

Partners of Memorial Medical Center

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MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

My Christmas and New Year's Wish is probably like many others, good bye to Covid-19.

This is my last newsletter. As of December 31, 2020 my 5th year as your Partners of MMC President will end. It is also **Partners' New Beginning**. Rather than being an independent organization, we will become part of the MMC family. There will be some changes, but the one thing that won't change is that each and every Partner will remain a valued for all they do for Partners and MMC.

I will miss seeing you in the Gift Shop or at the Information Desk. For most of the last 5 years my Tuesday and Friday afternoons were spent in the Partners Office. It was a big change adjustment for me for the last 9 months not to come in on those afternoons. I did a lot of work from home. Now I will go on to some things that have been put on hold at home. I actually attended my first Board meeting just six weeks after we unloaded the moving van. It was good to come back to Ashland after 16 years of beginning in a couple of other communities.

Unfortunately, in an abundance of caution, there will be **no Cookie Walk this year**. This was a unanimous decision by the board.

Since our last newsletter we have had to say good bye to Dorothy Morrow who was instrumental in purchasing artwork very early in MMC's beginning days. Past President Jeanette Miller also left us in the fall. The Lifeline program had its beginning during Jeanette's presidency after a lot of hard work before her. In the last few days, Jean Smart a long time very generous member passed.

On the next page you will find the President's Report for 2020. It is usually presented at the January Open Meeting and include such information as total hours, Wish List grants and total fundraising. Unfortunately there is no Wish List for 2020, fundraising was minimal and it is too early to total hours with the Thrift Shop still in operation. Everyone's hours are way down this year. They can be included in the next newsletter.

I wish you all as safe Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

In closing, I will say one more time:

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR PARTNERS OF MMC. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

President's 2020 Year End Report

NEW BEGINNING

When there was no one willing to become president elect in the fall of 2019 I requested a meeting with Mr. Douglas to let him know what the situation was. His immediate response just let me know what we can do. That has made this transition much easier. A committee was formed and Kevin Stranberg, Director of Marketing and Communications and the Partners Liason was our leader. New bylaws were written and adopted as well as how responsibilities would be carried out. Fortunately, the bulk of the work was done before Covid hit us. Members of the New Beginnings Committee were Betty Harnisch, Anne Marie Johnson, Kevin and myself. A big thank you to the committee for all the work they did and time they gave to contributing to our New Beginning.

PARTNERS 50TH YEAR CELEBRATION

The Partners 50th year celebration took a dramatic change from what was planned. Our dinner became a slide show. If you haven't seen it, I recommend watching it. You can find it at www.ashlandmmc.com. Go to the About Us tab and go to the bottom of the list and click on Partners of MMC. There you will find the slideshow with an introduction by Barb Barry. Gifts that were to be distributed at the dinner were mailed. Greetings and thoughts that were to be presented at the dinner were included in an earlier newsletter. Kate Deering worked with the committee and had a banner in the lobby very early in the year. Carole Huhn, Betty Harnisch, Jeanne Hultman and myself made up the rest of the committee. A huge thank you goes to each person for all their efforts in planning a wonderful celebration that couldn't happen. On the day we were to have our celebration banquet MMC had an ad in the Daily Press and in the month's edition of Bottom Line News and Views. There were notes from past CEO's Lowell Miller and Dan Hymans as well as our present CEO Jason Douglas in the June 2020 newsletter.

FUND RAISING

Due to Covid, our fundraising took a different look this year. Our **Bakeless Bake Sale** brought in \$1,357.00. Thank you for your generosity!

October 4-10 there was a **Virtual Nutman Sale**. We earned just over \$120.00. We didn't have time to get the word out very well.

SHOPS

The Thrift and Gift Shops were close from March until June when the Thrift Shop reopened. In July the Gift Shop reopened as a concession stand selling food only. Both shops have had sporadic closings and are open as much as situations allow. On December 2 Thrift Shop sales hit a record of over \$900.00. If Vouchers were added in the total exceeded \$950.00. I recall that \$800.00 was a record breaking week.

PARTNERS OF WHA MEETINGS

Partners of MMC was scheduled to host the Northwestern District Spring Meeting. It was cancelled and Partners made all the arrangements for a virtual Fall District Meeting on October 27. Three Partners attended. The Partners of WHA Convention was also cancelled. A virtual business meeting was held on October 7. Ballots were mailed for budget approval and election of officers. Three Partners attended.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

The year 2020 has been a milestone year of Partners of MMC. Even with all of the chaos, it is important to take a moment and honor all the work of the past 50 years by so many dedicated volunteers. On behalf of everyone at MMC, thank you, thank you, thank you.

Looking forward, there are big changes for Partners in 2021. With the change from a Board of Directors to an Advisory Board, the Marketing staff of MMC and I will be more actively involved in helping Partners employees and volunteers (hopefully they can safely return soon into the hospital – all staff really miss you). Thank you to the brave souls who have stepped forward to serve on the Advisory Board for 2021: Carole Huhn, Pam Bauer, Colleen Anderson, Terri Pingel and Kay Despard. This group will meet quarterly to determine fundraisers, review finances and disperse funds.

We have changed the arrangement for dues in 2021 as well. Anyone who volunteers for Partners of MMC will be considered a member. No dues will need to be paid. We hope you will consider using the money you normally pay for dues to support one of the fundraisers throughout the year.

If you have any questions or ideas as we start this new chapter for Partners of MMC, feel free to contact me at 715-685-5181 or kstranberg@ashlandmmc.com

Thank you and Onward,

Kevin Stranberg