
WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT PARTNERS OF WHA 2017 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIR

Summer will be flying by and I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful Wisconsin weather. I think the older we get, the faster time flies! The spring district meeting, hosted by Osceola Partners was very successful with over 70 in attendance. (More on the meeting in an article below.) In reporting the yearly district report, the following are interesting facts for the West Central District for 2016:

Total Active members.....	954
Total Volunteer Hours.....	117,515.5*
Total donations to Hospitals... ..	\$.189,595.84
Total Scholarships given.....	52
Amount of Scholarships.....	\$25,800
Total Fundraising Projects.....	58

I regret to report that Menomonie Volunteers of Mayo Clinic Health System/Red Cedar had to resign from the Partners of WHA. We will certainly miss the members and their dedication and efforts. I want to acknowledge and thank Jan O'Neill, as well as other volunteers, who worked very diligently and were dedicated to West Central District and the Partners of WHA. So, now the district is down to eight organizations.

The healthcare system is always changing. Consequently, the volunteers and volunteer organizations have to adapt and change their programs and work with the hospital administrations in their programs. I hope all volunteers are members of HEAT and keep informed of changes in the healthcare programs and laws.

Another area we can concentrate on is leaders for the district and organizations. I feel everyone can be a leader and it is just a matter of finding their "niche" or interest. Those who receive this newsletter are already leaders. Make it a goal to nurture leaders in your organization!

Have a great summer and hope to see you at the Fall District Meeting! See what I mean when I say "time flies!" Summer is not over and already planning the fall meeting. The next event is the Partners of WHA State Convention on October 4, 5 & 6 in Green Bay. John Tully is working to make this an exceptional convention, and each organization's help in West Central District is important. Look for the registration form and send it in as soon as possible.

Thank you to all who contributed to this newsletter. It is wonderful to know all the good work that the volunteer partners do in volunteering for their hospital and community plus purchasing needed equipment and providing scholarships!

Call or email me with any new ideas, questions or concerns. I would like to hear from you. (I am open to complaints also!)

Jaci Fuller, West Central District Chair
tomnjaci58@gmail.com

“Money can buy the husk of many things, but not the kernel. It brings you food, but not the appetite; the medicine, but not the health; acquaintances, but not friends; days of joy, but not peace and happiness.”
-Henrik Ibsen

SPRING DISTRICT MEETING

The 2017 Spring West Central District meeting held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 in Osceola was hosted by the Osceola Partners. Thanks go to JoAnn Kuntz and her crew for putting together a successful day. The State officers, including the President Elect Jan Molaska, CHE Chair Sherry Jelic and PPE Chair Barb Filla attended and gave reports. Mary Licht, State President, was unable to attend, however, Jan Molaska read her report. Included in the business meeting was the installation of the following officers: Jaci Fuller as Chair, John Tully as Chair-Elect and Betty Oddo as Secretary/Treasurer. Mary Beth Gustafson, Pharmacist, gave a very interesting talk on “Opioid Epidemic/Prescription Abuse amongst the Elderly.”

2017 STATE CONVENTION

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, hopefully now that we are getting some much needed sun! I want to remind everyone about the State Convention and hope all your planning is going well. We will need quite a few volunteers for this to work. If anyone has questions or problems, please contact me.

Registration booklets will be going out by June 23rd. We have a good slate of workshops with, I hope, something for everyone. I will try to schedule a teleconference call for sometime in July to talk more about the convention. Thanks for all of your help as it is greatly appreciated!!

John Tully, 2017 State Convention Chair
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HOSPITAL PARTNERS' NEWS

Cumberland Healthcare Volunteer May Happenings!

- Two \$1,000 scholarships awarded to high school seniors
- Volunteers were greeters and way finders at the recent “Know Your Numbers Health Fair”
- Corner Boutique now selling fresh floral arrangements and live plants
- For the first time CHC Volunteer Partners was chosen as the non-profit organization to sell food at Louie’s Finer Meat “Brat Stand”
- Three new volunteers joined the ranks of Cumberland Healthcare Volunteer Partners
- A new WAVE Committee was formed

In June we will be holding the Second Annual Volunteer Partners Garage Sale. We encourage staff to get involved in this event also. Many volunteers become involved in this fundraising event. It is a very good time for volunteers to get to know each other while working for a good cause.

Ann Bergmann, President
Cumberland Healthcare Volunteer Partners

Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls

It was a red, white and blue spectacular evening on Saturday, May 20th in Chippewa Falls as the Partners presented its 47th Annual Charity Ball celebrating the day WWII ended in 1944. Lots of G.I. Jivin occurred at Avalon Inn and Conference Center as guests enjoyed military honors presented by the Chippewa Falls Patriotic Council, half tracks, jeeps, red, white and blue balloons, bunkers, close slow dancing and a band that was out of this world. We took over the entire facility and decorated the entrance, lobby, tent, halls, ballrooms and even the bathrooms. The St. Joseph's Foundation held something new this year. The silent auction that was done online and was so much fun! There was also a live auction of seven "knock your socks off" items. As the breathless and tired guests left, each received a parting gift compliments of the owners of Avalon of eats from the 40's wrapped in a souvenir burlap bag with strings. It was a wonderful evening spent saluting our active and retired armed forces and veterans. It was an amazing tribute to all of our servicemen and their families.

Actually we had visitors from a nearby veteran's home who stopped by Saturday afternoon to see the decorations and see "if we got it right". They passed silently by the "nose art" and pictures of local army men, soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guard members.

The next event is our amazing Steak Fry that will be held August 3rd and of course all are invited!

Deanne Rubenzer, President
Partners of St. Joseph's Hospital

River Falls Area Hospital Auxiliary

Just before Mother's Day, we held our annual Spring Salad Luncheon, which also included two hot dishes of lasagna and macaroni and cheese. We are experimenting this year and combined the fall luncheon with the spring luncheon as we are realizing that it is getting to be more of a challenge to find members who are able to help out as we are aging. To add to this wonderful community event, our Butterfly Boutique had beautiful items for the husbands and sons to buy for their wives, daughters, mothers and even grandmothers for Mother's Day. When visiting with different community residents, they mentioned that they look forward to this event because they enjoy the visiting and camaraderie and know that 100% of the net proceeds goes directly back to the patients, their families and other visitors, to the scholarships and hospital department requests. We served 231 people from River Falls as well as surrounding areas, with 43 auxiliary volunteers and seven hospital employees who generously helped to make this event a success. It is so appreciated that our RFAH/Allina President, David Miller, and CFO Bruce Craven were among the workers and greeters for our worth-while event.

Three scholarships totaling \$2,000 were awarded to three outstanding high school graduates. This opportunity is offered to high school seniors from Pierce and St. Croix counties who are interested in the medical field. At our recent board meeting in May, we approved hospital requests to assist five areas: the ED, Birth Center, Surgical Services, CKRI and facilities.

Our mission is to keep on giving!

Nancy Weinreich, Co-President
River Falls Area Hospital Auxiliary

"Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important."

Partners with Our Lady of Victory Hospital, Stanley

Partners With Our Lady of Victory has great news! We have new co-treasurers, plus two other new members! This means we will continue being an organization. We are so excited! One of the new members loves to do fundraisers, so we may be getting some great new ideas and help with new fundraisers. This is a great break for our group. We are happy that we will be able to continue to give our scholarships and raise money for our hospital. We are looking forward to having a great rest of the year, hopefully with some new ideas.

Partners with OLVH purchased a power pole for the OR Department. Even though OLVH does not have a maternity department, there are times when an emergency delivery happens and the old warmer was far outdated so it is retired from service. A bassinet for emergency has been ordered but may not be shipped before fall. We will be paying for this and plan on having some PR when it gets here.

We are proud to say we have raised our scholarships from \$300 to \$500 this year. Partners with OLVH presented two high school scholarships this year, one to a student from Thorp High School and one from Stanley-Boyd High school plus one employee scholarship.

Donella Christianson, President
Partners with Our Lady of Victory Hospital, Stanley

St. Croix Regional Medical Center Volunteer Partners, St. Croix Falls

(Information taken from the St Croix Regional Medical Center Volunteer Partners President's Spring Report)

Our biggest news is we will no longer function as a Board of Directors but will call our meetings "Pow Wows." Each person will come to the table with input on the project they are currently working on. We will, for now, continue with a finance person until and if we can merge finances with SCRMC so the finances stay consistent. Notes will be taken and decisions will be made by consensus of those at the meeting. We will meet every other month. The other big news is the Gift Shop has installed a POS (Point of Sale) system. The POS system also went into the kitchen and our Wellness Program. We have three pharmacies in our 5 clinics that have gift shops.

Fundraising events in addition to the Gift Shop included the Love Light Ceremony, a Linen Sale and The Nutman and Candy Sale. Plans are underway for the 51st Annual Salad Luncheon.

Never understate the Power of One!

Kathy Luken, President
St. Croix Regional Medical Center Volunteer Partners

Partners of Osceola Medical Center, Osceola

(Information taken from the Partners of the Osceola Medical Center Newsletter)

Our first fundraiser of the year, Collective Goods, (formerly known as Books are Fun) sale was very successful, raising a little over \$400, half of which went to our general fund. The other half went to the clinic's reading program, Reach Out And Read, which gives a new book to every child on their well child visit through age 5. We have discovered that these are the only books some of these children have.

The annual Rummage Sale was held on May 11th, and a Bake Sale scheduled for June 29th, a Root Beer Float event July 27th and our ER Emergency Clothing Project. We also have some "fun" things planned as well. On

June 6th, a luncheon cruise on the St. Croix River out of Stillwater was enjoyed and we will have our annual pot-luck picnic at Oakey Park on August 1st.

My wish for you all is to have a wonderful summer!
Joann Kuntz, President
Partners of Osceola Medical Center

Volunteer Partners of Lakeview Medical Center, Rice Lake

Lakeview Medical Center recently hired Bradley Groseth as its new Chief Administrative Officer. He replaces Jackie Klein who was interim CAO after Ned Wolff left to become the CAO of Marshfield Hospital.

The Volunteer Partners of LMC awarded five scholarships to local students pursuing health-related careers. These included our normal \$1000 scholarships plus a special \$1600 scholarship donated in memory of Lynda Rogstad, a longtime volunteer who recently passed away. She had logged over 10,000 hours as a volunteer.

We also welcomed 12 new volunteers to our group and hosted a volunteer appreciation luncheon where it was announced that our group had logged 11,256 hours in the past year which translates to the equivalent of \$259,503 in service to our hospital.

Lynn Koob, President
Volunteer Partners of Lakeview Medical Center

Volunteer Partners of HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire

In Addition to volunteering in various positions in the hospital to assist hospital colleagues in Central Transport, the Regional Cancer Center, Spiritual Care, Family Waiting Center, Information Desk, clerical duties as well as the Gift Shop and hand crafts, etc., the volunteers also have fundraising events and assist in community and hospital events. Fundraisers included the \$6 Jewelry & Gift Sale, Books are Fun Gift Sale and Linen Sale with proceeds going towards hospital needs. The biggest program is the Love-Light Event with a ceremony in December; all proceeds go to support the Healing Place, a free community grief support center.

The Board of Directors restructured the Scholarship Program to award five applicants \$1,000 grants each, for colleagues and volunteers who qualify and apply. To encourage greater volunteer involvement, the Board now invites non-Board volunteers to attend the board meetings for the last hour of the monthly meeting.

The Board also has pledged support for the remodeling of the Regional Cancer Center and the 3rd floor Maternity Floor. In addition, plans are to purchase a Cuddle bed for the 3rd floor maternity.

Respectfully Submitted by
Jaci Fuller, Sacred Heart Hospital
Chair of West Central District

PUBLIC POLICY REPORT

We all welcome summer - it is so precious and seems so short! In just a blink of an eye - spring 2017 is gone, summer is here. So let ALL of us enjoy, refresh, think and plan for today and long term tomorrows as healthy, free, happy, liberty-loving Americans.

Some key healthcare-related items to understand, promote and take personal action on:

State Budget-Writing Joint Finance Committee Approved on May 25 to bring to Assembly and Senate for passage into Wisconsin State Law:

(Public Policy Continued)

- increase of \$25 million to Medicaid DHS (Disproportionate State Share Hospital) Program. This is \$62 million increase when including Federal funds over the new biennium Wisconsin budget.
- Provides additional \$1.2 million for a new Rural Critical Care supplement - watch for more news on this topic.

***NEW "Healthy Wisconsin" Initiative Launched**

- Purpose: Help communities identify strategies and programs for individual opportunities to be more healthy
 - Focuses on 5 priority health issues to improve: alcohol, nutrition and physical activity, opioids, suicide, tobacco
 - Includes a state health assessment and improve plan in these five areas
 - New website highlights goals, data strategies "working from the ground-up": <https://healthy.wisconsin.gov/>
- IDEA: What new, innovative project may your hospital volunteer group implement to help improve health??**

WE as Hospital Volunteers, Colleagues have Individual Responsibility to improve healthcare and gain more healthy Outcomes

- Take daily steps to remain healthy as an individual.
- Seek information to understand local, state, federal healthcare issues, proposed solutions, and think through them using reason based on reliable information.
- Express our thoughtful, reasoned comments on legislator-developed potential solution after our sincere consideration and using credible sources of information. Some reliable sources for healthcare information: www.wha.org, HEAT emails, 'Valued Voice' weekly email updates.

Valued Voice Update and THANK YOU! To everyone who signed up at the Spring District Meeting

Many people signed up to receive weekly Friday "Valued Voice" emails. As of June 1st, the first issue has been disseminated to all new subscribers (196) around the entire state. If you don't receive it and you signed up, please let me know. I will follow up with WHA staff per their request, as I have the sign-up list.

Make it a good summer for you, family and friends!
Barb Filla, West Central District and State PPE Chair

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COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

Facing the Worst Drug Epidemic in US History

"According to the US Centers for Disease Control

*(<https://www.cdc.gov/vital/signs/opioid-prescribing/>), the amount of prescription opioids sold in the U.S. nearly quadrupled since 1999, yet there has **not been an overall change** in the amount of pain that Americans report."*

The federal and state governments have been slow to respond to the opioid epidemic. Local hospitals and medical centers have launched their own initiatives to control the serious opioid crisis.

Has your hospital or medical center made the bold decision to drastically reduce the number of opioid prescriptions?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the following meetings and the Partners of WHA Convention.

September 7, 2017	Fall West Central District Meeting	St Croix Falls
October 3 - 5, 2017	Partners of WHA Convention	Green Bay
Spring, 2018	Spring West Central District Meeting	Rice Lake (date to be announced)

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the
earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish car-
ing, patience and just plain love for one another.

— Erma Bombeck
