

President's Report

Fall 2025

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Bill McCullough for serving as our Partners of WHA Public Policy Education (PPE) Chairman for the past six years as well as serving in the added role of Leadership Chair. Bill has spent considerable time and effort being the "voice of advocacy" for Partners, researching and communicating legislative information on health care related policy issues. Bill has also been very passionate about promoting the value and benefits of leadership. Bill will be stepping down from these positions at the end of the year. Thank you, Bill, for your commitment to Partners.

Much of the focus of Partners during 2025 has been spent promoting the VALUE of our organization. During Spring Tour, I asked many of you why you are members of Partners of WHA. Though your answers were varied...they all fit into four broad categories: Advocacy, Education, Leadership and Service. Conversations we had during Spring Tour helped with the construction of a Value Proposition PowerPoint that I am presenting to hospital leaders at online regional meetings this fall. The PowerPoint highlights who we are, what we do, and what the value of a Partner's organization is to a hospital.

Partners of WHA, like many hospitals, is in a period of revitalization. Our member numbers are down since the pandemic. Currently, we have 2,474 members in 26 member hospitals. Prior to the pandemic, there were 7,929 members in 54 hospitals. In addition to the membership decline, there are many new CEO's and DVS's (Directors of Volunteer Services) who we need to educate about our organization.

In 2024 alone, across the state.....

- \$611,394.00 was donated to our local member hospitals thru various fundraising projects.
- 26 health education programs were led by local Partner groups.
- 164 scholarships were awarded totaling \$169,600.00 (each hospital structures their local programs individually).
- Partner volunteers provided 308,353 hours of service to hospitals.
- Partner's grassroots advocacy work assists the legislative lobbying of WHA.
- Health education and health promotion projects bring about a connection to the community.

In addition to value, MEMBER RETENTION continues to be a high priority as it impacts Partners long term viability as an organization. Speaking with members of organizations who have left our ranks this year has helped us to understand that each organization is truly unique. Some have felt that more support from their administration would have been helpful. Others had members "aging out" and not enough "new blood" to carry on. Partners continues to brainstorm ways to retain and grow our membership as part of our strategic plan. It's the POWER OF UNITY that will help us achieve more significant and positive outcomes when we work together, pooling our strengths, sharing a common goal, and supporting one another.

Julie Steiner, President
Partners of WHA