

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 Partners of WHA President

Summer Greetings



Ann Bergmann

Stirring, blending, mixing...M.. m.. m..
GOOD! At the spring district gatherings held in April throughout the state, hundreds of Partners enjoyed networking with each other. Stirring, mixing, and blending the best ingredients for successful Partner's organizations. Speaking on behalf of Janet, Lisa, Mark, and myself, thank you for a great experience. We had so much fun creating our recipes!

Summer brings a season of enjoying the sunshine, blue skies, our gardens, family time together, and maybe some much needed vacations. The Partner's Convention Committee has been working hard though, to formulate the programming and events for the upcoming 2009 Convention in October. This year is the initial year of two districts co-hosting the convention. I want to thank Northwestern District and North Central District for the time and effort you have put forth. As we all know, beginning something new takes much time, diligence, and patience.

If you attended the Partners of WHA Convention two years ago in Eau Claire, you will be pleased to know that Marilyn Beverley will make a return visit as our opening keynote speaker to inspire us to "Be the Best Me!" There will be workshops you requested and networking opportunities that will provide you with information to take home to your local Partners groups.

"Going Green" using our resources wisely has been an effort of our organization in recent years. This year as part of Partners of WHA's "Going Green" effort in 2009, all speaker presentations and handouts will be posted on the WHA Web site: www.wha.org. Convention attendees can view and print out these handouts before the convention. The files will be posted approximately seven days prior to and will remain online for 14 business days following the closing of convention. There will be only a few limited number of handouts available during the convention. District Chairs are urged to have extra copies of handouts available for persons from your district who are unable to download this information.

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A Message From the President-Elect

Leadership Touches Us



Mark Schaefer

Sheree and I just returned from a trip to Rome and Vatican—a marvelous excursion that showed us history from thousands of years ago. People from various countries with diverse languages and personal

actions were abundant; however, in the end you observe that there aren't a lot of differences. We seem to occasionally believe that our present leaders have the newest idea or foresight, but you notice that even in ancient roman times they led as we do now.

Some believe that to be a leader you have to be president or on the board of an organization, but that is false. Each of us find opportunities to lead every day. For example, if you notice someone that is disoriented in your hospital, you stop whatever project you are on to assist that person in finding their way—this is an example of leadership. No one said to do that, you took it upon yourself to "show them the way," just as a leader does.

The Disney Organization leaders are constantly aware that they are "telling a great story," one that consistently compliments and pursues the goal of the corporation. Of course our hospitals are not Disney; however, we all have great stories of how our hospitals save lives and are a benefit to our communities. See, you are a leader; you may have not even known it! As a matter of fact, ask your present leaders what motivated them to accept this

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A Message from the President...continued from page 1

I hope everyone can take part in our "In the Kitchen Style Show" prior to dinner, Tuesday evening of convention. Need an idea on what to wear?

- Put on your favorite apron
- Make yourself or purchase a new "special" apron
- Create a special hat around our theme of food, recipes, cooking, etc.
- Create your entire ensemble around the theme
- Have everyone from your hospital wear the same apron, hats, etc.

You get the idea. Have fun!

Have a great rest of the summer. See you in October!

Ann Bergmann, President

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual. - Anonymous

A Message from the President-Elect... continued from page 1

leadership role. Was it chance? Most likely not, or was it they met certain people that propelled them in new directions and placed them into situations they never anticipated? As Johann von Schiller said, "There's no such thing as chance. And what to us seems merest accident springs from the deepest source of destiny."

Please look into the Partners of WHA Resource Center located at the Wisconsin Hospital Association Web site, www.wha.org, and look into obtaining information regarding leadership.

And please, in your own way, look into being a leader every day.

Mark D. Schaefer, President-Elect

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Partners of WHA, Inc. Annual Meeting and Convention
October 6-8, Ramada Inn and Convention Center,
Stevens Point, WI

Partners of WHA Leadership Team 2010 Planning Meeting
November 11, Eau Claire

Partners of WHA Spring 2010 Board Meeting
March 17-18, 2010, Madison

Advocacy Day, April 13, 2010, Madison
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2010 Spring District Meeting Schedule:

Northwestern District – April 7, Ladysmith
West Central District – April 7, River Falls

Lake Michigan District – April 8, Green Bay
Western District – April 8, La Crosse

Southern District – April 14, Reedsburg
Southeastern District – April 14, Burlington

North Central District – April 15, Wisconsin Rapids
Lake Winnebago District, April 15, Waupun

Ten Nominations Received for Best of the Best Award

A total of 10 nominations were received for the 2009 Best of the Best Administrative Award.

The nominations that met the June 26 deadline were sent to members of the selection committee for their evaluation. The results of each committee member's evaluations are to be sent to the committee chair no later than August 14 for a compilation of the respective scores. It is expected that the award winner will be determined by the end of August. Award presentation will be made at the Partners of WHA Annual Convention October 6-8 in Stevens Point.

Special thanks go to the Partners/Auxiliary organizations of the Partners of WHA for submitting the name of their administrator or other officer of their hospital/medical center for the 2009 Best of the Best Award.

Arnie Lee, Chairman, Best of the Best Committee

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The Senility Prayer

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.



“Recipe For Success – Be The Best You Can Be”

PARTNERS OF WHA, INC. 2009 CONVENTION

October 6, 2009 – October 8, 2009

Ramada Inn, Stevens Point, WI

Call 715-341-1340 for reservations

Room Rates: \$78.00 Single/Double
\$88.00 Triple
\$98.00 Quad

Please refer to the Group **PARTNERS OF WHA** when making your reservation.

Opening Speaker: Marilyn Beverley,
Training Consultant & Author

Closing Speaker: David Reed,
Author & Motivational Speaker

Partners of WHA, Inc. Business Meeting

chaired by Ann Bergmann, President

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS include:

- Volunteerism
- Best Fundraisers
- Strategic Planning
- Leadership
- Gift Shop
- Palliative Care
- Color Me Caring
- How to Prevent Falling
- Prescription for Healthier You
- Ingredients for Successful Public Policy Efforts

Featuring:

Vendor Booths, Silent Auction, Hospital Displays, Raffles



Please bring your aprons and chef's hats for Tuesday evening's **STYLE SHOW!** The show will be featuring you, the attendees of our 2009 Convention.

Convention details will be available August 1 on the www.wha.org Web site. On the left hand side under Quick Clicks, please click on Affiliated Organizations, **PARTNERS OF WHA**. Thank You!

It's Supposed to be about Health REFORM!

A disturbing trend has emerged over the past couple of weeks in Washington, D.C. The health reform discussion has morphed into a debate about how much to cut provider payments so that “savings” can be spent to expand coverage for the uninsured. In addition to large Medicare cuts, the other area of focus has been on the “public (government)

The health reform discussion has morphed into a debate about how much to cut provider payments...

plan alternative”.... whether or not there will be a Medicare-like program that will “compete” with commercial insurance. That issue is an ideological litmus test for many lawmakers and, like large Medicare cuts, is problematic for providers.

But the missing issue is....REFORM. The importance of aligning payment and delivery is an essential element of transformational reform. And transformational reform is a key principle in most state and national hospital association health reform platforms. Those statements of principle are supposed to serve as a roadmap to achieving lower costs and improved outcomes. So it's problematic that specific initiatives that actually incent this alignment are missing in action at this late stage of the national debate.

Take a close look at the Senate HELP Bill and the House Leadership Bill and what appears to be included in the Senate Finance Committee legislation. The sum total as to how transformational delivery reform is recognized and incented in these proposals is just about nil, unless you count the nebulous discussion of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and “demonstration projects” that might be encouraged (but no new dollars are identified in the proposals) beginning years from now. That's just plain wrong.

Health reform must align payment with high-level performance. No less than President Obama, just two weeks ago, called for such an outcome. That's why WHA has joined a handful of other state hospital associations to support a value-based incentive approach. The concept of real reform shouldn't be MIA.

Steve Brenton
President, WHA

Spotlight On Federal Health Care Reform

(As of July 15, 2009) - The Wisconsin Hospital Association continues to engage with Congress on various options being discussed in Washington, DC regarding health care reform. The activity related to health care reform is so substantial it cannot be adequately covered in this article. Here are the most important items and updates:

- Currently there are three versions of health care reform legislation being developed: the U.S. Senate Finance Committee version; the U.S. Senate HELP Committee version; and the U.S. House version put together by three House Committees. Each version has similarities and differences. The goal is to have Congress vote on something by August, a very aggressive timeline.
- The most contentious issues in health care reform are:
 - The cost of reform and how to finance it. Estimated costs for some of the reform proposals have ranged from \$600 billion to over \$1.5 trillion! Cuts to Medicare, taxes on health care benefits among others are all options being discussed. The Obama Administration has also engaged with health care groups on their “shared responsibility” in all of this. To date, his Administration has cut several “side deals” in order to begin bridging the cost chasm. For example, the pharmaceutical industry agreed to \$80 billion in cuts and three national health care associations agreed to \$155 billion in cuts (see bullet point further down).
 - The “public plan option” (a government plan option to compete with private plans). The public plan option has engendered significant opposition for fear it will supplant private-sponsored health care plans. This fear is based on the fact it will be based on artificially low Medicare rates, which, for example in Wisconsin, do not reimburse our hospitals at even the *cost* of providing care to Medicare patients. In addition, the public plan option could provide a perverse incentive for those with employer-sponsored coverage to decline that coverage and opt-in to the public plan.
- American Hospital Association, Federation of American Hospitals, and the Catholic Health Association agree to \$155 billion in Medicare cuts over 10 years in return for staggered reductions to the Disproportionate Share Hospital payments program and assurances that the public plan option includes adequate hospital reimbursement rates. Reductions will come from lower Medicare update factors over 10 years (103 billion); reducing DSH payments, phased in during years 2015-2009 (\$50 billion); and reducing payments for avoidable hospital readmissions (\$2 billion).
- WHA submitted comments to the Wisconsin Delegation and Senate Committees on various health care reform proposals.
- WHA focuses attention on our low-cost, high-quality provision of health care; yet Medicare reimburses other states much higher. Therefore, WHA spearheads coalition among other states to introduce “value” into the reimbursement formulas as a way to incentivize for higher quality and lower cost.
- Wisconsin Delegation touts the state’s low-cost, high-quality health care “value” in several letters to their colleagues. Thanks to Senators Kohl and Feingold and Reps. Obey, Baldwin, Kagen, and Petri for their efforts on this.

Log onto WHA’s “health reform” Web page for WHA’s comment letters, information, and updates at www.wha.org/financeAndData/healthReform.aspx.

**Attitudes are catchy....
what's yours today?**

WAVE Committee Sorts Through Applications

The 2009 WAVE Award Committee has received 15 submissions.

We would like to thank all of the participants for the effort put forth in getting the applications filled out and in on time. This looks to be another year of amazing volunteerism on the part of the State of Wisconsin Volunteers.

We look forward to sorting through the applications and rewarding, possibly your hospital volunteers, the WAVE Award.

See you at convention!

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Community Health Education Report



Lisa Pepp

Oh, the wonder of summer! It always seems that summer starts “winding down” after July 4th, but we have so many more days of opportunities to drink up the summer sunshine and enjoy light-filled days.

Summer is the best time to procure fresh foods – buy farm fresh and support the local markets and farmers. Try new vegetables, season food with spices, garlic, and onions.

Heart Health Facts

1. Vitamin D – it is shown that people with the lowest levels of Vitamin D have a 62% greater risk of a cardiovascular event compared to people with the highest levels. Ask your health care provider about taking a multivitamin plus a D supplement daily.
2. Chocolate! Italian researchers report that indulging in a small square of dark chocolate two to three times a week will lower your risk of heart disease by 17%. The antioxidants in the chocolate help decrease inflammation throughout the body.
3. Researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas support adding more potassium to your diet (like bananas and raisins). Potassium helps flush sodium out of your body and reduces blood pressure.

I am looking forward to State Convention and welcome the opportunity to meet more “Partners” and share your beginnings of your “Be the Best You Can Be” health projects. Enjoy the rest of our summer – stay well and be good to yourselves! See you soon.

“Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be silent if no one sang except the best.” - Author Unknown

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Public Policy Education Report



Janet Rubenzer-Pike

It was so great to meet so many of you during Spring Tour. Your meetings and hospitality were wonderful. The message then and now is, “*We are the Voice for Volunteers regarding Health Care in Wisconsin*,” and our voices must be heard to make a difference.

Great News! The **Smoke Legislation** was passed and signed by the Governor and is effective July 6, 2010. Thanks to everyone that contacted your legislators; many of you have been involved in the campaign for the past 3 years - great work.

Another issue many of you worked on was changes to “Medical Record Access.” The 2009-2011 Wisconsin State Budget, 2009 WI Act 28, makes changes to Wisconsin’s medical record access statute, § 146.83, Wis. Stats. The Governor signed Act 28 into law on June 29, 2009. The effective date for the changes is July 1, 2009. The most significant changes to the health care access statutes include a new requirement to provide copies of patient health care records in an electronic format upon request, and a new statutory fee schedule for copies of medical records. For more information go to www.wha.org and view the July 10, 2009 issue of *The Valued Voice*.

President Obama has proposed “Quality Affordable Health Care for All Americans,” comprehensive health care reform for all that will reduce cost and guarantee choice of doctors and plans. Together with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA), we will watch how this proposal unfolds and what our role will be in advocating for our hospitals.

AHA has developed a **Hospitals and Health Reform Policy**. On page one, *Expanding Health Care Coverage*; they state that “Health coverage for all, paid for by all is an essential element of reform. Expanding coverage also is key to cost control, as health care costs are higher when patients do not receive care at the right time or in the right setting. Providing coverage to all will help mitigate the “cost shift” that moves the financial burden of no-coverage from public to private payers...” To read the entire 11-page policy, please go to www.aha.org. There are many obstacles - many pros and cons to reaching an agreement that will benefit the majority.

A great program is planned for Public Policy at Partners of WHA, Inc. 2009 Convention. Our program is entitled “**Ingredients for Successful Public Policy Efforts**” - what steps legislation goes through before becoming law, best ways to contact your representative, and how to make a difference. Representative Donna J. Seidel from the 85th Assembly District, and Senator Luther S. Olsen from the 14th Senate District will be with us to answer our questions. Get your questions ready; now is your chance to get the answers.

See you at Convention!

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Around the State

Partners of Stoughton Hospital, Stoughton:

How would you like a POSH (Partners of Stoughton Hospital) logo on a shirt, blouse, sweater, or anything else? That's what this group is doing to advertise or hopefully to wear when volunteering. They are ordering through prizepromotions.com.

St. Mary's Hospital Volunteers, Rhinelander:

August 5, in their gift shop, they will hold their annual "Redikulus Dae" sale, saving on much of their products. Isn't this a catchy name for a sale?

Oconomowoc Memorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Services, Oconomowoc:

For seven years of creating bears, which are offered to all cancer patients, eight ladies were commended for their incredible talents and time to make these stuffed animals. Keep sewing!

Bellin Hospital Volunteers, Green Bay:

At a recent appreciation event held at the Railroad Museum for all volunteers, everyone was given a cloth shopping bag with the Bellin logo. What a great way to advertise and keep plastic and paper out of the garbage!

Partners of Black River Memorial Hospital, Black River:

A Handmade Dollhouse Raffle is being conducted in the hospital for a drawing November 12, 2009 for \$5 per ticket. The thing that makes this dollhouse so unique is that it is three stories with living room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, two staircases, attic, wood floors, a stained glass window, working doors and some windows, fireplace, completely furnished, and handmade front porch swing. Wouldn't some little girl be happy with this?

Listerine Bombs Mosquitoes



The best way to get rid of mosquitoes is with Listerine, the original medicinal type. Other cheap brands work well also.

Use it to spray the lawn and deck floor or patio, or wherever the bugs are having a ball biting everyone. The little demons will disappear. This also works around children's outdoor play areas, where there is standing water nearby, and around door frames, but not on wood doors. This should last for a few days.

Dab on any bites you receive and it will stop the itching quicker and go away faster.

Life Before the Computer

- Memory was something that you lost with age.
- An application was for employment.
- A program was a TV show.
- A cursor used profanity.
- A keyboard was a piano.
- A web was a spider's home.
- A virus was the flu.
- A CD was a bank account.
- A hard drive was a long trip on the road.
- A mouse pad was where a mouse lived.



REMINDER!

Be a part of the "In the Kitchen Style Show" held Tuesday night of convention. Join your Partner friends in "dressing up" based around our theme, "Recipe for Success: Be the Best You Can Be."

Reaching Out Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
November 2009	Thur., October 15, 2009
February 2010	Fri., January 15, 2010
May 2010	Thur., April 15, 2010
August 2010	Thur., July 15, 2010
November 2010	Fri., October 15, 2010

Partners *Reaching Out* is published four times a year by Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc. Visit the Partners website at www.wha.org. Direct questions or comments to:

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