORE.**

Seven districts, 52 individual units comprised of over 6,000 volunteers; the collective voice and resource for **ADVOCACY.** The big picture view appears to present a daunting task of organization, coordination, and meaningful activity - right? Fortunately, and as the old saying goes, *“Life is a cinch by the inch.”*

In this last year the local PPE tools for keeping the score have been modified and hopefully enhanced to positively affect local PPE activities and tracking. My hope is that many of our 6,000 voices will take a look on the Forms page in the Resource Center on the Partners website. Under “Annual Reports” you’ll find the local PPE report, and Page 2 is the [PPE Tracking Form](#). This Tracking Form is designed not only to report, but also to plan advocacy activities. Chances are you may not plan to write any articles on a particular subject or meet your legislator in person. But you *can* make contact by phone, letter, email, or postcard. **I suggest you print a copy to use in your monthly 2022 advocacy activity planning.**

Quite frankly, there is no more *convenient* and *meaningful* activity for our voices to be heard than by becoming a member of HEAT (Hospitals Education & Advocacy Team). During 2021, fifteen (15) opportunities were presented by WHA alerts to have our voices heard. Meaningful, you might ask? In late December the last HEAT Alert presented Assembly Bill 718, *Koreen’s Law*. This legislation is aimed at putting a stop to “white bagging,” the practice by pharmacies and the pharmaceutical industry of hindering a hospital’s ability to get critically important medications to patients with less cost. While the circumstances for this bill originated at the HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital Cancer Center in Eau Claire, WHA took the ball via the December 2021 HEAT Alert. **The result?** More than 2,500 health care advocate voices were heard by our legislators! *Just try to visualize the dramatic impact that could be made by our 6,000 voices!* With little effort and absolutely no cost on your part, [become a HEAT member](#), open a HEAT Alert email when sent to you, sign your name, and send. Our collective voices influence health care policy! Click the link above or visit www.wha.org/HEAT-SignUp to sign up for HEAT Alerts.

I trust in this New Year we will return to a reasonable sense of normalcy and active advocacy.

Bill McCullough, PPE Chair

715-832-7053; Email: webirish2@gmail.com



You're Invited!

February 15, 2022 | 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Central time

Join us for a **FREE FUNDRAISING** session as we continue the “Power of Connection” with regional volunteers in health care from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North Dakota. Connect and interact with other hospital and long-term care auxiliaries, volunteers and volunteer professional colleagues at this virtual roundtable to share details and best practices on your top fundraisers. Plan to bring your fundraising ideas and specifics to discuss during breakout sessions.

Please register in advance by clicking this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckd-GsrTItHdU5opqIJBc2twOIyNuJzoPg>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Peg Larson

(920) 420-1482 (cell)

Email: pegvoluntr@hotmail.com

Community Health Education Report



Sue Schuelke

Here we are, having entered a new year without much good news regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The variants of Delta and Omicron are surging, positive case numbers are rising (particularly in children and unvaccinated individuals), and hospitals are overwhelmed with staff becoming ill and an increase in patient numbers. Some businesses and organizations, including schools, churches, and entertainment venues are requiring stricter COVID-19 protocols.

Mask-wearing guidelines for the lay person have changed. The current recommendation is to wear a mask indoors even if fully vaccinated and to consider wearing an N-95 or KN-95 mask for best protection. COVID testing has been difficult for many with long waiting lines and lack of home test kits available for purchase.

With all the knowledge and tools we have today, there is no definitive answer as to when the pandemic will be over. However, there is a new line of thinking: rather than working to eradicate COVID-19, learning to live with COVID-19 like we do with the seasonal flu and other similar respiratory viruses. COVID-19 would be an endemic virus rather than continuing to be a pandemic.

What is an endemic? According to the health source, mayoclinic.org, an endemic is an infection within a geographic location that is existing perpetually. In more simple terms, a seasonal illness that is manageable. Maybe a better chance to return to a state of “normalcy”?

Infectious disease will remain the health education topic for 2022. As promised, I will continue to provide you with information on other infectious disease entities, starting with Series 3. The focus will be on Shingles and MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staph Aureus). Written articles will be posted on the Partners of WHA website under the ‘Health Education’ tab in the next few weeks.

There are sure to be better days ahead. For now, stay informed, stay warm, stay well!

Sue Schuelke, CHE Chair
414-630-1183; Email: sschuelk@charter.net

Strategic Planning Report

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to work on goals that help make the Partners organization remain relevant and stable, as well as increase growth. This has been a quiet time for our committee, but now as we begin 2022, we will get back to our goals. The committee’s next meeting is planned for February 2022. Our group will review goals made in 2021, summarize action on those, and discuss our plan for this year.

Life is different in many ways we could not have imagined before 2020. All levels of Partners—state, district, and local—have learned that changes needed to be made. As volunteers return to their organizations, different positions may have opened, along with how jobs are done, meetings are held, and changes have occurred involving interaction with other volunteers and staff.

During the 2021 virtual convention, there was a breakout session on strategic planning. I want to share a few points given at that session that may be useful to groups that are navigating through this and future years.

The main goals of a strategic plan are: first, where do we want to be, and second, how do we get there?

Develop a plan. Be flexible but committed to where you ARE as a group, and where you WANT to be. Develop a plan with goals that are measurable. This may mean confronting some difficult choices while establishing priorities. Take advantage of the good leadership and judgment you already have available.

Develop goals that are specific, measurable, and relevant. Having a timeline will help to evaluate progress and move forward with adjustments if necessary. Then identify a lead person and secondary for each goal, again with a timeline to be able to measure success. Remember that this is not always a smooth and straightforward process, but evaluation recognizes obstacles, adaptations that are needed, but also celebrates successes.

Virtual meetings are perfect for a pandemic world, but not meeting in person does limit the personal communications between us. If you have some issues, suggestions, or questions that we can discuss among our committee, please reach out to me or one of the other members—Peg Larson, Sharon Scott, Julie Steiner, John Tully, Sue Schuelke, Bill McCullough, Patsy Pippin, Judy Jaggard, or Leigh Ann Larson.

Looking forward to a better year!!

Sherry Jelic, Chair
608-235-9526; Email: sjelic@msn.com

Around the State

Froedtert West Bend Hospital, West Bend:

In the fall, a drive-by appreciation parade was held for volunteers along the outer ring road of the hospital. While not able to gather in large crowds, it showed how much volunteers are appreciated for their time, talents, and patience. Oh yes, these volunteers provided poinsettia plants to those patients who needed to be in the hospital over the holiday also!

Howard Young Medical Center, Woodruff:

The Howard Young Art Gallery put up an art show in the hallways of the hospital displaying some of their wood works in the cabinets by the gift shop in December. Great encouragement!

Aspirus Volunteers, Wausau:

The Aspirus Family House is helped out by volunteers donating supplies that are unopened and unexpired. These may include cleaning supplies, food, and paper products. What a wonderful way to help this house so families of patients can stay there!

Kay Lyndahl, Editor

Email: kaylyndahl@gmail.com

(Another plea for all of your hospitals to send me thier Partners newsletters either by email or hard copy – I'd like to hear what you are doing that I can share with others.)

IN LOVING MEMORY



Linda Fish

September 20, 1946 - October 30, 2021

On October 30, 2021, Linda Fish passed away. Linda was a long-standing Partners volunteer and past president of Partners of WHA. She was instrumental in Partners of Memorial Medical Center (Ashland) and contributed immensely to the success of the organization along with the recruitment and retention of Partners volunteers. She was also very active in the district and state level of hospital volunteers, and served in many leadership capacities. We will all miss her!

Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
May 2022	Tues., April 12, 2022
August 2022	Fri., July 15, 2022
November 2022	Wed., Oct. 12, 2022
February 2023	Wed., Jan. 15, 2023

Partners *Reaching Out* is published four times a year by Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc. Visit the Partners website at www.partnersofwha.org. Direct questions or comments to:

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