

River Falls Area Hospital Auxiliary



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, Sept. 13
Membership Mtg.

Tuesday, Sept. 27
District Mtg. in
Cumberland

Tues.-Thurs.
Oct. 4-6
State Convention
Appleton, WI.

Tuesday, Oct. 11
Fall Salad
Luncheon

Friday, Oct. 14
Foundation
Fall Fling

Friday, Oct. 21
Books Are Fun

Geneva Distributing Sheet Sale



Sue Meisner and Sue Nelson

Thank you to everyone who purchased items from our sale! This was our 3rd year having the sheet sale and we expected the proceeds to be less as these sheets hold up really well. We still came out pretty well with sales reaching \$4,617.45! We receive 20% of this so our proceeds were \$923.49.

The date for next year's sale will be November 6th. Having it closer to Christmas might boost the sales a little but we only get to have 1 day instead of 2 because of lower sales, so let's spread the word for next year and get the numbers up!

What was sold:

- 46 sheet sets
- 5 sherpa blankets
- 21 throws
- 12 pillows
- 1 comforter
- 3 quilts
- 5 baby blankets
- 5 sport blankets

Sue Meisner "A Packer Fan"



Board of Directors

President:
Sue Meisner

Secretary:
Heather Logelin

Treasurer:
Glenda Zielski

September Membership Meeting

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13th at 10:00 A.M. Our speaker will be Beth Shockey-Woll and she will be discussing incontinence. If you would like to attend,

please RSVP to Sue Meisner at rorysue@yahoo.com or 608-412-1792. Also **PLEASE** let her know if you plan on staying for lunch so the kitchen has the correct count.



Menu:
Chicken Wild Rice Soup, Potato Soup, Salad, Bread Sticks and Apple Crisp.

District Meeting in Cumberland

There will be 5 of us going to the District Meeting in September. They will have round table discussions, a motivation speaker and updates from our District Chair, Jackie Hillman.



Committee Chairs

Newsletter:

Sue Meisner

Membership:

Kathye Beebe

Scholarship:

Glenda Zielski

Advertising:

Nancy Weinreich

Sunshine:

Dee Larson

Kiosk:

Arline Taylor

Community

Health:

Jean Bot

Public Policy:

Diane Westbrook

Kiosk Korner

The Kiosk is having a stellar year! To date, we are up \$1,500.00 over the same time last year. Congratulations to all the Kiosk volunteers who made this happen! We have a lot of unique merchandise. I am often told by customers and the kiosk volunteers how much they love to shop at our kiosk and that they see items you don't see anywhere else.

Earlier this year I talked about the right and left handed wrap around mugs. I ordered a case for fall, but thought I would put them in the Kiosk for Mother's and Father's Day. The mugs were gone right after Mother's Day so I ordered five more cases. There is half a case left of the right handed mugs and the cold weather isn't even upon us yet! I plan to order three more cases for the fall and holidays. These will make a great Christmas gift. I picture myself sitting in front of my fireplace with my mug drinking a morning coffee. My good friend Kim Carley bought several already and these were for friends with a cabin on the lake.

Her vision was that they could use their mug while looking out on the water.

The fall jewelry looks great! Howard's has a new line call RIVER and RIDGE which has a lot of beautiful stones. It also appears that gold is back in style. They are showing this in all the fashion magazines.

KISSING KRYSTALS continue to do well and we now have available the "Love Birds." For fall we will have the "Fall Leaves," "Acorns," "Pumpkins" and "Turkeys".

Another item that is selling well and will be re-ordered is the "Child's Chef Mitts & Chef Hats" which retail for \$15.00. Great for baking with your children or grandchildren. The baby business is really booming



this year. We introduced the super-soft animal applique blanket in pink, blue and yellow.

I ordered a 100 piece 3-D puzzle which would make a great gift item. I was very amazed when I saw it. This along with the adult coloring books make a great item for people dealing with fatigue or pain.

I am very excited for fall with all the new items we will be carrying!

Mary Franzel

Employee Appreciation Breakfast

The annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast, held on Wednesday, August 17th from 8:30-10:30 was a tremendous success! We had just un-



der 100 employees who stopped by to enjoy the goodies provided by the Auxiliary. Once again,



DeeAnn Dreistadt created absolutely beautiful floral arrangements in mugs for table decorations which were given out

as door prizes to 13 lucky employees. A very special THANK YOU to DeeAnn for sharing her talents with us. THANKS also to each of you who provided baked goods, fruit and juice and to the ladies who stayed to help set up, visit with our guests and then clean up—you did an awesome job!



The breakfast is our way of letting hospital employees know just how much we appreciate the jobs that they do each

and every day and to also thank them for their support of the Butterfly Boutique along with our other fundraisers. Judging from comments overheard, the employees had

a great time and we did too!

Arline Taylor



September

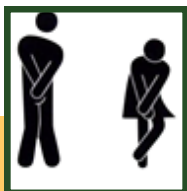
- 3-Eunice Moody
- 7-Dawn Huberty
- 14-Kathye Beebe
- 14-Colleen Kealy
- 16-Arline Taylor

October

- 2-Laurie Germanson
- 7-Julie Freeborn
- 7-Laureen Pederson
- 12-Cathy Hjersjo
- 16-Karen Brohaugh
- 23-Sue Meisner
- 23-Lisa Moody
- 26-Virginia Lindquist
- 28-Joyce Breen
- 30-Pat Cease



Dance Like Nobody Is Watching



Community Health

At our September 13th membership meeting Beth Shockey-Woll, a retired OB/GYN Nurse Practitioner with 36 years of experience will present an overview of bladder dysfunction. In her talk she will include evaluation and treatment options of physical therapy, medications and implanted urinary devices.

Also, coming in September is the 10th Annual Regional Caregiver Conference at the WITC Conference Center in New Richmond. It is on Friday, September 30th from 8:00 AM-3:30 PM. The title is, "Finding Hope, Humor and Heart in Caregiving." The conference is designed for family members, caregivers and professionals. The featured keynote speaker is Elaine K. Sanchez, author of the book,

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Our sympathy goes out to:

Dee Larson on the loss of her sister,

Heather Logelin's family on the loss of Heather's father-in-law

&

The family of Dodie Sazama

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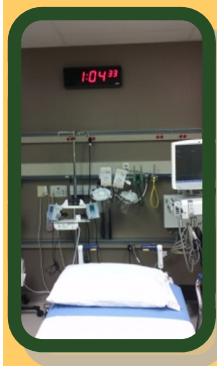
*Also, Dee Larson would like to thank everyone for the sympathy cards that she received. Dee said she really appreciated them.*

## Community Health continued from page 3

“Letters from Madelyn, Chronicles of a Caregiver. Based on her own experience of caring for family elders she developed a passion for helping others cope with the emotional stress of caring for family elders. Following her keynote address, there will be breakout sessions. The day will also include vendors and a door prize. A light breakfast and lunch is included with the registration – a senior, age 62+ will pay around \$5.45 for the entire conference. Space is limited so register early at WITC in New Richmond or phone at 800-243-9482, ext. 4221. I will talk more about this at our September membership meeting.

*Jean Bot*

## Thank You's



**Kari Merriam, RN, Emergency Dept. Mgr.:**

We have our new clock already installed and staff are incredibly thankful! Here is a picture so you can see how nice it looks in bay 3 and how easy it is to see the time. We are very appreciative.

**Mary Huepfel, RN, Med/Surg. Mgr.:**

Thank you so much for your continued support of RFAH-Med/Surg. & VPCI. We count on you and your volunteer efforts are so appreciated!

**Brittany Dusek—Scholarship recipient:**

Thank you so much for this Scholarship. I will be using it to further my education at UW-Madison in the health sciences field. Thank you again.

**Tamika Falkner—Scholarship recipient:**

I wanted to personally thank you for the \$500.00 scholarship that I was awarded on Sunday, May 22, 2016. This money will be greatly used for my schooling in the medical field. It is because of this monetary contribution that makes me even more excited to jump into the next chapter of my life. This money will help make my dream career a reality and I can't wait!

Thank you for all that you do, and a special thank you to the scholarship committee for awarding this to me. It is greatly appreciated! Thank you again.

## READ THE LABEL—LOL

On Nytol Sleep Aid ~ 'Warning: May cause drowsiness.' (..I'm taking this because???.....)  
On a Sears hairdryer ~ Do not use while sleeping (Really?)  
On Shoppers Drug Children's Cough Medicine ~ 'Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication.' (We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5 year-olds with head-colds off those bulldozers.)

**Changes coming in 2017**

First of all I would like to thank everyone for filling out their absentee ballot or attending the extra meeting in July to vote on changes.

The first change for 2017 will be the number of our membership meetings. Instead of having 6 meetings it will change to 4 with the dates of January 10, April 11, July 11 and October 17th. We will not be having the picnic next year as the park is doing some re-modeling. So with that in mind, we will have the volunteer appreciation event during our April meeting which makes more sense since Volunteer Appreciation week is in April.

We will also change the format of the membership meetings. We would like to have more of the public attend to hear our speaker but also have them see what the Auxiliary does. We will have the speaker first from 10:00-11:00, then will have a brief meeting from 11:00-11:30 as most of the information you need to know if always in the newsletter. Lunch will be served at 11:30 but wait; another new item to present will be to have a hospital employee speak on what their department does while we enjoy our lunch.

The second change will be to have the board make the decisions on approving minutes, budget and hospital requests. If there is something big that needs to be discussed we will still consult the membership.

The biggest news is that we found a president for 2017. Alice Baldini and Nancy Weinreich presented themselves for the co-president role. Thank you so much to these special ladies. You will be great!

**Public Policy**

Physician Shortage

“Wisconsin’s population is aging & growing faster than our medical schools can train new doctors.”

The Wisconsin Council on Medical Education & Workforce released a report recently that predicts by 2035, we could be 4,000 doctors short of what is really needed in the state. An overall population increase of 12% is expected, however the 65 & up population will go up by 69%! Experts say because the older population uses medical services 3 1/2 times more often than the average population, there will be a 25% increase in need for doctor services. Rural areas could be hit the hardest, where access to doctor services is already difficult.

Only 33% of the students who study at medical schools in Wisconsin go on to become doctors here, but 1/2 of the students who (continued to page 8)



State Convention

This year’s convention is in Appleton from October 4-6. We have 4 members going and they will learn what Partners of WHA have been doing along with installing a new president, attend informative workshops and meet other hospital volunteers to compare what they do differently from us. This convention gives us a great outlook on what we can do to support

Books Are Fun!



Our annual Books Are Fun sale is coming up on Friday, October 21st. Come to the hospital to check out books of all kinds & unique gift items. The sale will take place in the conference rooms as you walk into the hospital. Tell your friends and family they can come and shop for Christmas!

## DUES FOR 2017



If you are one of those lucky people that leave the cold weather behind and head south for the winter, please consider paying your 2017 dues before you leave.

This saves so much time for our membership chair once January comes.

Dues will still be \$10.00 and can be made out to RFAH Auxiliary.

They can be dropped off at the hospital and put in our mail slot or mailed directly to our chair, Kathye Beebe, 319 N. 9th St., River Falls, WI. 54022. Thank you for considering this and drive safely on your travels south.

## Membership Picnic



**Kathye Beebe, Dawn Huberty and Joni Henning**



**Mary Kay Elliott**

and we will miss her greatly.

Our July meeting was held at Glen Park with lunch provided by the Hospital in appreciation of our volunteering throughout the year. President David Miller provided an update on significant developments at the hospital, including progress on the new Al-lina Health clinic project and changes to the OB/GYN provider relationships. He also stated that they have hired a profes-sional chaplain who will be sharing their

role between our hospital and United. Sue Meisner reminded everyone about the upcoming sheet sale and Arline Taylor reported on how well the Kiosk is doing There was also a vote on hospi-tal requests which all passed. The weather was per-fect and everyone enjoyed the food & camaraderie. This meal was extra special as it was the last time

Mary Kay, the dietician from the hospital would be serving us. She has moved on to another place

*Sue Meisner*



**Alice Baldini, Nancy Weinreich & Colleen Kealy**



**David Miller**

## Fall Salad Luncheon

The Fall Salad Luncheon is not far away and we are already preparing for this big event. This luncheon will be held at St. Bridget's in River Falls on Tuesday, October 11th from 11:00-1:00 and tickets are \$9.00 if purchased at the Kiosk and \$10.00 at the door. We will have a sign up sheet at our September meeting for help during the event and for a multitude of salads. To help our committee save time, may-be you could call Sue Nelson to let her know what kind of salad you would like to bring. The special thing about our fall luncheon is the added entrees of lasagna and chicken alfredo. Our numbers were down a bit in the spring so invite your friends, relatives and co-workers to attend. The more we get the word out the better the outcome. Use your Facebook too; this is a great advertising tool! If you have any questions, please contact the salad luncheon chair, Sue Nelson at: 715-425-7189 or smnelson778@yahoo.com.





## Getting to know you with Alice Baldini



Alice at the Grand Canyon while on a railroad trip to the Southwest

Shortly after moving to River Falls in 2009, Alice Baldini helped found a local chapter of the Optimist Club, an international organization focused on “bringing out the best in kids.” This came as no surprise to those who knew Alice, as she’s spent most of her adult life caring for & working on behalf of children.

It all started on an 80-acre dairy farm in Kewaunee County, about 30 miles east of Green Bay. Alice’s heritage is 100% Polish, the daughter of a Blohowiak & an Ratajczak. She was one of 6 children, the youngest of 4 girls sandwiched between 2 boys. “We never felt poor,” she says, “but would be by today’s standards.” Alice’s mother had a large garden & canned extensively; Alice remembers picking & canning Door County pie cherries.

As an early elementary student, Alice attended a one-room schoolhouse, to which she walked a mile each day, “uphill both ways.” She graduated from Kewanee High School, where she participated in forensics & band, & Edgewood College, where she received a degree in education, majoring in French & minoring in mathematics.

Alice’s first teaching job was in Green Bay, where she taught 6th & 7th grade French for 1 year. She then accepted a position teaching high school French in Durand, where she met her late husband, Pete, an industrial arts teacher at the same school. They were married, necessitating Alice’s resignation, as an unwritten district policy frowned upon employing husband & wife. She took a job teaching 6th grade at St. Mary’s Catholic School, where she stayed for 2 years, until their oldest daughter was born. Alice & Pete had 4 children, Jenny (1971), Pete (1973), Tony (1977) & Emily (1979).

After Pete was born, Alice ran an in-home day care for more than a decade, interspersed with some substitute teaching, until Emily started school. She then got a job as a social service aide with the Human Services Department; one of her responsibilities was certifying in-home day cares. She then took a position with the Wisconsin Child Care Improvement Project, helping starting in-home day cares & group license child care programs prepare for the visit from the licensing specialists. She left that position to become a Childhood Excellence grand coordinator, working with a day care center in Eau Claire. While in Durand, Alice was busy not only with the Optimist Club, but also with the local hospital auxiliary, co-chairing the auxiliary’s gift shop!



Alice’s 70th birthday with newest granddaughter, Lydia.

Pete’s carpentry skills came in handy throughout their married life, as they fixed up several houses before building their dream home on 29 acres in nearby Arkansas, WI. In 2000, Pete was diagnosed with colon cancer in his appendix. He died on 4/16/02, leaving Alice a widow at 57. It was a very difficult time, as her oldest brother, Joe, had died just 2 weeks earlier. She stopped working for a while, then took a position with the Vista program, coordinating extra-curricular programming for students & families at a local elementary school.

In 2009, Alice moved to River Falls to be closer to her first grandbaby. She continues to enjoy spending time with her children & grandchildren, all of whom are relatively nearby. Jenny lives in Shell Lake. Tony Lives in Winona with his partner (he says they’ll get married when the Vikings win the Superbowl!), 2 year old daughter, Lydia, & twin boys n the way. Emily lives in Duluth with her husband & infant son, “Little James.” Pete & his family (and Black Lab) are living in the lower level of Alice’s home while building a new home on the lot next door!

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## Getting to know you with Alice Baldini, continued

Alice spends a lot of time with Gabriella (8) & Lilly (5), and will soon be walking them to & from school each day.

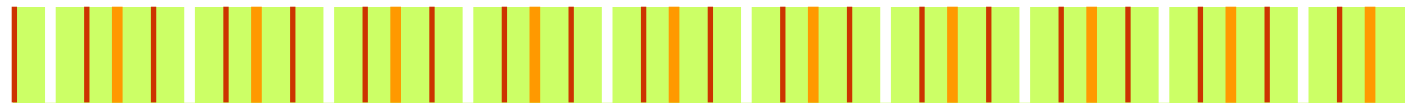
When not busy caring for her grandchildren, Alice is involved with the hospital Auxiliary, the Meals on Wheels program, the ADRC volunteer driver program, The Women of the Moose & the Script program at St. Bridget's. She also reads the Bible to an elderly woman at The Lutheran Home who is losing her eyesight. She enjoys working with her flower beds & baskets, and still plays cards with 2 different card groups, one in River Falls & one in Durand.



Visiting gardens near Amsterdam during Windmills and Tulips

Alice enjoys traveling, & has recently started taking Viking River Cruises with her sister, Janet. In 2014, she cruised from Paris to Normandy, visiting WWI battle sites. In 2015, she cruised the Elbe River, traveling through the Alps from Berlin to Prague. This year, she cruised from Amsterdam to Antwerp, visiting Holland & Belgium. Next year, she'll cruise along the Danube River. She has also participated in 4 Road Scholar programs, most recently "The Beauty of Cumberland Falls" near Corbin, Kentucky. Both the Viking River Cruises & the Road Scholar programs have been great experiences; if you are interested in hearing more, let her know, as she highly recommends both to other travelers!

Alice is looking forward to working with Nancy Weinreich as they navigate next year as co-presidents of our hospital Auxiliary. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, just let her know.



## Public Policy article continued

do their residency in Wisconsin, stay here. The Medical College of Wisconsin has started two rural campuses which will help bring doctors to northern Wisconsin.

In recent years, the state has invested 2.5 million in a grant program that has gotten 11 new residency programs started up in less populated areas. That effort will bring 73 new doctors to essential areas such as: Primary Care, Psychiatry & General Surgery.

The University of Wisconsin Schools of Medicine & Public Health's Wisconsin Academy for Rural Medicine has grown from just 5 students six years ago, to 25 students today focusing on becoming doctors in smaller towns!

### November Elections

Soon, we will go to the polls to elect a new President & several other legislators!

We are bombarded daily with election news and information on candidates via all forms of social media. Become better informed voters by reading & studying all the issues before heading to the polls.

*Diane Westbrook*