

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.

2016 Annual Convention Says “Kick Up Your Heels for Volunteers”



What’s so great about Partners of WHA? To really know, you will have to come to Convention 2016!

It will soon be time to “saddle up” and ride to meet up with your hosts, the “Wild, Wild Western District,” for a rootin’ tootin’ Old West celebration! The Partners of WHA annual convention is October 4 - 6 in Appleton, WI at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel. Many great workshops and activities are ready to grab your attention and hold on to your interest. Some fabulous speakers have been selected and the panel this year is exceptional.

So you and your Auxiliary posse need to get out your Western wear, boots, hats, and denim jeans/skirts and come “Kick Up Your Heels for Volunteers” with the Western District and Partners of WHA. And bring your horse, too!

Rose Raska, Convention Chair
Email: ra-raska@usa.net

Take Time to Think About 2016 Best of the Best Award

Each year, Partners of WHA is pleased to provide all volunteer members with the opportunity to recognize their hospital or medical center leader with the Best of the Best Award. This Award honors an on-site administrator (see application for all eligible titles) of Wisconsin hospitals/medical centers, who demonstrate a cooperative, supportive, enthusiastic, and well-defined relationship with their volunteer organization.

Members of the 2016 Best of the Best Award Committee are Barb Jamerson, chair, Southeastern District; Jackie Halvorson, Lakes District; Diane Schmidt, Southern District; Diane Brown, Western District; David Grundstrom, 2015 Best of the Best Award Recipient; and Jennifer Frank, WHA Liaison. This committee will evaluate each nomination application and reach a decision for the 2016 Award based upon the information provided in the application. Detailed Award nominee eligibility and criteria requirements are provided in the Best of the Best Award Application form.

Nomination application forms will be mailed to all Partners of WHA organizations in March. Forms will also be available at the District Spring Meetings, as well as on the Partners of WHA website, www.partnersofwha.org in March. If you have submitted a nomination application in the past and your nominee was not chosen as the recipient, please submit a new application for 2016. All applications are to be written with the nominee remaining anonymous, so updating the information highlighting your administrator’s activities and interaction within your volunteer organization providing specific details is advised. All organizations submitting a nomination application will receive two (2) Honor Points for their participation.

On behalf of this Committee, we are looking forward to learning about your organization’s relationship with your Administrator and all of the activities and support your nominee provides. Please direct any questions regarding the Best of the Best Award Application process to me through email, bjamerson54@gmail.com or cell phone at 262-408-9239.

Barb Jamerson, Chair of the Best of the Best Award Committee
Email: bjamerson54@gmail.com; cell: 262-408-9239

A Message from the Partners of WHA President

Say “Yes” to Volunteering



Bonnie Olson

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” ----Winston Churchill

In 2016, I ask for your support and contributions wherever and whenever possible. Volunteers are some of the most experienced, compassionate, and valuable assets to hospitals and Partners of WHA. We need to come together and contribute our varied skills and strengths to improve our Partners organization. We definitely

need to begin at the DISTRICT and LOCAL levels of this Partners organization to FILL ALL OFFICER POSITIONS. No vacancies!! Just say “yes, I would be happy to be an officer of Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association.”

“The Power of One” is an Association for Healthcare Volunteer Resource Professionals (AHVRP) video produced by the American Hospital Association. I went to the AHVRP website at www.ahvrp.org to see it. Please view this production. You will be amazed at what impact volunteering at hospitals has on communities.

Mary Licht, Cindy Hermel, Sherry Jelic, and myself are looking forward to Spring Tour. It is our pleasure to view each district in action. You are awesome in your activities at the local and district levels. Your enthusiasm generates so much good will to the patients in the hospitals you serve. Encourage your volunteer friends to attend the Spring District Meeting for a day of sharing, learning, and networking.

Register for Advocacy Day now! It will be held Wednesday, March 30 at the Monona Terrace in Madison. **Everyone in attendance makes a difference!** Rick Pollack is the featured speaker. Rick is president of the American Hospital Association. He has been on the AHA advocacy team for the past 33 years.

Partners website is our best source for communication, so check it out at partnersofwha.org.

May you be blessed with good health this year.

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*The most wasted day of all is that
on which we have not laughed.*

— Sebastine Chamfort

A Message from the President-Elect

Partners Now on Facebook

I hope everybody had a Happy Holiday Season, I know I did; lots of family, friends, FOOD, and visiting. Now I need to hit the gym and work off those extra pounds, I keep trying but I am not very successful.



Mary Licht

Maybe some of you are not aware, but Partners not only has a website, we also have a page on Facebook. So for those of you who indulge in Facebook, please friend us at Partners of WHA. I would like to see some shares on that page also. Tell us what is happening in your area, share what is new and exciting at your hospital, or just leave a comment on something someone else has posted. If you are not a Facebook member but want to share something, I am always available to you, just send it to me and I will gladly post it for you. Look forward to seeing you there.

On tour this spring, I will be talking on the bylaws and things associated with them, such as Roberts Rules and how they affect our bylaws, plus other rules that govern our bylaws, who is supposed to vote on them, parliamentary procedure, etc. If you have any questions on this topic bring them along and we can discuss them as time permits. I have always believed that the only dumb question is the one that is never asked—so ask away and I will do my best to answer you.

This is also the year when many of our district chairs will relinquish their office to their successor. That means, in most cases, we will also be doing an installation of officers when we visit your district. It is going to be a busy meeting, but I look forward to talking to as many of you as I can.

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Great Advocacy Victories in 2015 - Register For WHA 2016 Advocacy Day

The Wisconsin Hospital Association worked diligently on behalf of our hospitals and health systems over the past year on multiple legislative priorities. Due to aggressive lobbying and grassroots advocacy, we were able to see multiple legislative victories in the past year.

Victory #1 – Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding enacted in the biennial state budget. Due to many, many meetings with legislators and grassroots advocacy, DSH funding was reauthorized and made permanent in the recent state budget. DSH funding provided increased Medicaid reimbursement to hospitals based on their Medicaid volumes.

Victory #2 – Enactment of the Interstate Physician Licensure Compact. This legislation helps reduce red tape for licensing physicians in Wisconsin if those physicians come from another state that is also a member of the Compact. Due to strong HEAT grassroots efforts and diligent lobbying efforts, 77 legislators co-sponsored this legislation. The great news is that the State Assembly approved the legislation by an overwhelming 95-1 vote and the State Senate by a 31-1 vote. The legislation was signed into law by Governor Walker at Mayo Health System – Sparta and Burnett Medical Center (Grantsburg) (see photos) on December 14, 2015. Governor Walker is flanked in both photos by multiple hospital leaders and local legislators.

Both the above **victories were propelled forward in part by hospital advocates in WHA's HEAT program** who repeatedly contacted their legislators in support. If you would like to make an impact in the future, join WHA's free HEAT program at: www.wha.org/heat-grassroots-advocacy.aspx.



Joining Governor Walker, seated, are (l to r): Burnett Medical Center CEO Gordy Lewis; Spooner Health System CEO Mike Schafer; St. Croix Regional Medical Center CEO David Dobosenski; WHA Senior VP Kyle O'Brien; Amery Hospital CEO Debra Rudquist; Osceola Medical Center CEO Tom Geskermann; and Rusk County Memorial Hospital CEO Charisse Oland.



Tomah Memorial Hospital CEO Phil Stuart; WHA General Counsel Matthew Stanford; Mayo Clinic Health System-Franciscan Healthcare in Sparta Regional Administrator Kim Hawthorne; and Gundersen Boscobel Area Hospital and Clinics CEO David Hartberg join Gov. Walker and area legislators at the bill signing in Sparta December 14.

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Register Today For 2016 WHA Advocacy Day, March 30

Join 1,100 colleagues and peers from across the state at Advocacy Day 2016 March 30. The day's agenda and online registration are available at <http://events.SignUp4.net/16AdvocacyDay0330>.

Each year, the Wisconsin Hospital Association's Advocacy Day event grows both in number of attendees and impact. Last year, we hit 1,100 registrations and over 650 attendees participating in legislative meetings. That's more than a 138 percent increase in Advocacy Day attendance since 2005 and over a 333 percent increase in legislative visits during that same time period. These legislative meetings helped propel victories on priority hospital legislation, such as the DSH funding and Physician Interstate Licensure Compact legislation mentioned above.



At 2016 Advocacy Day you will hear the keynote speaker, Rick Pollack, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association (AHA). He's been a member of AHA's advocacy team for the past 33 years and will share his Washington DC insider's view of federal issues in a presidential election year. Our bipartisan legislative leaders' panel will round out the morning session followed by a luncheon keynote address from Gov. Scott Walker (invited). Then it's off to the State Capitol for legislative meetings. WHA provides an issues briefing and schedules all meetings for you.

Make sure you're assembling your volunteer groups now! You won't want to miss this day. Find more details and register today at <http://events.SignUp4.net/16AdvocacyDay0330>. Contact Jenny Boese at 608-268-1816 or jboese@wha.org with questions.

Jenny Boese, WHA Vice President, Federal Affairs & Advocacy

Wisconsin Volunteer Statistics - Fun Facts

If you have ever wondered why recording and submitting volunteer hours is important, please read the statistics below. Without a log of volunteer hours, these statistics (collected in 2013) would not be collected and shared!!!!

WISCONSIN HAS MOVED FROM 8TH TO 5TH IN THE NATION FOR VOLUNTEERING.

- 35.1% of Wisconsin residents volunteer equaling over 1.61 million volunteers. This means 163.8 million hours of service and 3.7 billion dollars of service contributed.
- 29.6% of millennials in Wisconsin volunteered.
- 35.5% of Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) in Wisconsin volunteered in 2013.
- 74.4% of residents engage in "informal" volunteering. (i.e., helping neighbors).

For more statistics on volunteering in Wisconsin or other states, please visit: www.volunteeringinamerica.gov. The latest statistics for 2014 have Wisconsin **#3** in the nation.

Partners of WHA Executives, District Chairs, and Committees

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WAVE Awards 2015

Sylvia Emerson-Chair
Committee Members:
Ginny Bosse
Liz Emmerich
Pat Freeders
Jennifer Frank

WAVE Committee to Meet in February

EXCELLENCE is defined as a “valuable quality.” The Partners of WHA have established a program to recognize the valuable quality of our volunteer programs. For over a decade, the Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE) has recognized outstanding contributions made by our organized volunteer programs.

Again this year the WAVE committee will meet in February to begin the process for the 2016 award. Applications will be mailed to Partners presidents in early spring and local groups will have until early June to submit applications.

Your contributions in the past to your community and health care system have been immense. We are confident that you will continue to submit examples of high level programming.

Sylvia Emerson, Chair
Email: emersosa@uwec.edu

Volunteer Receives National Award

Kitty Pille, a volunteer at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire, for at least 20 years, recently received a national award for her involvement with the American Cancer Society. Kitty received the Terese Lasser Memorial Award for her outstanding support of Breast Cancer Survivors at a recent American Cancer Society Volunteer Recognition.

The prestigious Terese Lasser Memorial Award, the highest national award for service in the American Cancer Society Reach to Recovery program, was developed to recognize exceptional achievement, performance, and dedication to the Reach to Recovery Program. It honors the memory of Terese Lasser, who began Reach to Recovery in 1952, following her own breast cancer experience. It is a program in which breast cancer survivors provide one-on-one support and information to help individuals cope with breast cancer.

Kitty is the Midwest Region counselor for Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and South Dakota. She has been a certified counselor for 15 years, trained to respond to and assist women as they go through their cancer experience, from diagnosis and treatment to possible recurrence and recovery. Kitty received her training online and receives regular renewals of her certification online. Kitty receives referrals from the American Cancer Society and has contact via telephone or online with the individual.

Kitty had breast cancer in 1998 and a reoccurrence in 2004. Kitty is also a survivor of a stroke she experienced 30 years ago. Our congratulations and best wishes to Kitty for all she does for others and receiving this award!

Jaci Fuller, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire

Friends

- *A friend is, as it were, a second half.* – Cicero
- *Wherever you are it is your friend who makes you world.* – William James
- *Who finds a friend finds treasure.* – Irish Proverb
- *Great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, impossible to forget.* – Unknown
- *A hug is the shortest distance between friends.* – Unknown
- *Life is nothing without friendship.* – Cicero
- *It's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years.* – Abraham Lincoln
- *Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only friends will leave footprints in your heart.* – Eleanor Roosevelt
- *Loyal friends make our lives complete.* – Audrey Griffith
- *To have a good friend is one of the greatest delights of life.* – Ralph Waldo Emerson
- *Friends have a way of speaking without words.* – Unknown
- *Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow; don't walk behind me, I may not lead; walk beside me and just be my friend.* – Albert Camus
- *Nothing is more beautiful than the love that has weathered the storms of life.* – Unknown
- *The road to a friend's house is never long.* – Danish Proverb
- *To have joy one must share it.* – Lord Byron

Public Policy Education Report



Cindy Hermel

Do you ever wish you had more information about public policy issues affecting hospitals, health care, and patient rights? HEAT (Hospitals Education Advocacy Team) is WHA's grassroots program. HEAT provides information and insight we need to understand the issues impacting our hospitals and communities.

It gives us information fact sheets and alerts on issues of importance. HEAT is designed to facilitate grassroots involvement so our perspectives and ideas are heard by our elected representatives. Join HEAT today at www.wha.org/heat-sign-up-now.aspx and become an advocate for your local hospital, its patients, and your community.

Advocacy Day is March 30, 2016 at the Monona Terrace in Madison. The keynote speakers and panelists provide timely information and insights on both state and federal health care issues. This year's featured speaker is Rick Pollack, president and CEO of the American Hospital Association. Over the past 40 years, Mr. Pollack has been an advocate for a variety of health care organizations and issues. His experience and insights will provide attendees an insider's look at how the nation's Capitol does business. The day's activities end with legislative visits. It's a great opportunity to meet your representatives and share your thoughts regarding public policy issues. Plan to attend this fun and informative event with other volunteers in your organization. Volunteers attending Advocacy Day wear red, white, and blue, making their numbers very evident among the crowd. Register online at <http://events.SignUp4.net/16AdvocacyDay0330>.

Thank you to all Partners HEAT members who contacted their representatives to support the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. This legislation helps lessen the impact of the physician shortage by expediting the licensure process for qualified physicians and ensures that these doctors can serve patients more quickly. This is another example of how together we can and do make a difference.

It is the season of presidential candidate debates; polls, polls, and more polls reflecting ever-changing candidates' favorability; and breaking news regarding Iowa and New Hampshire primaries. Without question, you will be responsible and concerned citizens. Keep informed, weigh the issues and the candidates, and in November exercise your right to choose by voting for the candidate of your choice.

Cindy Hermel, PPE Chair
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Community Health Education Report



Sherry Jelic

Winter can take your breath away! Like it or not, winter has arrived right on schedule. For people with lung disease, each season can pose unique challenges. That bitter cold that can take our breath away can mean more trouble than a quick gasp of

air for those with respiratory problems.

Cold air can trigger bronchospasm, narrowing airways, making it harder for air to get in and out of the lungs. It's not just the cold that causes irritation. Extreme changes in temperature and humidity—from warm, moister air inside to cold, drier air outside—can cause irritation of the airways. During the winter months, all hospitals see an increase in patients with respiratory problems due to the cold weather, poor air quality, viruses, and bacteria. Some of these visits can be avoided.

If you have respiratory problems, stay indoors if possible on bitter cold or windy days. Take respiratory medications as prescribed. If going outside cannot be avoided, people with lung disease should cover their nose and mouth with a scarf before going outside. The scarf can trap moisture, so it not only warms but also humidifies the air you breathe. Keep indoor air as healthy as possible by avoiding air pollutants and humidifying the dry air. Your lungs require moisture—100% relative humidity—to keep their cleansing systems working and avoid infection. Our nose provides much of this moisture to incoming air, but in the drier air of wintertime it is more of a challenge. For people suffering from chronic lung problems, it can cause respiratory infections. Avoid people who are ill. And whether you have (or don't have) respiratory problems, get a flu shot. Influenza is bad, but it can be life-threatening for those with chronic lung disease.

Sherry Jelic, CHE Chair
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Around the State

Aspirus Langlade Hospital Auxiliary, Antigo:

Hats, mittens, and scarves in gift bags were delivered to all the elementary schools in the area for Christmas gifts. Volunteers submitted these items.

Partners of Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Eagle River:

"The Thrift Shop" thrives on donations being brought in to their shop and November and December were great sales. If you could fill a brown bag with books, they were \$2.00 per bag. They even have mannequins to display some of the used clothing!

St. Clare Hospital Auxiliary, Baraboo:

The "12 Days of Christmas Sale" in this hospital gift shop was held December 3-18. Each day had individual items discounted at 20% off and changed daily. These included Christmas pictures, signs, and frames; lotion, calendars, clocks, and bookmarks; wreaths and candle rings; all stuffed animals; all jewelry items; anything that sparkles; coffee or cocoa mugs and ornaments; any green items; anything that lights up; scarves and hats; any items purchased for a gift (even to yourself); and chocolate candies.

Flambeau Hospital Auxiliary, Park Falls:

The Thrift Shop and Rag Sales raised \$30,000 for eight pieces of equipment for the Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehabilitation Unit. With the addition of these pieces of what the Auxiliary had already donated over the years, the Auxiliary has virtually provided everything in the unit. The unit will be renamed the Flambeau Hospital Auxiliary Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehabilitation Unit, and recognition plaques will be placed both inside and outside the unit.

Kay Lyndahl, Editor

2016 Calendar of Events (Updated)

February 2	Executive Board Meeting	Madison
February 3-4	Full Board Meeting	WHA Offices
March 30	Advocacy Day	Monona Terrace, Madison
SPRING TOUR:		
April 6	Lakes District	Waupaca
April 7	Southeastern District	Milwaukee
April 8	Southern District	Monroe
April 14	Western District	La Crosse - Mayo
April 19	North Central District	Eagle River
April 20	Northwestern District	Ashland
April 21	West Central District	Stanley
April 10-16	National Volunteer Week	
April 28-May 3	SAL/AHA Meeting	Washington D.C. (Washington Hilton)
June	WADVS MEETING	
July	Executive Board Meeting	TBA
October 3	Full Board Meeting	Paper Valley, Appleton
October 4-6	Partners of WHA Convention	Paper Valley, Appleton
October 8-11	AHVRP/State Auxiliary Meeting	Atlanta, GA

Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
May 2016	Fri., April 15, 2016
August 2016	Fri., July 15, 2016
November 2016	Sat., October 15, 2016
February 2017	Sun., January 15, 2017

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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