



Partners of WHA Southeastern District Newsletter June 2017

District Chair-Cindy Finger

It has been a privilege to serve you as the Partners of WHA SE District Chair this past year. You have invited me to visit your hospitals, attend meetings, install your organization's officers, meet your volunteers, and attend your special events. I have learned so much about you from the ways you serve not only your hospitals, but your communities as well. Three of the projects are listed among your reports in this Newsletter: the Healthy Kids Club at Burlington, the produce garden at Community Memorial Hospital, and the Style Show at Oconomowoc. All of you work hard for your hospitals. Please contact me if you would like me to attend a special event for your organization.

As we did late last summer, I would like to hold a meeting of the district board members and the leaders of the local organizations. We have some new leaders and it is good to meet and share information. We will discuss the district budget for 2018, confirm the rotation for hosting the district meetings, establish the nominating committee, and discuss the SE district basket we will have at the convention. If you have an idea for a basket theme please share it with everyone at the meeting. I will email all the local leaders soon with possible dates in August for this meeting.

It is also time to begin to think about the Partners of WHA convention on October 3-5 at the Hyatt on Main in Green Bay. The theme for the convention this year is "Building the Future". With all the changes in our local hospital organizations and in healthcare, we need to "...grow and evolve to meet the needs of our hospitals and communities." as our state President Mary Licht has advised us. Please think about your hospital display you would like to have at the convention. It may be about a unique project your volunteers are involved with. You may also want to decide on an auction item to donate for the convention.

Our Fall District meeting will be held in West Bend, hosted by the Partners of St. Joseph's Community Hospital. Invitations will be sent out later this summer.

District Chair Elect- Barb Jamerson

The Partners of WHA Board held their Spring Meeting in March at the WHA Headquarters in Madison. Several of Partners Committees had an opportunity to meet. Under the leadership of Dorothy Revnew as Committee Chair, and the assistance of Jennifer Frank our WHA Liaison, the Strategic Planning Committee met to identify the organization's goals which will be completed by October of 2018. Tasks within each goal were assigned to committee members. Resources to accomplish each goal were identified and measures of success for each goal were put into place. The four goals are to "Address the changing face of volunteers"; "Continuous improvement of Communication within all levels of the Partners of WHA Organization"; "Strengthen Partners of WHA/WADVS Relationship/Collaboration"; and 'Increase Advocacy Activity". Committee members have already begun to work on their assigned tasks and the Committee Chair will provide a report on progress at the State Convention in October.

Directly following Advocacy Day in April, the Bylaws Committee held a retreat also in Madison. In addition to the committee members, all voting Board members were also in attendance. In the face of our rapidly changing healthcare industry, the purpose of the meeting was to review the existing Bylaws and to write new Bylaws as needed. In addition, there are many contradictions between our existing Bylaws and our Policies and Procedures and the objective included eliminating all contradictions. The committee asked all voting Board members to consider questions such as "Who are we as an organization and how do we develop, grow and contribute to our local organizations given all the recent changes as well as forthcoming changes in healthcare?" This is quite a challenge and will take some time to complete. Once again, look forward to a report from the Committee Chair at the State Convention in October.

Public Policy Education District Chair-Sharon Scott

Congratulations Partners of Southeastern District for your outstanding representation during the April 19, 2017 Advocacy Day activities. With the ability to interact with other Volunteers, Partners, Hospital leaders and Legislators, each of you, witnessed firsthand, the valued "voice" dedicated advocates, throughout Wisconsin, have in continually expressing their concerns on important issues through this annual Advocacy Day Venue and participation as members of H.E.A.T.

A huge topic of discussion during Advocacy Day concerned the Disproportionate Share Hospital program. Although the Medicaid program came in under budget in 2016, those savings are not being returned back to hospitals and providers in the form of increased reimbursements...Medicaid programs currently pay hospitals 65%, on average, of the actual cost of providing care. Advocacy Day attendees were urged to contact their appropriate legislators to voice their concern and support for increased payments. Ironically, during the month of May, approximately 800 emails from H.E.A.T. members were sent to legislators in support of Medicaid funding increases.

It was a GREAT day in Madison on Thursday, May 25th...The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee approved \$31 Million in increased Medicaid funding. Thank you H.E.A.T. members for taking the time to "voice" your support.

Heat is neat, don't you think?

Heat helps Partners help our hospital stay strong.

Heat is neat, don't you think?

Heat keeps Partners in the know so we have the info

To Help our hospitals grow

Heat is neat, don't you think?

Heat teaches us the who, the what, and the when to

Advocate for Public Policy to reach the goal

Heat is neat, don't you think?

Heat has a "meet and greet" so we become a WHA team

Designed to accomplish great feats

Heat is neat; it can't be beat

Written by past state Public Policy Chair,
Cindy Hermal

With so many health care topics on the agendas at both the state and national level, it's more important than ever, each of us continue as good stewards and advocates through continued calls, letters, and emails to our legislators and promoting membership of H.E.A.T. I continue to challenge each organization to add at least "**1 more**" member to H.E.A.T., each Public Policy Education Chair to share information from "A Valued Voice", assist new members in joining H.E.A.T., and encourage using the websites for WHA (wha.org) and Partners (PartnersofWHA.org)

Community Health Education District Chair-Wayne Pinnow

In this article, which is motivated by an article appearing in the Wall Street Journal on June 1st, might include some opinion on my part. I have been reporting or writing about opioids for about six months now. The one thing that always seemed interesting to me was that the drug companies that misrepresented their products, promoted them, and made millions from them never were held responsible for the extreme cost to society.

Ohio is one state among many that have been severely affected. The unintentional overdose deaths went from about 250 in 2003 to over 2,500 in 2015. One of the consequences that has occurred with the opioid addiction problem we have is that employers are having trouble finding people to hire that can pass a drug test. This is just one side effect of the crisis we have today. The main problem most states are having is that the cost of treatment, lifesaving efforts, rehabilitation and education are busting budgets from the communities to the state level.

The state of Ohio's Attorney General Mike DeWine has filed a suit against the parent companies and subsidiaries of five major drug companies. There have been other smaller suits filed and won in the past, but none on this scale. The suit is asking for

reimbursement to states for the cost of addiction, prevention and rehab, programs that are costing the states millions of dollars. The suit is based on the misrepresentation by the drug companies to the doctors and the public on the side effects and risks of their pain medications.

I titled this article “Will History Repeat Itself?” The reasoning is that it very closely reflects what happened in the tobacco industry. The advertisements and promotions were not entirely true and did not include all the facts. This continued until lawsuits started to hurt the profit margin, and force the companies to accept responsibility for the harm they caused. This law suit will be interesting to follow.

WF-Elmbrook Memorial Campus Auxiliary-Dawn Hansen

A special shout out to Ralph Spindler, our Auxiliary Treasurer for the past 10+ years. We thank Ralph for his dedication and support of our Auxiliary as Ralph steps down from his Treasurer role. Ralph will remain active on our Executive Board and hats off to him for a job well done over all these years.

We held our Annual Spring Auxiliary Luncheon on May 10, 2017 at the Western Racquet Club in Elm Grove. Our Guest Speaker, Dr. Mushir Hassan, Internist, spoke on the Opioid use and abuse in Wisconsin. The Auxiliary presented a \$25,000 gift to the hospital toward the construction of a new state of the art Electrophysiology Lab at Elmbrook Memorial.

The Auxiliary gave out three scholarship awards totaling \$6,000 at the meeting. Our new Auxiliary Executive Board members were installed by Cindy Finger, our Southeastern District Chair. The new board members are: President: Dawn Hansen; VP Ways and Means: Susan Ksicinski; Correspondence/Newsletter: Marie Thiebes; and Treasurer: Gary Kazmeir.

We are also completing the WF-Elmbrook Memorial Campus Auxiliary Membership drive because membership numbers are tracking downward again this year.

Our ongoing fundraisers are: thatsmypan.biz/Elmbrook, PRN Uniform Sales, Pulaga Jewelry Sale, and a No Bake-Bake Sale.

Aurora Burlington Memorial Hospital Volunteers-Jan Christiansen

We just completed our Appreciation Lunch in which 36 volunteers received 38 bars for their hard work and devotion. At the same Lunch six scholarships were awarded for a total of \$24,000. That is a lot of hard work.

Two Toffee Fund Raisers and A Shoe Fund Raiser were held. We don't yet know the results of them.

Six volunteers attended the Advocacy Day. And what a day it was. Everything was done to perfection.

Our “Healthy Kids Club” just finished for this year. They saw and taught 600 children about Stranger Dangers, introduced them to equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and canes. The equipment was child-sized so they could practice using them. Also demonstrated to and taught the children why you don’t smoke and the dangers related to it. The different parts of the body were talked about and children were able to use stethoscopes, microscopes and more. They left with a nurse or doctor cap and a special treat after drawing their hand on paper to become part of the “Healthy Kids Club”.

Community Memorial Hospital Volunteers in Partnership-Marti Csizmadia

The Volunteers in Partnership with Community Memorial Hospital in Menomonee Falls have been very busy this Spring as is typical for this group.

In April we celebrated National Volunteer week and held our annual Appreciation Dinner awarding over 40 Service awards for hours volunteered. Representatives from our volunteer group attended the Spring SE district meeting and Advocacy Day in Madison.

The Volunteers in Partnership with Community Memorial Hospital work with Lutheran Church Charities and four days a week Rhoda visits patients in our hospital offering comfort and support. Rhoda is a two year old English cream, golden retriever comfort dog with over 2,000 hours of training. She is loved by all.

We successfully hosted our annual Spring Accessory sales exceeding last year’s proceeds. Planning for our annual Cheery Cherry Fall Fair is underway and we have expanded our weekly, award-winning cookie sale fundraiser to our business office location. Many cookies were purchased and consumed, and sales were way above anticipated.



The Timeless Treasures gift shop continues to thrive and we have plans in the works for some exciting new product additions for added sales.

Finally, the spring rain has let up enough for us to plant our Community Garden. We look forward to another banner year of produce that is distributed to our four local food pantries in the area.

Oconomowoc Memorial Auxiliary-Pat Cusma

Our Auxiliary has had a busy Spring with a number of events offered throughout the season:

In February, we gathered for our Annual Recognition Tea and Awards Ceremony. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers for their many hours of service!

The annual Southeastern District Spring Meeting was hosted this year by our Auxiliary. Guest speakers were Wisconsin Attorney General Brad Schimel and ProHealth Care Chief Medical Officer Dr. Steve Kulick, who presented an in-depth look at the opioid misuse and abuse problems in Wisconsin.

On April 19th, a number of us traveled to Madison to attend Wisconsin Hospital Association's Advocacy Day. An excellent learning experience was had for all attendees.



On May 11th we held our annual Style Show, Luncheon and Raffle at the Golden Mast, a restaurant on Okauchee Lake in our area. This event represents a major fundraiser with proceeds this year designated towards an S2 Ultrasound System for ProHealth Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital's

Surgical Services Department, medical scholarships, and other worthwhile causes. Susan Kim, new anchor at WTMJ-TV and former news anchor Mike Miller served as commentators with models displaying fashions and accessories from six area shops. Many raffle prizes were awarded including the top three in the amounts of \$1,000, \$500, and a watch. Attendance was in excess of 400 people and the weather actually cooperated with sunshine!

Other activities this Spring included distribution of gift baskets to the local Vietnam Veterans group by our Outreach Committee, scholarships awarded to students in a healthcare related field, and preparations for the Fall Group tour, "Heritage of America," sponsored by the Auxiliary in partnership with Collette Tours.

Aurora West Allis Medical Center Auxiliary-Jane Henderson

Our project to give hand sewn quilts to each newborn who stays in the Aurora Women's Pavilion Newborn Intensive Care Unit more than 24 hours has given out more than 2,500 quilts since it started in 2002. Many parents have sent thank you notes stating that their child has used that blanket as their "special" blanket and it is a keepsake for the family.

We raise money from our Nutman sales to purchase the material used in making the blankets.

Our Scholarship Committee gave out five scholarships to five students in a medical field attending colleges in Wisconsin for a total of \$5,400 this year.

Our Auxiliary is starting to plan outreach projects to our West Allis Community for this year. Some of the projects include donations of school supplies to the West Allis/West Milwaukee school districts; a drive for food for homeless veterans; and supporting the School Age Parents program in the West Allis/West Milwaukee schools.

Partners of St. Joseph's- West Bend-Ann Johnson

The Partner volunteers at St. Joseph's Hospital are not only some of the first people our patients, families and visitors have contact with but they are often the eyes and ears of our organization. Volunteers are who our patients or visitors typically go to when in the waiting areas of the hospital and they have a question. One question they get almost daily is "Where can I find something to eat/drink?"



Being a smaller hospital, our Garden Café (cafeteria) is open for two hours at a time during breakfast, lunch and dinner to accommodate when most people typically are seeking something to eat/drink. When the Garden Café is closed, they then are directed to our snack or vending area. As more and more questions were being asked of our volunteers and staff about where a family member or visitor could find a cup of coffee, tea, or something to eat, the idea of implementing a Hospitality Cart was born!

This new service area for our Partner volunteers was implemented in May for the convenience not only of our visitors but staff as well, who might not have the time to get away from their patient care floor/work area. A generous donation from our hospital Medical Staff provided the start-up costs to purchase the actual cart and provide the initial refreshments. Volunteers have a designated route that stops in each of the waiting areas throughout the hospital. The volunteer shifts are in the early morning, from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m., and another shift from 2 to 4 p.m. on varying days of the week. The cart allows patrons to grab a variety of snacks, regular or decaf coffee, teas or other treats when the Garden Café is not open. While this was implemented as a courtesy for our families and visitors, a suggested donation is shared when volunteers are asked if there is a cost. Donations will help offset the minimal costs throughout the year for refreshments along with funds, if needed, from other volunteer-driven fundraisers held throughout the year.

Thank you to Dawn Hansen of Elmbrook for sharing this poem

Though my troubles and my worries
Are sometimes all that I can see-
Still I always must remember
Life's not only about me.

Other souls are also hurting
And I know that it's God's plan
To reach out to help another-
To extend to them a hand.

With this purpose as my focus-
To be a comfort to a friend-
All my troubles and my worries
Seem to fade out in the end.

It is of God's true lessons-
How my walk is meant to be
True happiness I find
When life's not only about me.

-Tom Krause

