

*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.*

*A Message from the Partners of WHA Acting President/President-Elect*

## Memories



*Jan Molaska*

It happened again!! How is it possible that in the blink of an eye, 2017 is simply a kaleidoscope of memories? Some of the memories were and continue to be difficult to comprehend. When I wrote my article for the February 2017 *Reaching Out*, I indicated that Mary Licht, the current president, would be leading us on our journey. Unfortunately, Mary's journey took a heartbreaking path. After a valiant fight against breast cancer, Mary lost the battle in September 2017. During my last visit with Mary, approximately two weeks prior to her death, she asked what she could do to help. Mary, as well as other members of our Partners family around the state, were very dedicated, enthusiastic, and conscientious volunteers and friends. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the families and friends of members whose earthly journey has ended.

Sometimes, the past and present seem to flow into each other without even the slightest change. The past, with respect to the discord within our political system, health care, Medicare/Medicaid obstacles, and the national opioid epidemic, look just like the present. There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done to ensure adequate and affordable health care for everyone and to address the prescription pain medication epidemic that is rampant across the United States.

We, as members of Partners, are committed to continuing to advocate for affordable health care, our local hospitals, and communities. It is our responsibility to keep informed of current issues and to respond when HEAT alerts are issued.

In 2017, the executive board of Partners began re-writing and updating the bylaws for our organization. At this writing, the "draft" for the updated bylaws is being reviewed by a law firm to ensure we are in compliance with the rules and regulations that apply to non-profit organizations. Once we receive the finalized draft, we will distribute the proposed bylaws that will then be discussed at the Spring Tour meetings prior to voting on them at the October 2018 convention to be held in Stevens Point, WI.

I am very excited to continue in my leadership role within our organization, and COMMUNICATION is my highest priority. My goals include growing our membership, recruiting members to step up into leadership roles, and continuing to transition into the "new face of volunteering." I look forward to traveling around the state during Spring Tour to discuss issues and concerns as well as answer any questions that you may have. I also hope to see many of you at Advocacy Day and at the 2018 convention to be held in Stevens Point.

*(Continued on page 2)*



*This photo didn't coincide with the WAVE Award from the 2017 Partners Convention. This was a winner for the Fundraising Program regarding "Rag Cutters" from Flambeau Hospital in Park Falls. They are now applying for the HAVE award (Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence) through the American Hospital Association. Left to right are Tom Kaster, Arlene Morrison, Amy Hulbert, Gordon Lucht, Rhea Lucht, Rosie Neck, Liz Emmerich, Jan Molaska, Jayne Russell, and Ginny Bosse.*

**A Message from the President-elect...  
continued from page 1**

We need to remember that every end is also a new beginning and so a new adventure begins. We each hold a pen in our hand. It is up to you to write the story you want your life to look like.

Jan Molaska  
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thought she felt a lump. Long story short, after ultra sounds, an MRI, and a biopsy, I was diagnosed with breast cancer—again. For the past 11 years, I was cancer free. This was a new cancer in the same breast as before. Two days before Thanksgiving, I underwent a double mastectomy. This unexpected and stressful “bump” has again forced me to focus on what is really important in my life—my family, friends, and Partners of WHA.

The outpouring of love, support, and kindness I have received is overwhelming. I have had my ups and downs during this process but with the encouragement, prayers, gifts, cards, visits, and phone calls I have received from so many of you, I have found the inner strength to make it through. A special thank you to each of you for being there when I needed it most, and demonstrating the true meaning of friendship. Every day, I am feeling stronger, more energetic, and beginning to have the strength to work on items for the Partners Board. Once again, a very heartfelt thank you for the incredible kindnesses you have showered on me. I will never forget it.

Jan Molaska

## Nominating Committee Approved at 2017 Convention

The Nominating Committee was approved at the 2017 Partners Convention. The Nominating Committee is the most important committee in an organization because it is responsible for selecting the future leaders of the organization. What an awe-inspiring job!

Bonnie Olson, immediate past president, chairs the committee. Jackie Halverson, Lakes District; Cindy Hermel, North Central District; and Pat Freeders, Southern District are the members on the committee. President-Elect Jan Molaska is a non-voting member of the committee.

**Partners Bylaw 10.1.8 Article VIII Section 3 states the following: No officer shall be elected without having served on the Board for one year.**

The President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer will be elected at Partners Convention in 2018. The form to apply for an office is available on the Partners website, [partnersofwha.org](http://partnersofwha.org). Qualified candidate nominations will be accepted until March 31, 2018. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at Partners Convention in October 2018.

The Partners Board will receive a report at the Spring Board Meeting of those who have applied for the available positions before the due date of March 31, 2018.

Bonnie R. Olson, Nominating Committee Chair  
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## On a Personal Note

Where do I begin? My goal for attending the Association for Healthcare Volunteer Resource Professionals (AHVRP) Conference in September 2017 was to gain new insights and help me to see health care from a different perspective. I can honestly say I have a different perspective—not necessarily one I would ever have planned on, but a new one. On the trip home, I hurt my arm.

After two weeks of being home and the arm not feeling any better, I saw my doctor. While feeling around, the doctor

## Convention News for “Volunteer Super Heroes”

Convention plans are moving along. All committees are in place and we are working on making the 2018 Partners Convention a memorable one. We have read all the comments on the evaluation forms, and are working to incorporate these ideas into workshops. Input from the Directors of Volunteer Services have asked for workshops to benefit their whole volunteer organization, as well as the individual. We will do that with our wide variety of subjects.

At the close of the 2017 convention in Green Bay, I announced our theme for 2018 is “Volunteer Super Heroes.” Yes, super heroes wear capes and tights, but they also wear military, firefighter, EMT, and medical personnel uniforms. Look how many of these super heroes volunteered their time to help with flooding from hurricanes Harvey & Irma and fires in the Northwest.

We will celebrate all Volunteer Super Heroes and our combined patriotism October 2, 3, & 4, 2018 in Stevens Point at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center. More updates in the next *Reaching Out!*

Sheree Schaefer, Convention Chair

## 2018 WHA Advocacy Day Registration is Open

***Make sure you attend this premier event on March 21***

Each year, WHA Advocacy Day draws more than 1,000 hospital and health system advocates to Madison to learn and advocate. And every year hundreds of Partners of WHA members participate in this great day!

Advocacy Day is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 2018 in Madison at the Monona Terrace. Registration and full event details are available at [www.whareg4.org/2018AdvocacyDay](http://www.whareg4.org/2018AdvocacyDay) and [www.wha.org/advocacy-day.aspx](http://www.wha.org/advocacy-day.aspx). Make sure you register now. You won't want to miss this year's great lineup.



The 2018 morning keynote will be **Mara Liasson**, the national political correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR). She will be followed by a **legislative panel discussion**, and Gov. Scott Walker has been invited again as the luncheon keynote.

To continue to be as effective as possible on issues, WHA's yearly goal is to have as many attendees as possible participate in legislative meetings in the afternoon. (An optional pre-event webinar will be offered closer to the date for those going on legislative visits and a short issue briefing will happen at Advocacy Day as well.)

**While Advocacy Day is free, registration is necessary. Register today for Advocacy Day 2018 at [www.whareg4.org/2018AdvocacyDay](http://www.whareg4.org/2018AdvocacyDay) or [www.wha.org/advocacy-day.aspx](http://www.wha.org/advocacy-day.aspx).**

For Advocacy Day questions, contact Jenny Boese at 608-268-1816 or [jboese@wha.org](mailto:jboese@wha.org). For registration questions, contact Kayla Chatterton at [kchatterton@wha.org](mailto:kchatterton@wha.org) or 608-274-1820.

### WAVE Award Applications to be Mailed in March

Each year, the Partners of WHA recognizes outstanding contributions of organized volunteer programs that benefit their hospitals or communities. There are four categories a group can choose from to submit an application. They are:

- Community Service
- Fundraising
- In-Service
- Community Outreach and/or Collaboration

Application forms will be mailed to your hospital volunteer president/coordinator in March. Put on your thinking caps and determine what project you would like to submit. Many groups do the same projects but each of you put your own spin on it and make it different than others, so think about how yours is unique and tell us about it. The WAVE Committee is looking forward to reading about your outstanding contributions to your hospital or community.

*Pat Freeders, Chair*  
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## Public Policy Education Report



Barb Filla

Happy New Year to all of you special Wisconsin WHA Partners who make a huge daily difference in health care in your hospital and communities! Hope you also take care of your personal health care, as everything is really up to us as an individual—isn't it?

2018 will be another busy year in politics on both state and federal levels. So, I encourage you to take an active interest—listen; learn; sort out the truth; think through what is practical, feasible, and workable; and share and discuss with others (we always learn more when we share and discuss together in open, honest, courteous ways). Then take respectful, regular action to communicate to legislators from our grassroots perspectives and experiences. Legislators need to hear from us so their work produces effective, good outcomes as much as possible.

As citizens, it's our responsibility to participate in the process because our freedom, culture, and liberty are not free. It was designed and lasted over 200 years because of diligent efforts by "we the people." Only our work, energy, and attentiveness followed up with commitment and determination will keep it. Here are a couple thoughts about how we can listen, learn, understand, and know the truth—then share and engage in a positive way:

- Check in daily to news and information. Taking even 5-10 minutes is better than nothing. It'll soon become a habit.
- Listen to several perspectives from several sources to gain a broad, well-rounded perspective and seek facts (WHA's *Valued Voice*; also HEAT is a good resource for many hospital and patient-related health care topics.) Add other reliable sources of information too.

### ADVOCACY DAY on March 21, 2018 – YOU are wanted and needed!

On January 2, 2018, I sent to all district PPE chairs more detailed information, benefits of attending, how to register, and asked them to share the information with all local Partners PPE chairs. Please check with your local and/or district PPE chairs. If you're thinking about, but not certain of the value of attending, ask them for the list of 10 benefits of attending, as they're too long to include here. You'll like what you learn as to how you are of value as an advocate for health care.

**Then, SIGN UP with a local volunteer organization or at [www.whareg4.org/2018AdvocacyDay](http://www.whareg4.org/2018AdvocacyDay). We'll see you there with 1,000+ others from across the state of Wisconsin!**

Access the Advocacy Day Program brochure/agenda: [www.partnersofwha.org/advocacy-day](http://www.partnersofwha.org/advocacy-day)  
If not able to get it, let me know by email.

Have a great year as a volunteer and in your personal and family life!

Questions, thoughts, and ideas are always welcome, so let me hear from you now and on Spring Tour at your districts.

Barb Filla, PPE Chair  
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## Best of the Best Award Established in 1994

In 1994, Partners of WHA established the Best of the Best Administrator Award to recognize and thank administrators for their support for the work we do. It honors on-site administrators, CEOs, presidents, executive directors, first vice-presidents, and CFOs of Wisconsin hospitals and medical centers who participate in exemplary and supportive relationship with their volunteer organizations.

Nominating forms will be mailed to all Partners of WHA presidents in March. They will also be available at the Spring District meetings. Information can also be found at [www.partnersofwha.org](http://www.partnersofwha.org). Anyone nominated must have been in the present position for no less than 24 months as of June 9, 2018. The deadline for submission of nomination forms is June 9, 2018. If you have submitted a nomination in the past, but were not successful, please feel free to resubmit after you have reviewed it in light of the criteria.

The 2018 committee includes 2017 award winner Javon Bea, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mercyhealth in Janesville; Dawn Hansen, Hartford; Arletta Trejo, Beaver Dam; Jan Christiansen, Waterford; and Mary Lou Bausch, Lancaster.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Mary Lou Bausch, Chair  
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# Community Health Education Report



Sherry Jelic

Drugs End Dreams—Hope for the Opioid Epidemic in 2018? In the U.S., as in many other countries, the New Year is celebrated for the promises of renewed hope, resolutions, or just appreciation to enjoy another day of life. Hope is based on our ability to obtain what we need to stay healthy, safe, and engaged. For individuals, families, or communities touched by the opioid epidemic, hope can seem elusive.

The 2018 health education topic will continue to be the opioid crisis. Wisconsin is a leader in trying to address this issue, and a model for other states, resulting in some positive results. Attorney General Brad Schimel and Rep. John Nygren have worked diligently in Wisconsin's battle against opioid abuse.

Rep. Nygren has been the force behind many Wisconsin's HOPE (Heroin, Opioid Prevention Education) legislative bills, including a bill mandating the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services stated that this program resulted in 17.5 *million* fewer opioid dosages dispensed from April to June 2017, a 12 percent decrease from the same time period in 2016.

Attorney General Brad Schimel initiated the "Dose of Reality" campaign, which aims to educate about the risks and dangers of using prescription narcotics, as well as the signs of abuse, safe storage, and disposal of unused medications. In October 2017, Drug Take Back Day in Wisconsin resulted in the collection of 63,941 pounds of drugs.

Governor Scott Walker created the Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse in 2016, co-chaired by Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and Rep. Nygren. The task force includes medical professionals, addiction experts, lawmakers, law enforcement, state agencies, and individuals in recovery, and was formed to address and combat the issues related to opioid abuse and addiction.

In Wisconsin, 28 counties have joined in a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies, alleging "aggressive and fraudulent marketing of prescription opioid painkillers that has led to a drug epidemic in the state."

The state's justice department, on December 13, 2017, announced a program providing expanded access and affordability on University of Wisconsin-System campuses for Narcan, the antidote used in overdoses.

On January 4, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced that more than \$2 million in grants to expand treatment services for opioid and methamphetamine addiction will be distributed to Family Health La Clinica of Wautoma, Family Health Center of Marshfield, Northlakes Community Clinic of Iron River, and the Health and Human Services Departments of Dodge and Fond du Lac counties.

To reduce opioid abuse, health insurer Cigna will not cover OxyContin in 2018 unless a doctor feels that treatment using OxyContin is medically necessary.

These are some positive outcomes, but we need to continue our efforts. Opioid overdose deaths continue to rise in Wisconsin despite fewer opioids being dispensed. In people 65 and over with chronic pain issues, 18% are addicted to opioids. Drug deaths nationwide reached 63,600 in 2016.

My challenge to every local group of volunteers is to do something to raise awareness, educate, and initiate or

participate in an event aimed at stopping the horrors of opioid abuse. Put up a poster, talk about it in your groups, and inform your communities about drop off locations. Think of the impact it can have if we all participate!

Websites for further information:

[legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/hope](http://legis.wisconsin.gov/assembly/hope)  
[doseofrealitywi.gov](http://doseofrealitywi.gov)  
[dhs.wisconsin.gov](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov)

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## Website and Facebook Update

Thank you to all of you who have been sharing your activity pictures and other information for the website and social media! Your help keeps our internet presence up to date and relevant.

Many people rely on the Partners of WHA website for information about our activities. Please let us publicize your projects by sending the information electronically to Peg Larson at [pegvoluntr@hotmail.com](mailto:pegvoluntr@hotmail.com). Be sure to include the details about the activity and those pictured in the photo. With Spring Tour and Advocacy Day coming up, I look forward to your contributions. Thanks!

Peg Larson, Treasurer and Website Manager  
 920-231-3005 (H); 920-420-1482 (C)  
 Email: [pegvoluntr@hotmail.com](mailto:pegvoluntr@hotmail.com)

## Around the State

### Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital Volunteers, Merrill:

Volunteers helped with special projects last year by filling dental kits, planting window boxes for patient's rooms, seasonal raffle baskets, and Christmas Quilt Raffle. Very busy fingers!

### Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital of Superior Auxiliary, Superior:

A new twist to Tree of Lights: Seven 5th grade students from local schools read essays they wrote about a special person in their lives and then received plaques for their participation.

### Bellin Hospital Volunteers, Green Bay:

The volunteer office had an Open House the week of December 4 with treats each day for five days. A prize was given out each day and included a pair of Packer gloves and headband, Christmas cactus, Woodwick cinnamon-scented candle and car vent freshener, men's hat and knitted gloves, and Packers fleece throw.

*Kay Lyndahl, Editor*

## Strategic Planning Working on Goals

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to work on our goals for the 2017-2018 years. The last month has been a slow time for the Strategic Planning Committee. However, now that the holidays are over, we will be back working hard to complete our goals for this year.

We will have a meeting in March to review our goals and possibly add some new ones.

Many thanks again to my hard-working Committee!

*Dorothy Revnew, Chair*

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## Dementia Friendly Business Initiated at St. Joseph's Hospital

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital case example for their Dementia Friendly Business Initiative was featured in the American Hospital Association's website for being a finalist for the HAVE award. Below is an excerpt from their Case Study.

**Overview:** Individuals with dementia can face significant barriers to engaging in the social life of their community. Many find their local communities do not offer support or understanding for their condition; as a result, these individuals give up things they love to do out of anxiety or fear. Becoming a dementia-friendly community means empowering people with Dementia/Alzheimer's to have high aspirations, confidence, and a sense of knowing that they can contribute.

Family members of a local community member recognized that employees of local businesses did not understand her confusion and were not prepared to consistently convey respect and compassion to her and other customers with Dementia/Alzheimer's due to their lack of awareness and understanding of this horrific disease.

**Impact:** The Dementia-Friendly Business Initiative created five train-the-trainer sessions to train 18 volunteers, who have provided education to 57 businesses and 714 employees in the county. In addition, the Initiative developed the first Memory Café in September 2015. The new Café offers a safe, comfortable, and engaging environment for those with early-stage memory loss, Dementia/Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. Each month, volunteers and staff plan a different topic to engage participants.

**Future Goals:** Initiative leaders currently are looking at planning a yearly event to gather all persons that suffer with dementia and Alzheimer's for a day of fun with their fellow community members and caregivers. It will take place at a local campground, and include games and activities such as a pontoon ride, bonfire, and bean bags.

You can see their full post and the other case studies at:

[www.ahacommunityconnections.org/case-studies](http://www.ahacommunityconnections.org/case-studies)

*Brandalee Sikora*

*Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls*

## Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
May 2018	Fri., April 13, 2018
August 2018	Sun., July 15, 2018
November 2018	Fri., October 12, 2018
February 2019	Mon., January 14, 2019

Partners *Reaching Out* is published four times a year by Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc. Visit the Partners website at [www.partnersofwha.org](http://www.partnersofwha.org). Direct questions or comments to:

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