

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 President

Meetings Were Plentiful



Jan Molaska

The windows are open, the sun is shining, kids are riding their bikes, and the neighbor girl is setting up a lemonade stand. There has been an explosion of color and every imaginable shade of green can be seen. Summer is here! For me summer means happy times, memories to be made, watching the clouds drift by, and taking time to relax.

It has been a very busy March, April, and May. I am happy to have some down time to reflect and assimilate the information gathered during spring tour, Advocacy Day, and attending the American Hospital Association (AHA) meeting in Washington D.C. As always, Spring Tour was inspiring, educational, and thought provoking. I had the honor of installing three new district chairs and other district officers. It is extremely encouraging to see individuals willing to assume leadership positions so local organizations can remain active and vital. Thank you to each of the local organizations that hosted a district meeting and for presenting exceptional programs on issues that affect all of us.

While attending the AHA meeting, we had the opportunity to meet with WI representatives and senators. The WHA contingency addressed three main issues. These issues and WHA's positions are:

1. **Support 340B Program** – Congress may soon introduce proposals to reform the 340B program. Please recognize the value the 340B program provides and oppose any proposal that does further harm to the 340B program or attempts to add to hospitals' already complex regulatory burden.

2. **Support better treatment for opioid patients** – WHA strongly supports Congressional action to improve treatment for opioid addiction. WHA also encourages Congress to continue collaborating with hospitals and providers to examine workforce and regulatory issues that continue to be obstacles in treating opioid addiction.

3. **Support Stark Law Reform** – Ask legislators to sign onto the Stark Administrative Simplification Act of 2017 and HR 4206 – the Medicare Care Coordination Improvement Act of 2017 and explore additional ways to reduce the regulatory burden of the Stark Law.

These "hill" visits were extremely educational (and at times,

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A Message from the President-Elect

Temporary Appointment

The death of Mary Licht last October was a great loss not only for her family and close friends, but for our Partners of WHA family as well. It was the first time that Partners has lost a sitting president, and the first time our President-Elect had to assume the presidency before the end of their own term as President-Elect. This created a vacancy in the office of President-Elect, and our Bylaws call for the Board to appoint someone to fill the vacancy, which is how I came to be President-Elect. However, our Bylaws also require our officers to be elected by the delegates at an Annual Meeting, so the President-Elect who the delegates elect October 3, 2018 will be installed at Convention and take office January 1, 2019. It will not be me, but I had two very good reasons to wish to fill this vacancy on a temporary basis. Reason One: I believed the appointment would give the appointee an advantage over other candidates. Because I will not be on the ballot, my appointment will not affect the election in October. Reason Two: I wanted to do the Bylaws presentations during Spring Tour. (A love of governance documents is a quirk, not a certifiable mental condition, so don't reserve that



Ginny Bosse

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overwhelming). Eric Bordering, Jon Hoelter, and other members of WHA presented the issues succinctly and were able to provide examples to support their positions. More information on these issues can be found at wha.org.

With those activities behind us, it is time to concentrate on the 2018 convention that is fast approaching. The 2018 Partners of WHA convention theme is "VOLUNTEERS – OUR EVERYDAY HEROES." A hero is someone who is selfless, generous in spirit, and makes a difference in people's lives. This describes each and every one of YOU. So this convention we are celebrating YOU—Our Everyday Heroes. The Convention Committee is working diligently to provide speakers, workshops, and a CEO panel that will offer timely information that individuals will be able to incorporate into their daily lives.

As has been mentioned during all spring tour visits, we will be voting on new Bylaws and electing new Board members. For these reasons it is imperative that each local organization designates two (2) delegates and these delegates need to be seated in the assigned area. There is a large amount of business to cover with limited time.

Even though life has been a bit of a roller coaster lately, I realize that everything happens for a reason. Health issues have made me more aware of how important it is to have access to exceptional health care close to home. More than ever, I am committed to Partners of WHA. I look forward to visiting with many of you at convention.

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padded room for me quite yet!)

Though bylaws may not be your "thing," the Partners Bylaws are the guiding light that keeps us on the right path to achieving our mission. With the [proposed Bylaws](#) on the table to the left of my computer and the [current Bylaws](#) on the right, I created a [PowerPoint](#) that compares the two versions. All three documents are available on the Partners website, so you can do the same comparison. The PowerPoint moves article by article through the proposed Bylaws and shows (in blue ink) where the topic, if covered in the current Bylaws, can be found. There are also brief descriptions of how the language is similar to, different from, or expands upon the language in the current Bylaws.

The Bylaws Committee spent nearly a year on the proposed Bylaws and received input from an attorney who has done work for WHA. I hope you will spend some time getting to know the proposed Bylaws and how they compare to the current ones, and, if you still have questions, submit them when [registering](#) for the Bylaws conference call at 10:00 a.m. Friday, September 21.

Ginny Bosse
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Proposed Bylaws Included With this Issue of *Reaching Out*

During the Annual Meeting at the 2018 Partners of WHA Convention in October, a new set of Bylaws will be presented to replace the current Bylaws in their entirety. As discussed on the Spring Tour, there are only minor changes to the substance of the Bylaws. The major changes are simply to the order and format. Both the current and proposed Bylaws are available on the Partners of WHA website along with the PowerPoint from the Spring Tour presentation. In addition, there will be a conference call September 21 from 10-11 AM, which will allow an opportunity to ask questions that you may have.

How do I access the conference call? To participate in the phone conversation about the new Bylaws, go to the Partners of WHA website home page. At the very top right corner, you will see a description of the call with a link to the registration site. Click on the link. It will open a registration form through Survey Monkey. That will ask for your name and an email address. It will also give you a chance to submit a question. Two days before the call, you will receive an email with the toll-free phone number to call and an access code. A few minutes before the call, follow the instructions in the email to dial in. We encourage you to get together as a group, especially to have your delegates listen to the call. The presenters will answer the submitted questions first. If time allows, you will have the opportunity to ask questions during the call. Thank you for your commitment to the future of Partners of WHA!

These **proposed** Bylaws are inserted with this regular *Reaching Out* issue, which are at a reduced font to save paper. The Bylaws can be viewed on the website in larger font. The **current** Bylaws are on the website also.

2018 Nominating Committee Recommendation of Officers for Partners of WHA for 2019-2020

The Partners of WHA Nominating Committee members are Pat Freeders, Jackie Halverson, Cindy Hermel, and Jan Molaska (ex officio). The Committee's major responsibility is to nominate the best-qualified candidate(s) for each office. This necessitates giving careful consideration, both as an individual and as a committee, to the requirements and scope of the offices to be filled as well as to the qualifications and abilities needed to fill them. They match these requirements to the qualifications of the candidates. All nominees are evaluated equally and by the same criteria. The following slate of officers is to be submitted at Partners Convention in Stevens Point, October 3, 2018:

President - Jan Molaska; President-Elect - Peg Larson; Secretary - Sharon Scott; Treasurer - Julie Steiner

Thank you to those members who submitted an application expressing interest in serving as an officer for 2019-2020.

Bonnie R Olson, Chair, 2018 Partners of WHA Nominating Committee; Email: bonnie.o.ppfwha@gmail.com

President-Elect – Peg Larson

Peg is very committed to the work volunteers do to support the health of our communities. She has been delighted to have the opportunity to serve Partners of WHA as Treasurer from 2015 through 2018. She also served as a Partners local president, District Chair (twice), Convention Chair, Convention Registration Chair, and Website Coordinator. She has had the luxury to be a full-time volunteer and to choose activities to make her community better. Those have included work at church, the schools, an airshow (AirVenture), the local symphony, soccer club, and hospital. Peg has seen tremendous changes in the availability and expectations of volunteers through these experiences, hopefully leading Partners in the change needed to move into a challenging era in health care. Peg is married to Paul Larson, MD, a math major turned radiologist, and has two sons, Robert, a history/theater teacher, and Andrew, a software developer with a master's in Byzantine History. Her purse always has a quilt project (or two). Singing in the choir at Most Blessed Sacrament in Oshkosh is an important part of her life. She is looking forward to continuing to work with the great group of volunteers that comprise the Partners of WHA.



Secretary – Sharon Scott

Like many of you, Sharon has found volunteering in her local hospital extremely rewarding, and the experience of meeting other volunteers throughout the state to be "priceless." She's been a member of the Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital in West Bend for 21 years and has been privileged and honored to serve her organization in numerous positions as Board Secretary, President for 15 years, Public Policy Chair, Scholarship committee, Love Light committee, Fundraising committee, and Team Leader for the Cuddler program. Additionally, she was honored to serve as the Southeastern District Chair, District Public Policy Chair, serve on the WAVE committee, and currently serves as co-chair of the 2018 Partners Convention. She will be the Convention chair for the 2019 convention. On a more personal level, her family includes her husband, married daughter, and two grandchildren. She attended both Bradley University and the University of Minnesota. Professionally, she spent eight years as an instructor in the West Bend high schools for the Risk Program, five years with the Anoka County (Minnesota) District Attorney's office as an advocate for victims of sexual assault, and 15 years as a national sales consultant for The West. She loves her fun time golfing, traveling, gardening, reading, and watching her grandchildren play hockey.



Treasurer – Julie Steiner

Julie Steiner served as a Radio Broadcaster and Communications/Public Relations/Marketing specialist for over 35 years. She began her career in 1979 as News Director at WVRQ Radio in Viroqua, Wisconsin, a position she held for 21 years. She received an Associated Press Award for her news coverage of a local astronaut and his first space shuttle launch. Julie became the Marketing/Public Relations/Development Manager at Vernon Memorial Healthcare in Viroqua in 2000. Her work, on several occasions received recognition from the Wisconsin Hospital Public Relations and Marketing Society. She retired in 2014. Julie has been an active member of numerous organizations in her community. Currently, she is secretary of her parish council and helps organize a local charity golf event. Julie is a hospital volunteer, serves on the VMH Foundation board, and is president of the Friends of VMH. She has been a member of The Friends of VMH since 1988, having held positions as chair of various committees, President, President-Elect, and Treasurer. Julie has served as Secretary/Treasurer, Chair-Elect, and Chair of Western District Partners; was on the 2016 convention planning committee, has chaired the Best of the Best committee, and is a member of the WAVE committee.



Public Policy Education Report



Barb Filla

Summer is here along with vacation time. I'm writing this article in late June since I'll be in Canada and western U.S. until July 17, past the deadline for including articles in this issue of *Reaching Out*. Plan and enjoy a vacation for yourself too – refreshes mind, body, and soul!

In the June 26 *Valued Voice*, we see that WHA President/CEO Eric Borgerding and his team at WHA are not slowing down in their efforts to assist and support Wisconsin hospitals. Sometimes summer can be a slow time of the year with Congress and Legislatures at both the federal and state level not in session. We are so fortunate and grateful

to them! Here are some of the things Eric and team are working on that we may want to keep an eye on and add our support for these WHA-supported initiatives by contacting both federal senate and house members. Watch for possible HEAT notices to respond to also.

Opioid Reform: On June 20, the U.S. House of Representatives passed two opioid reform measures that are expected to be taken up in the U.S. Senate in July 2018:

1. HR 6082, Overdose Prevention and patient Safety Act. This reform would align the patient behavioral health and substance use treatment records with HIPAA, making it easier to share critical health information with other health care providers and upgrade health care service outcomes in a more efficient and effective manner as well as reduce potential devastating outcomes for patients.
2. HR 5797, the IMD Care Act would open more treatment locations for opioid patients covered by Medicaid. This act would allow for Medicaid payment for opioid treatment services provided in Institutions of Mental Disease (IMDs) for up to 30 days of care. IMDs provide the best specialty care for opioid patients when and where they deserve it. Currently these patients mostly seek hospital emergency care, which is more costly and less specialized for their needs.

Noteworthy for Rural Health Care Program telehealth services: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) increased an immediate \$171 million increase (to \$571 million), which was capped at \$400 million since 1997. The \$571 million will also be raised annually for inflation and any unused funds will be carried forward to future years. Telehealth capability is very important in providing health care services to patients in rural areas.

Local Public Policy Education (PPE) Chairs - Calling Your Attention: Are you gathering monthly advocacy contact statistics to legislators from your local board and general volunteer members? A form to gather the number and type of contact was shared during Spring Tour at your district meetings or contact me and I can email it to you. Your gentle inquiry also serves as a helpful reminder to all of us volunteers to take action by contacting our legislators on current issues that can help in providing high quality healthcare services. THANK YOU for your advocacy efforts and the results you can inspire!

Partners State Convention October 2-4, 2018 – Public Policy Breakfast Session:

What topics would you like to discuss, and what questions or suggestions do you have? Please send them to me via email, phone, or mail before the convention. I'll gather information as requested and bring forward your thoughts to the group for discussion as you wish. This will hopefully help make the session more meaningful and helpful to you at local and district levels. PPE Chairs and others interested in public policy are invited to attend. See day and time in convention brochures.

Barb Filla, PPE Chair

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Convention Chairs to Host Trivia Contest

Summer came with a vengeance this year, but before you know it, summer will be behind us and our convention will be here. Registration: check, Workshops: check, Speakers: check—all committees are busy working to make the 2018 Partners of WHA Convention in Stevens Point a wonderful, educational experience. When filling out the Registration form, be sure to indicate the TWO delegates from your organization as we will be voting on the Bylaws to be approved. Please bring a copy of the Bylaws with you. They were given out to those who attended their Spring District meetings. You can also print a copy from the Partners of WHA website.

Stevens Point holds "The World's Largest Trivia Contest" and the Display Committee will hold their own Trivia Contest. Be sure to list your trivia question AND answer on your registration form. Be sure to have the answer somewhere on your display board.

I am looking forward to seeing you in October!

Sheree Schaefer,
Convention Chair

Best of the Best Committee Judging Applicants

The committee is hard at work judging the information sent to determine this year's winner. The award will be announced and given at the State Convention Wednesday, October 3, 2018.

Thank you to those organizations that submitted a nomination—and don't forget, we have another convention next year.

This is a great way to honor your on-site administrator for all they do for your organization. We look for an on-site administrator who demonstrates a cooperative, support, enthusiastic, and well defined relationship with your organization. There are eligibility rules and procedures to follow for the application.

Hope to see you at the 2018 Partners of WHA Convention October 2-4, 2018 in Stevens Point.

Mary Lou Bausch, Chair
Email: pt4u@chorus.net

WAVE Awards Received 14 Applicants

The WAVE committee received 14 applications for this years awards. Committee members are now busy reading, reviewing, and individually scoring each application. Partners groups certainly do some amazing projects and the selection process will not be an easy task.

By category, we received the following entries:

- Community Service 5
- In Service Program 4
- Fundraising Program 2
- Community Outreach/Collaboration Program 3

A teleconference is scheduled for August 1 to share our scores and select the winners.

The selection committee is composed of Julie Steiner, Janet Christiansen, Joyce Breen, and myself, Pat Freeders, Chair.

Applicants will be notified no later than August 15 of the results of the selection process.

If you have questions please contact me.

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Community Health Education Report



Sherry Jelic

At our spring district meetings, we discussed changing the stigma of Substance Use Disorder (SUD), recognizing drug dependence as a disease (classified by the American Medical Association), looking at studies of the brain showing chemical changes

when using substances, and recognizing that SUD can be treated, but it will be long-term treatment. Many of those with drug dependence also suffer from mental health issues. Addiction is a disease that knows no boundaries. It affects people from rural and urban areas, regardless of age or economic status. Senator Tammy Baldwin recently discussed her mother's long battle with opioid dependence. Former Green Bay Packers Hall of Famer Chester Marcol speaks openly about his 30-year struggle with drug and alcohol dependence, and attempted suicide (*USA Today Network – Wisconsin, March 2, 2018*). He is now an alcohol and drug abuse counselor and inspirational speaker.

When people stop using opioids, they experience severe withdrawal. Medications help a person through withdrawal, giving them the ability to consider healthier choices and work through counseling and other treatment. Methadone and Buprenorphine (Suboxone) are opioids used to reduce withdrawal symptoms and relieve cravings. Naltrexone (Vivitrol) helps block the effects of opioids so a person no longer feels the same high. But many treatment programs do not offer access to medication. Some patients choose not to use medications. The cost of medication and insurance prohibits treatment for many. Few doctors are trained in addiction medications, and many have not received federal waivers to prescribe buprenorphine, or may be reluctant to prescribe it without counseling and other wrap-around services available. Experts are looking at alternate medications, easier access to treatment medications, and training for doctors as potential ways to address the opioid crisis.

Relapse is frequently a part of recovery from dependence on drugs or alcohol. While "willpower" may have been a factor in the initial decision to use drugs, after a person becomes dependent on drugs, the chemical structure of the brain changes. The "willpower" to overcome the brain disease is not simple. If it were, we would not see the relapse rates we do. No reasonable person wants to be estranged from family, focused entirely on the next drug, or facing jail or prison. Treatment can dramatically improve the person's chance of sobriety. Studies show that 70 to 90 percent of

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Around the State

Black River Memorial Hospital Volunteers, Black River:

The "Truly Me" puppet shows are presented to third graders at the area schools as an educational program. The topic of the program is drug and alcohol prevention and is an important message to get out to the kids.

Partners of Stoughton Hospital, Stoughton:

Red, white, and blue merchandise were available in their gift shop this summer. Items included Snoopy and his dog house all decked out in Americana colors, colored bottles, and one-of-a-kind designed barn quilts made by a Partner to enhance your barn, garden shed, boat house, garage, or home.

Aspirus Wausau Hospital Volunteers, Wausau:

A plea for a Lifeline Installer to help seniors live safely in their homes was requested to install Philips Lifetime equipment in the subscriber's residence. A valid Wisconsin driver's license was required as well as basic knowledge of electrical and telephone equipment was helpful. Hopefully this request was filled!

Aspirus Riverview Auxiliary, Wisconsin Rapids:

Fifty knitters and crocheters create shawls to comfort cancer patients and hats to keep newborns warm. They feel that the mental and physical benefits of knitting benefit mental health, therapeutic settings, fine motor skills, and memory show they care!

Kay Lyndahl, Editor

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people who complete an addiction rehabilitation program will relapse at least once before they maintain sobriety for a period of time.

Successful treatment must include detoxification, inpatient and outpatient treatment, treatment medication, behavioral counseling, evaluation and treatment for mental health issues, and follow-up to prevent relapse. It's a long-term process, but is a person's life worth less?

Sherry Jelic, CHE Chair

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Reaching Out Deadlines

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

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Franciscan Healthcare Auxiliary in La Crosse celebrated their 65th anniversary with a luncheon and program at the Radisson Hotel, June 12, 2018. The Auxiliary was chartered January 15, 1953 and continues to be active with fundraising and advocacy involvement. Pictured here are past presidents from left to right: Sue Lynch, Betty Stoll, Carey Kroner, and Rose Raska.