



HEARTBEAT

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUXILIARY - PARTNERS OF MERMH

Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital

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Convention 2017

Respectfully submitted by Diana Sell

Convention is always an uplifting and motivating experience. This year was no exception. Jan Molaska and John Tully, the Convention Chair, did an excellent job of running the convention. Chris Freytag was the keynote speaker who started us off with healthy tips. Rep. John Nygren closed by sharing some of his personal family battles with opioid abuse. The workshops were great as well as the hospital displays, vendors, food and raffles. The Best of the Best award was given to Javon Bea, President and CEO of Mercyhealth in Janesville. You can look up the 4 WAVE Award winners on www.partnersofwha.org as well as pictures of the Convention. On a sad note, Mary Licht was ill and later lost her battle with cancer. She will be missed, but never forgotten.

If you have never been to a Convention there is always next year on Oct. 2-4 at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Steven's Point. I strongly recommend it!

Sue Damske,
Kathy Viergutz,
Pam Berdal,
Marie Maciag,
Lisa Pepp, and
Pam Cira



Fall District Meeting

Respectfully submitted, Pam Cira

Lisa Pepp and I attended the Fall District meeting on Oct. 25th in Marshfield. The meeting was great and the speaker they had was incredibly interesting.

Lisa Boero talked about her experiences as a child patient with a brain tumor that was removed and the aftermath that was pretty unexpected. After the surgery, which apparently incised close to the optic nerve, she developed what is known as "face blindness." This condition is permanent and it means she cannot recognize faces, even the faces of her husband and children. She has learned to pay attention to lots of other cues to identify people – like hair color and style, clothing items, their voices, their smells (colognes, perfumes, etc.), their gait, height, weight, or specifics in their faces (if they have a unique chin, mouth or nose). She details this journey with this condition, albeit in a fictional format, in her novel, *Murderers and Nerdy Girls Work Late*. She is an attorney for the Marshfield Medical Group in Marshfield WI and is currently working on her ninth book.



MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

The holiday season is upon us and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy holiday. My holiday wish is that everyone will be able to enjoy the holidays in their traditional celebrations no matter what those may be; spending time with family and friends building memories and celebrating those who are no longer physically with us but are forever a part of our memories.

It is also a time to reflect on the past year and everything we are thankful for. A part of that reflection for me is thinking about all of the volunteers I have had the pleasure of meeting, working beside and sharing experiences with. I am thankful for the active volunteers who give of their valuable time and for those whose health or circumstances no longer allow them to give of their time but continue to support our organizations financially as patron members. I am blessed in my personal life and equally blessed in my work life as well.

Sincerely, Kathy Viergutz

Day of Renewal

By Elizabeth Purtell & Judy Block, Community Health Education Co-Chairpersons

Our 8th Day of Renewal on Tuesday, September 19 at Moon Beach Camp was very well attended. All members of the auxiliary as well as visitors to the north woods were invited to this annual community health education program. Our theme for this year's Day of Renewal was "Live Better ~ Live Longer ~ Challenges."

Our morning session was filled with a panel discussion of health care professionals with Deacon Rick moderating. The discussion focused on various challenges such as suicide, opioids, the cost of prescription drugs, self-diagnosis, self-medication and proper nutrition as well as the value of supplements.

A complimentary "brain-heart" healthy lunch was served at no charge to the participants.

In the afternoon our presenters, Dr. Greg Gremban, DDS, and Jaimie and Jesse Caster, discussed dental and hearing challenges facing participants.

We thank all of our presenters and the Moon Beach Camp staff.

IN-SERVICE

Dedicated Hearts

Dedicated hearts like yours
Are not so easy to find.
It takes a special person to be
So generous and kind.
To care so much for your fellow man
Is a quality all too rare.
Yet you give of your time and talents,
For all in need to share.

So thank you for being a volunteer,
We're privileged to work with you.
We want you to know how appreciated you are,
Not just today, but the whole year through.

(Author Unknown)



At the end of this year, 2017, I will be retiring as co-chair of In-Service, Out-Patient Surgery. It has been a pleasure being a volunteer, training new volunteers, working with wonderful staff and writing news articles for the "Heart Beat" for the past 11 years. Thank you to my co-chair, Marlys Lee, who shared in the responsibilities for this position on the Auxiliary Board and for being a dear friend. I would like to say thank you to the faithful volunteers through the years, who have shared their caring ways with the patients and staff of Eagle River Hospital.

It was a time of great joy and also a time to give back to my community. As I have said before, once you have it in your heart to be a Volunteer, you are always a Volunteer. I'll see you around our community.

Lovingly, Mickey Jensen



THRIFT SHOP NEWS, Joan Holdmann, Chairperson

All I can say is WOW, WOW, WOW! We have been so loaded down with donations they are piled up high in the back room. We do have a jacket and coat sale going on, hoping to move some merchandise. The gals are feeling the rush to get out our Christmas decorations. One of our big concerns is, where do we put them. We will have to do some shifting around in the store. As always, having room to display special items creates a problem. We hope to establish a Holiday area and keep it just for such occasions. We're working on it.

Our prayers and love go forward to one of our special gals who works at the thrift shop. After a fall in the store, it was discovered she broke her arm. She has had the surgery and is now healing. Control of the pain is an issue and we sincerely hope that will improve soon. Accidents at the shop do happen but not all that often.

We are missing our wonderful summer people. Scheduling for the front desk has been a problem. We are also at a minimum of workers in the back sorting area too. I would like to make a plea for some of the Auxiliary members to step up and put some much needed time in at the shop. We can really use you. It's a great place to put in your hours. I'm just a phone call away, as they say. I welcome your call. I'm out and about a lot during the day but usually always home in the evenings.

I have been given the job of keeping CHOCOLATE in the back room for the ladies. I need to keep them happy. You know we ladies need our chocolate. For the front desk I put out hard, wrapped assorted candies for the customers. They seem to enjoy a treat. Especially some of the older men, who like to fill their pockets.

Ken, my husband, would like to thank the two gentlemen, Andy Ellenberger and Don Shoessow, who have been filling in for him doing the clean up of trash. Ken has had a great recovery after having an Aortic Valve Replacement. He is anxious to get back to work but he needs to take a month for healing. I am the great reminder to him to watch and care for him.

We have a wonderful hospital that the Thrift Shop loves to support. Let's keep it going! Soon the new ambulance will be up and running, thanks to the monies made by the Thrift Store. Bless the men and women who are our responders. Our community is happy to have them.

God's Blessings and Peace in our World

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's two days before Thanksgiving, the forgotten holiday, and everyone is getting ready to stuff themselves and tell what they're thankful for. I'm thankful for all the wonderful volunteers in our auxiliary and the incredible number of hours they contribute. I'm also thankful to Blanche Babcock for volunteering to be our Public Policy Educator. I'm very thankful to our Thrift Shop which provides a wonderful service to our community and also raises a large amount of money which enables the auxiliary to fulfill one item on the hospital's wish list. This year it was the new ambulance and two patient lifts for the ambulances.

We had six people attend the state convention and I'm thankful that they brought back lots of information. Two of our volunteers were able to attend the Fall District meeting in Marshfield.

I'm thankful that I got to meet and know Mary Licht. She did so much for our organization.

2018 will arrive very soon. The Auxiliary voted to have our meetings every other month in 2018. The first meeting will be on January 16 in the hospital cafeteria. We are very fortunate to have one of our own volunteers speak to us about addiction.

Christmas will be here before you know it. We are looking forward to our Auxiliary Christmas party to be held at Eagle Waters Resort on December 12. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

On a down note we are looking for a President-elect, President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Have a very Happy Holiday Season and see you in 2018.

Teri Kressin, Auxiliary President



Life Direct - Respectfully submitted, Pam Cira

Some changes are anticipated for this program since we no longer have year round installers available to us. We are working out an agreement with CST to have any equipment work be done by someone that they employ. We will still do the office work and support for CST but new installations or unit swaps and repairs will be done by one of the company's people. This may cause some delays in getting service to subscribers and they will need to pay for service calls, but the alternative was to close the program as an auxiliary program completely. We do not want to do that because the service is so important to our subscribers and because the Life Direct program is a fundraising opportunity for our auxiliary. We will see how this new arrangement works and re-evaluate next year.

Advanced Directives Update - Respectfully submitted by Pam Cira

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that the Advanced Directives workshops are no longer available. It is with greater sadness that the reason is because we have lost Lisa Becker as the hospital social worker. As you may know, Lisa was diagnosed with terminal cancer this past August and so is no longer working. The workshops require supervision by a hospital staff member so, absent that, we can no longer provide them. Please join me in keeping Lisa and her husband, Kurt, in our prayers.

Membership - Respectfully submitted, Pam Cira

The membership packets have been sent and your response has been amazing. Thanks to all who have returned the membership record, the safety review signature page and dues. If you have not yet got those items in to me, please do so as soon as possible. I will be contacting folks I have not heard from in order to find out if you still wish to be a part of the Auxiliary or not. If you have lost the safety review and/or the membership record, let me know and I will send out new ones to you. I can be reached at 715-479-5485. Also, please continue to log your volunteer hours so that I can record them. If possible, please turn them in monthly so I don't have to take a lot of time going back over past months to see if they are in. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 12 - Christmas Party. Eagle Waters Resort
December 29 – End of Year Reports due, turn in to president, Teri Kressin
January 16 - Auxiliary Meeting. Hospital Cafeteria
March 21 – WHA Advocacy Day, Madison
April 26 – North Central Spring District Meeting, Rhinelander
October 2 – Partners of WHA State Convention, Stevens Point



**VOLUNTEERS!
NEEDED!**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES COME AND WORK WITH US

If interested, please contact Kathy Viergutz at
715-356-8677 for more information.

Thrift Store Volunteers

HELP Program Volunteers

**Offices of President, President-Elect, Secretary,
Treasurer**

Out-Patient Surgery Volunteers

**'Heartbeat' Newsletter Editor, Training
provided**

Heartbeat is the official Newsletter of
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Editor Katie Grundy.
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