

## North Central District Newsletter

November, 2016

Happy Fall! The weather has been so nice, it's more like Spring, but we all know that the snow will be flying soon. Fall is a busy time for the Partners of WHA Volunteers. The convention, along with the district meeting, is always a great time to get together and catch-up with old friends, and make some new ones along the way!

The convention was held in Appleton this year, with 306 attending. The Raffle tickets made about \$4,000. The 50/50 tickets, about \$1,000. The Silent Auction, made \$2,937, and being able to use credit cards really helped raise that amount. I would like to thank Rose Raska and her whole team for putting on a great "Kick Up Your Heels!" good time.

The 2017 convention will be held at the Hyatt & KI Convention Center in Green Bay, October 3, 4, & 5<sup>th</sup>. The committee is already working hard on making it another success. Mary Licht has been elected Partners State President, and Jan Molaska, Aspirus Wausau Hospital, was elected as President-Elect. Let's all congratulate Mary and Jan, and help them out any way we can!

The North Central District will be showing off our planning skills in 2018, when we host the convention in Stevens Point, at the Holiday Inn & Convention Center, easy on and off, Hwy.39. I will be the contact person and chair for this event. I am working with the committee for the 2017 convention, and will be taking notes and learning all I can. I am so grateful to have so many hospitals in our district that have already stepped up to the plate on planning. Any information I receive, I will pass along to you.

### Fall District Meeting

The Volunteers of Ministry Good Samaritan Health Center, Merrill, hosted the district meeting, Wednesday, October 19, 2016. We enjoyed a wonderful day with 58 attendees. We had a presentation by Debbie Mollendorf and Kristin Bath, Lincoln County, UW Extension Office, AODA Coalition, on the alarming raise of heroin and opiate abuse in our area. We shared information in our district, and we had Lynn Kagleman entertain us with a couple of spooky, round-

the-campfire, stories. Our afternoon wrapped up with Barb Enerson giving the invitation to Spring District meeting, which will be held Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017, in Medford. Thank you to the Good Samaritan ladies for a wonderful day!

### Around the District

Aspirus Langlade Hospital Auxiliary – The auxiliary coordinated the 22<sup>nd</sup> Parade of Homes. This is their major project each year, and the profit went to a portable fetal monitor for their OB department.

They also gave out two continuing education scholarships for students in their second year in college or tech.

Antigo sponsors concerts in the park and many of the auxiliary members joined in an evening of fun with sandwiches and a pie social. Good music and pie; can't go wrong with that!

Knit hats and mittens are distributed to school children, and blankets are sewn for infants and toddlers who come into the emergency department.

Ascension Ministry Eagle River Hospital Auxiliary - Spring started with hosting the District meeting with the State Officers attending. Speaking for me, Sheree, Teri and her committee did a wonderful job, and we had a great day in the North Woods.

The auxiliary donated \$50,000 to the Howard Young Foundation for a 3D mammography unit, and this was matched by the foundation and a private donor. Also, the purchase of two defibrillators for their ambulances.

Their volunteer luncheon honored Ken and Joan Holdmann for their combined 17,000 hours of service, and Shirley Spiess who has served in the auxiliary for over 54 years.

Howard Young Auxiliary joined in the Annual Fashion Show, which features our auxiliary modeling clothes and accessories from the Thrift Shop and Gift Shop.

Auxiliary of the Howard Young Medical Center – Our volunteers are busy making baby hats, pediatric blankets, and walker bags. They also fund baby books and premie car beds for the Birthing Center.

Howard Young Foundation hosted its Inaugural Dragon Boat Festival, which was a great success even though the weather was cold.

The Harvest of Holidays event is a fundraiser to provide scholarships for Lakeland High School graduates. This event features handcraft items, gift items, raffles and luncheon featuring themed tables decorated by businesses in the area.

Aspirus Volunteers – Medford - List of fun!! Spring & Fall Bazaars Fill a Backpack, Lites of Love for medical scholarships, Bake Sale, Brat Fry, Bridge and Card Marathon, Recognition Banquet, Potluck Social, Christmas Social, Cheesecake Social and much more.

Ministry Good Samaritan Health Center – 2016 is a special year, as we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Congratulations on so many years of serving Merrill and surrounding area.

Saturday, November 12 is the 38th Holly Bazaar, which features raffle sales, baking, canning, crafts, used jewelry and used Christmas decorations. This is our largest fundraiser.

A new fundraiser was a Retired Art Silent Auction, held twice this year. Again, thank you for a wonderful Fall District Meeting!

Sacred Heart – Saint Mary’s Hospital – Rhinelander – We have two new fundraisers – Fudge into Fall, where the fudge was supplied by a vendor in Rhinelander, and our first Volunteer Craft Sale. We will also hold a Christmas Fudge & Nut Sale.

Aspirus Wausau Hospital Volunteers – The volunteer team for the Aspirus Women’s Golf Classic, won best dressed for this 9-hole event that raises money to support victims of abuse and sexual assault. Looks like poodle skirts and Elvis, no wonder they won!

Cookie sales benefit scholarships, Rainbow’s End Camp for children with special needs, Medical Explorers, and other volunteer programs.

Six pet therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers visited with students from the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Aspirus Riverview Auxiliary – Our Love Lite program is under way, with funds going to help support the purchase of the Quality Assurance System for Radiation Therapy.

**Thank you all so much for what you do for your hospitals, organizations, and community. You can see by the above activities and projects, how important each and every hour you give of your time is so valuable.**

**I found this in a magazine, and if I say it's from the United Health Group survey, I guess I can pass it on.**

**Three Reasons You Need to Volunteer Today:**

**76% of people surveyed in the last 12 months say it has made them feel healthier.**

**94% say it has improved their mood.**

**96% say it has enriched their sense of purpose in life.**

**Mark received a message that one of the older volunteers in the South Eastern District has passed away. It's sad, but she must have lived by the above...she was 106 years old.**

**Hope you all have a wonderful Fall, and enjoy this time before Christmas to stop and smell the apple cider, or fruit cake, or something else yummy! Tip of the Season. An easy way to melt those big blocks of chocolate, white, dark, and in between, put them into a crock pot for a few hours. No more burning, scorching, etc. Good idea! I'm going to try it this year.**

**Any questions, comments, concerns, let me know!**

**Sheree Schaefer – District Chair**

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