

*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

## Fall Greetings



Ann Bergmann

Partners of WHA Convention 2009 is history. The aprons have been returned to the kitchen drawers. I hope the nearly 350 of my "Partners friends" from all over the state who attended convention were inspired, educated, and enthused with the programming provided by the excellent presenters. A successful convention doesn't just happen; it takes a team effort. The 2009 convention committee deserves a hearty congratulations for this great success. I have received requests for copies of my President's Message delivered on October 7 at the opening of the annual meeting. What better place than to share it with all Partners of WHA, here in *Reaching Out*:

### President's Address to the Annual Meeting of Partners of WHA, October 2009

Fellow Partners, volunteers, directors of volunteer services, visitors, and guests. The successful recipe of Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association has been COOKING for many years. One of the main ingredients are people...you and me....men and women who have held committee and board positions, volunteered in gift shops and thrift shops, escorted patients, baked a pie, written letters to politicians, played bingo, provided a friendly face in a very unfamiliar and stressful atmosphere—a hospital.

Our Partner's basic recipe is "tried and true." In cooking terms though, we need to **stir** our ingredients, add a dash of this and a dash of that, **revise** our recipe a little bit to add more zest or to make it more appetizing or maybe attend a cooking class to learn a new technique. The Recipe for our Partners organization this year was revised slightly, as the Spring District Meetings were reconfigured into two teams presenting programs at the eight districts. A **little zest** was added at these meetings when participants worked on ingredients for successful leadership and recruitment. Also, 2009 marks the first year of state convention rotation, two hosting districts, and the first year to initiate convention committee succession planning. ...continued on page 2

### A Message From the President-Elect

## Recap of 2009 Convention



Mark Schaefer

What an enjoyable Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association 2009 convention. Although, not like Ann, I do not have an apron to return to the kitchen drawer, however Sheree returned her apron from Ann's radio show to the drawer. Sheree found a fantastic idea to utilize it for entries to the 50/50 raffle. Wow, a successful response, so much so that next year we will have more teams to provide an opportunity to win money. Please record in your 2010 calendars, next year's convention, October 12 – 14, held at KI Center, Regency Suites in Green Bay - "Be the Best You Can Be." I look forward to helping our Chairperson Patsy Pippin and her committee.

Thank you to Rose Lee and the entire convention committee, daily volunteers, and to North Central and Northwestern Districts, our first time district hosts. Next year's districts, Southeastern and Western, are already in the 2010 planning process. The convention provided an opportunity to exchange successful ideas from your hospital organizations. These ideas are a great feeder into our districts, hospital organizations, and most importantly our daily lives.

Several volunteers, including Sheree, purchased main speaker David Reid's book "My Present, A Healthier You." What a surprise when he "dropped" his pants! Actually he

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

This year I added a “dash” more of health care advocacy by attending the State Auxiliary Leaders meeting in Washington, visiting our Senators and Congressman on Capitol Hill, attending Wisconsin’s Advocacy Day, and taking part in state and national teleconferences focusing on health care reform. In addition to actively writing and phoning congressmen advocating the importance of hospitals to our communities, I have also had the opportunity to speak to civic organizations on health care volunteerism, health care reform, and the economic impact of our community hospitals.

The “dish,” Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association, is good. It has a nourishing purpose. It’s complicated in some ways, simple in others. It takes many ingredients and a fair amount of preparation. Occasional stirring is recommended.... Many will enjoy it.

That’s the “First Edition of Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association.... Recipe for Success.”

The next year of “Being the Best We Can Be” will prove busy, exciting, noteworthy, and much more! Thank you “Partners friends” for coming along with me as we put together our “Recipe for Success.”

*Ann Bergmann, President*  
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## **Dates to Remember**

### **Partners of WHA, Inc. Leadership Team 2010 Planning Meeting**

November 11, 2009, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Chippewa Falls

### **Partners of WHA, Inc. Spring Board Meeting**

March 17-18, 2010, WHA Headquarters, Madison

### **Advocacy Day**

April 13, 2010, Monona Terrace, Madison

## **2010 Spring District Meetings**

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

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

dropped his former pants, which were covering his smaller sized pants. Just like in commercials, he held up his former pant size. He lost weight not from a magic pill; he changed his lifestyle since his heart attack.

Other highlights included our Honor Point hospitals, WAVE winners, and our Best of the Best, Dr. Frank Byrne, St. Mary’s, Madison. Another point to show how Dr. Byrne is “Best of the Best” was when he won one of our money raffles; he donated all of the winning money back to St. Mary’s volunteer organization.

Ramada Inn provided a large facility so we could move around and allowed us to look over to the silent auction area from the general session setting area. We saw you looking, making sure your competitive bid was holding up, and smile. Each hospital’s display joined the vendors’ displays in a gymnasium size room. Poolside hospitality was sponsored by Partners with Saint Joseph’s Hospital, Marshfield. All of our organization-based breakout sessions were great. Those lucky lottery winning volunteers that got to find out what their color personality is, in Color Me Caring, presented by Beverly Doll enjoyed their session. If one of your fellow volunteers got to be there, ask them about how to find out your color; it is quite interesting.

Eric Borgerding, executive vice president, WHA, held a lively CEO panel with four hospital presidents. Your questions brought forward important questions in our health care environment. And who could not forget the apron fashion show. You showed so much creativity, with dancing and other decorations besides the aprons; yes that was a rolling pin on top of the head of one volunteer. We even had our keynote speaker, Marilyn Beverly, join the show with her apron. And I know you have several of your own highlights; please pass them on to your peers.

By using the ideas you have learned, you can create your own mini convention at your next district meeting. I know we are entering that long winter season; however, before you know it Spring Tour will be here. Ann, Janet, Lisa, and I are looking forward to hearing your ideas.

Have a most blessed and safe holiday season and happy New Year.

*Mark Schaefer, President-Elect*  
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# The Wisconsin Model of Health Care Reform: Improving Coverage, Recognizing Quality, and Incentivizing Value

Eyes have been on Congress for months as that body furiously works to develop a health care reform plan. Part of the problem has been a central but relatively unanswered question: what exactly do we mean by “health care reform?” In other words, if we don’t know where we want to go, how do we get there?

Being from a State that is generally on the forefront of issues, we believe that Wisconsin can, once again, help lead the way. Here’s why we think the “Wisconsin model” can help inform the national discussion on health care reform.

**Coverage** – Wisconsin has a low level of uninsured patients because of the commitment of our employers to provide coverage. It has also been a state committed to expanding coverage to targeted and at-risk population. For example, the recent expansions of the Medicaid program to all children and to the chronically-uninsured, low-income adults.

**Quality** – Wisconsin is ranked #1 in the nation by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for the quality of its health care.

**Value** – Wisconsin provides value in the delivery of its health care. We are among the lowest spending levels (Medicare) of any state in the nation—a fact pointed out by the President himself when he was in Green Bay several months ago.

The message conveyed to members of Congress for months has been: national reform should build on what Wisconsin is already doing well and then go further by incentivizing “value” (high-quality, cost-efficient) in the delivery of care. A corollary message relayed to Congress has been opposition to an open-ended Medicare-like public plan that would underpay providers and have the potential for competing unfairly with commercial plans. The very real concern is that a migration of current commercially-covered lives to a public plan that pays less than costs will lead to reduced access for patients and financial chaos for hospitals and physicians.

To magnify our value message even more, we joined with other providers across the country in the Healthcare Quality Coalition (see sidebar). Two amendments backed by the Healthcare Quality Coalition (HQC) were adopted during the Senate Finance Committee deliberations in October. The Congressional Budget Office estimated the entire Finance package at \$829 billion, far below the \$900 billion ceiling given by the President. That committee then voted to approve its proposal on October 13.

In the coming weeks and months, the Senate Finance and Senate Health Committee versions of reform must be melded together before a final vote can be taken in the full Senate. On the House side, three varying versions of reform also need to be combined before that body can vote. Once each Chamber votes, the competing versions of reform must be reconciled, likely through a conference committee.

As this process plays itself out, we will continue to talk with our Members of Congress. While their goal is to enact health care reform by the end of 2009, there are still many, many issues in play. We’ve be there advocating until the end.

*By: Jenny Boese, Vice President, External Relations & Member Advocacy,  
Wisconsin Hospital Association*



**The Healthcare Quality Coalition** is a group of health care providers across the country dedicated to providing cost-efficient, high-quality patient care and committed to efforts in Congress to reform the health care system. We are united in the view that Congress must change the care delivery and payment systems in ways that will encourage the delivery of high-value care to patients. Specifically, we believe health care reform should include payment that is based on value (quality, patient safety, patient satisfaction, and cost) and correct current regional payment disparities. Through a value-based payment system, we believe we can improve health care quality while simultaneously bending the cost curve.

**Among the HQC members are: Gundersen Lutheran, Marshfield Clinic, Wisconsin Hospital Association, Wisconsin Medical Society, Aurora Health Care, UW Health, Affinity Health, Mayo Clinic, The Cleveland Clinic, Intermountain Health Care, Geisinger, among others.**

# Hospital Volunteers Hear From State Legislators at Panel Discussion

***Sen. Olsen and Rep. Seidel discuss health care issues and grassroots advocacy***



*Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon) and Representative Donna Seidel (D-Wausau) during a panel discussion at the Partners of WHA Annual Convention.*

Hundreds of Wisconsin hospital volunteers converged on Stevens Point October 6-8 for the Partners of WHA, Inc. annual convention. Senator Luther Olsen (R-Ripon) and Representative Donna Seidel (D-Wausau) spoke during a panel discussion about the legislative process, how to effectively communicate with legislators, and important health care issues like legislation to ban mandatory overtime in hospitals. The panel was moderated by WHA's Jenny Boese, vice president, external relations & member advocacy.

"Banning mandatory overtime has been an issue for many years," said Rep. Seidel. She said that when the issue arose again this year, she immediately went to meet with the hospitals in her district because she wanted to hear from them.

Hospitals across the state have expressed opposition to a ban on mandatory overtime (SB 108/AB 152) and one audience member commented to the panelists that the Legislature shouldn't insert itself into issues it doesn't know about, indicating these issues are best left to business or health care with the expertise.

Rep. Seidel said that legislation like this can sometimes come about because legislators are approached to introduce legislation to address one, particular situation. She said this can cause problems because that legislation can then have unintended consequences.

When asked about the biggest health care issue facing Wisconsinites, Rep. Seidel responded, "access to quality, affordable health care for everybody." Sen. Olsen responded that cost is a big issue, but that his tenure on the University of Wisconsin Hospitals Board helped him understand just how complex a hospital is and how a hospital's payer mix (Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance) really impacts a hospital's margins.

"I know what the margins are," he said. "[Therefore,] we have to be very, very careful with health care reform."

The panelists were asked about the role their staff play and how to most effectively communicate about issues to legislators.

"I would prefer to be at all the meetings [you request] to hear from you, but...our staff are our eyes and ears and have all of our confidence and trust," said Seidel.

Sen. Olsen added, "The best way [to be effective] is to have a relationship with us before you have an issue. We're always looking for individuals whom we can trust their judgment."

"You are the experts," closed Seidel.

*Jenny Boese, Vice President, External Relations & Member Advocacy, WHA*

## ***Attendee Comments***

"This could have been the best session I've ever attended at this convention."

"The speakers were very knowledgeable."

"Exceptional."

"After hearing them speak, I feel I can do this [grassroots] and I want to get others involved, too"

## ***Dear Friends and Partners of WHA,***

Thank you for your contributions to our annual convention and thank you for your generosity. What a successful convention it was and the theme was carried out so well.

The silent auction proceeds were \$2,716. Thank you to all the hospitals and medical centers who participated. Thank you to each and every one of you who participated in the fun event. The 50/50 raffle of \$920 was given to the lucky winners and \$920 went to the Partners organization also. The raffle with the beautiful handcrafted quilt, \$200 cash, stays at hotels, and the beautiful baskets donated by each of the eight districts made a \$3,115 profit.

I look forward to working with you again next year.

Best Regards,

*Bonnie R. Olson, Partners of WHA Treasurer*

*"Gratitude is the memory of the heart"*  
— Jean Baptiste Massieu



## 2009 Honor Point Award Winners

# *Congratulations!*





## Partners Convention 2009



*The registration desk was the first thing to do upon arriving at the convention.*



*North Central District was spotted bringing in their "stuff" for the auction.*



*Marilyn Beverley, keynote speaker on Tuesday, opened the convention with her theme of "I Am the Best Me." Her enthusiasm caught on to the 300 plus in attendance.*



*These "apron ladies" posed for a photo op.*



*Louise Paul, North Central Secretary/Treasurer from Medford, was a "hospitality lady" showing the way.*



*Three sisters attended the convention and enjoyed the Packer/Viking game on Monday night together even though there were opposed loyalties. From left to right are Kathy Kucken, Jackie Hillman, and Carolyn Ward, all from St. Croix Falls.*



*The three sisters also are members of the Sweet Adelines in Stillwater, MN and they joined with the local Sweet Adelines, who performed at the main banquet on Wednesday night. They all met up in the hallway after the banquet and sang three songs – fun time for the sisters. Guess who is who!*

## Strategic Planning Defines Their Purpose

At the recent Partners Convention in Stevens Point, the Strategic Planning Committee explained their purpose for the organization.

Strategic planning is to study and evaluate organizational function, future objectives, and projected resources as recommended by the Board of Directors. Strategic planning safeguards the principles of the organization, envisions, and plans for its future.

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee are Ann Bergmann, Mark Schaefer, Pat Dagnon (co-chair), Jean Heniff (co-chair), Janet Rubenzer-Pike, Lisa Pepp, Patsy Pippin, Sue Stariha, Betsy Blazek, and WHA staff members Jennifer Frank and Jenny Boese.

Accomplishments for 2009 include:

- Resource Center
- Convention Manual
- Appointment of Convention Chair and Chair-elect succession
- Revision of the Spring Board District meetings
- Partners new installation ceremony
- Forms revision
- Site rotation for conventions

Goals for 2010 are:

- Revisions of the Orange Leadership Manual
- Introduction of Partners of WHA Leadership Handbook
- Resource Center ongoing
- Resource Center person in place to maintain
- Distribution of Leadership Handbook, aiming for 2010 convention
- Continued work toward "going green" and fiscal responsibility
- Use of email, conference calls, and less printing, and use of paper

*Pat Dagnon, Co-chair*

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### Apple a Day



What does the apple have that turns into healthy living?

It contains a great source of potassium, vitamin A, phosphorous, calcium, and carbohydrates. It also contains traces of some vitamin B and is an excellent source of fiber.

## Best of the Best Committee Report

Presentation of the Best of the Best Administrator Award was made to Dr. Frank Byrne, President of Saint Mary's Hospital of Madison, at the October 7, 2009 Partners of WHA, Inc. annual convention luncheon held at the Ramada Inn in Stevens Point. This year the only presentation was made at the Partners of WHA convention. Our sincere congratulations to Dr. Byrne, his family, and St. Mary's Hospital.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all Partners/Auxiliary groups who submitted applications in support of their hospital administrator. A total of 11 nominations were received. Hospitals submitting nominations were: Spooner Health System, Aspirus Wausau Hospital, Howard Young Health Care, Columbus Community Hospital, Fort HealthCare, Good Samaritan Health Center, St. Mary's Hospital, St. Croix Regional Medical Center, Watertown Regional Medical Center, Lakeview Medical Center, and Langlade Hospital. As the members of the selection committee will attest, all nominations were for our best administrators and we can all be proud of the expertise of our hospital administrators. I encourage those groups who were not successful this year to please submit a nomination next year. There have been successful nominations which have been submitted more than once.

A word of thanks to the selection committee for the difficult task they had in evaluating the many fine applications. Those members were Joy Craine, Watertown; Bonnie Timm, Amery; Crystal Potter, Spooner; Pat Freeders, Fitchburg; and Stan Gaynor, Black River Falls, plus last year's Best of the Best recipient. And a special word of thanks to Jennifer Frank, who was called upon to read two nominations from Partners groups who had a member from their club serving on the selection committee and also for her guidance and patience with me throughout the selection process.

Lastly, my thanks to President Ann Bergmann and the Board for giving me the honor and pleasure to serve as your BOB committee chair.

*Arnie Lee, Chair, Best of the Best Committee*  
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## 2009 Best of the Best Winner Announced

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Frank Byrne, President of St. Mary's Hospital of Madison, who was named Best of the Best Hospital Administrator for 2009 by Partners of WHA, Inc. Dr. Byrne was presented the award at the Partners of WHA Convention on October 7, in Stevens Point. He joins 15 other previous recipients of this prestigious award.

Dr. Byrne arrived at St. Mary's 370-bed hospital in 2004 and has since guided the hospital toward the completion of a \$182 million expansion, pioneered a transition to electronic health records, and has opened Wisconsin's first free-standing satellite emergency center this past summer in Sun Prairie. He also oversees an award winning 184-bed skilled care nursing facility.

Dr. Byrne holds a BS Degree from the University of Notre Dame, an MD from the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, and a Master's in medical management from Carnegie Mellon University. He holds several fellowships in the medical field and currently holds an appointment as clinical professor of medicine at the University of Wisconsin Medical School.

He is married to Cindy and they have a teen-age son, Michael. The couple also has two grown daughters, Lindsay and Shannon.

In nominating Dr. Byrne, the auxiliary spoke at length of his involvement in every facet of their service to the hospital, how he periodically attends their board meetings, and has personal contact with the volunteers. The volunteers are also invited to be a part of the quarterly open-forums for staff meetings and other hospital family events. During the hospital expansion, amid all the changes which had to be made, he kept the auxiliary informed and aware of what preemptive steps had to be taken to ensure a smooth adjustment in the changing environment. They state that, "His involvement and compassion are sincere." One example was how he went out of his way to wish greetings to a volunteer on her 94th birthday and then in a hospital-wide announcement, invited staff and physicians to stop by and wish her well and thank her for volunteering. The volunteer was heard to say, "The hospital president made this the best birthday I have ever had. When he took time to celebrate my birthday with me, I realized that every hour and every year spent here was all worth it."

St. Mary's Auxiliary, in their closing remarks said, "We are proud to nominate our administrator for the Best of the Best award for 2009. He is the Best of the Best, who leads by example and is a role model for all administrators, staff, volunteers, and community leaders." He is looked upon as an ambassador and cheerleader for the Auxiliary.

Our sincere congratulations to Dr. Byrne and his Auxiliary.

Arnie Lee, Chair, Best of the Best Committee  
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## WAVE Awards Presented at Convention

The Wisconsin Awards for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE) were given out at the convention in October. The four hospitals receiving these awards were as follows:

- Community Service Program for "The Toe Warmer Project" to Langlade Hospital Auxiliary, Antigo
- In-service Hospital Volunteer Program for "Mentoring Program" to St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, Madison
- Fundraising Program for "Christmas Down on the Farm" to Partners of Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital, Prairie du Chien
- Community Outreach and/or Collaboration Program for "Harvest Moon Barn Dance" to Volunteers in Partnership with River Falls Area Hospital (VIP Club), River Falls.

Congratulations to all the winners!

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## Maybe You Have...

Enough happiness to keep you sweet,  
Enough trials to keep you strong,  
Enough sorrow to keep you human,  
Enough hope to keep you happy;  
Enough failure to keep you humble,  
Enough success to keep you eager,  
Enough friends to give you comfort,  
Enough wealth to meet your needs;  
Enough enthusiasm to look forward,  
Enough faith to banish depression,  
Enough determination to make each day  
better than yesterday.

- Unknown



## Public Policy Education Report



*Janet Rubenzer-Pike*

It was great to see all of you at convention in early October; we all agreed that health care reform is one of the biggest issues facing all Americans. Everything is moving so fast, it is hard to keep up; by the time you read this, everything could change.

As of today, the Senate Finance Committee bill on health care reform has been scored by the Congressional Budget Committee and passed with flying colors; it actually was below the projected cost of health care change, and it was sent back to the Finance Committee and passed. The bill is currently in the Senate, and discussions are taking place to merge the Senate Health and Finance Committees' bills. The Senate Finance bill does not have a public plan in it; however, it does have a Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan, commonly referred to as a CO-OP. The CO-OP would be a non-profit, member-run health insurance company serving individuals in one or more states. CO-OP grantees would compete in the reformed individual and small group insurance markets on a level playing field with other plans. Federal funds would be distributed as loans and grants to help with start-up costs and the like. The goal is to have health insurance coverage for 95% of all Americans.

Leaders expect that a House/Senate conference committee will work out differences between the two Houses. The goal is to complete the entire process by December 31, 2009. Let your voices be heard and contact your legislators; they want and need to hear from you. For more information, please go to [www.wha.org/financeAndData/healthReform.aspx](http://www.wha.org/financeAndData/healthReform.aspx).

We had a great Convention in Stevens Point this year, with an excellent CEO panel and Eric Borgerding, executive vice president at WHA, facilitating the discussion. The Legislative workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by the presentation of Representative Donna Seidel from the 85th Assembly District, and Senator Luther S. Olsen from the 14th Senate District, facilitated by Jenny Boese, vice president of external relations and member advocacy, WHA. The panel was extremely knowledgeable, personable, and informative. Several attendees even said they felt compelled and more comfortable with contacting their legislators because of their comments.

WHA is still lobbying against a bill that eliminates "Mandatory Overtime." As of this writing, it has not been voted on. Please let your voices be heard on this issue by logging on to [www.wha.org/speakUp/emailLegislator.aspx](http://www.wha.org/speakUp/emailLegislator.aspx).

*Janet Rubenzer-Pike, PPE Chair*  
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## Community Health Education Report



*Lisa Pepp*

Convention 2009 – awesome, inspiring, life-giving, heart healthy – I could go on and on. Thank you one and all for all the planning, dedication, and love that went into the preparation of this year's convention. Thanks to all the attendees who made sacrifices to attend, and to the North Central and Northwestern districts for the hard work and dedication in bringing the recipe to success.

As we approach another season, we need to take care of ourselves in a special way – get your seasonal flu vaccine. Regarding H1N1, become informed; ask your physician for recommendations. The following websites provide updates and information:

[www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov](http://www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov)

[www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov)

[www.cdc.flu.gov](http://www.cdc.flu.gov)

For the Partners groups that have the hand-washing projects, what a great prevention tool at this time.

What struck me during convention is a great need to communicate at the local level, district level, and state level. When district CHE's are contacted by me, please make copies of email and give to all your local CHE's or email my contact to those who are set up electronically. Also, I will work toward putting more materials on the Resource Center under CHE.

Please try to get your Health Education Reports sent in a timely fashion – fill out as much as you can before the holidays approach and finish with last-minute additions. We don't want this to be stressful for you.

I wish you a blessed Christmas holiday! Stay well; be good to yourselves. Partners, you're the greatest!

*Lisa Pepp, CHE Chair*  
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## Around the State

### **Volunteer Partners of Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire:**

This group is making plans to hold a community-wide Open House, November 10 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the volunteer organization. On November 1, 1939, fifteen women met to organize, with an original statement of purpose: "To render service, and work for the hospital as a nonsectarian organization." The group has experienced several name changes since its organization, being called the Guild, Auxiliary, and Volunteer Partners. Present Board members are searching old records for items and photos of interest. A group of past presidents met recently to recount their memories and to share their photos and scrapbooks.

### **Osceola Medical Center Partners, Osceola:**

Partners hosted a Baby Shower to collect items such as diapers, outfits, booties, etc. for the OB department for gifts to share with moms who are in need. All items were tagged with a message stating "This item was donated by a Partner of OMC."

### **Riverview Hospital Auxiliary, Wisconsin Rapids:**

A "Thumbs Up" program began this fall using leftover yarns from the care shawls that are presently being made. These leftover yarns will be used for mittens, hats, and scarves for children in need. These items will be distributed in December by a social service agency to be selected by the Auxiliary Board.

### **Reedsburg Area Medical Center Volunteers, Reedsburg:**

Scarves for the Chemotherapy Department are being knit for patients receiving these treatments as they many times complain about being cold. Colors may change for the season. The volunteers are discussing the possibility of also making small quilts for the department.

### **Community Memorial Hospital Volunteers, Menomonee Falls:**

In September, these volunteers held their 41st Cheery Cherry Fall Fair as one of their fundraisers. They sold warm cherry cobbler and cherry juice plus had free dried cherry samples. That day, the cafeteria also sold Cherry Burgers, which had dried cherries in them. This is their biggest fundraiser!

### **Helpful Hint**

If you are having problems getting into the [www.wha.org](http://www.wha.org) Web site, you might just try to Google Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association – it works!

## Rotating Officers Explained for Spring Tours

The Strategic Planning committee is working hard to get the new Partners of WHA Leadership Handbook ready to present at the 2010 convention.

We are also looking forward to Spring Tour. The dates have been set; you will find them published here in *Reaching Out*. If, in 2009, President Ann Bergmann and CHE Chair Lisa Pepp visited you, in 2010, President-elect Mark Schaefer and PPE Chair Janet Rubenzer-Pike will visit. This way, in a two year period, you will have the opportunity to host the entire Partners Executive Board. We feel this is a cost effective way to do Spring Tour.

This plan also provides greater exposure for the Partners president and others to visit Partners groups that need special attention at another time. It is extremely strenuous for the traveling Partners and we want to make the experience available for future leaders who might have small children and also a workplace to report to weekly. Unless you are retired or work for a facility that promotes Partners, you would be using three weeks of your personal vacation time going back to all four visiting each district at one time. This is a huge sacrifice. If one is an independent contractor, you lose money and time from your business. We are trying to recruit new leaders, not narrow the possibility of future leaders.

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## Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
February 2010	Fri., January 15, 2010
May 2010	Thur., April 15, 2010
August 2010	Thur., July 15, 2010
November 2010	Fri., October 15, 2010

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