

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

Partners Transition in New World

Greetings my friends! The holidays are over—all the shopping, eating, cooking, baking, and most importantly, visiting with family and friends. Now it's time to settle down to a Wisconsin winter.

For those of you who are not aware, I would like to introduce myself to you as your new president. My name is Mary Licht. Many of you know me already, and I'm from the Southern District, where I've been the president-elect for the last two years. I have also been district chair, convention chair, webmaster, and am currently president of my local hospital Partners board. As you have guessed by now, I like to be busy.

My goals for the next two years are to help partners transition into our ever-changing world with the newest trend of corporations controlling our hospitals and making changes to our functions. There are things we have been doing for years that the new owners do not want us to do in the area of volunteer services as well as fundraising. It will be our job to find new ways to serve our hospitals and maybe branch out into community service. I would very much like input from you about any new capacities in which you serve your hospital. I would like to share this with the other members of Partners. We need to learn and grow in this changing world of ours. We can only grow by learning new things and finding new capacities in which we can support our hospitals; with your help, we will grow.

I am a very attainable president and easily reached via phone, email, or letter; and I will always respond—after all I am here to serve you. If you have any information you wish to share with me about the changes that are happening at your hospital or in your community, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Mary Licht

A Message from the President-Elect

Challenges to be Faced

As I write this article, snow is gently falling and creating a completely clean, white landscape. Just as the snow gives us a new perspective, 2017 is also a clean canvas on which to build the future. 2016 is simply a kaleidoscope of memories—some good, some bad, some ugly, and some joyous—but simply memories. The world we live in is constantly changing and we continually face challenges. We can view the challenges as obstacles or use our memories as stepping-stones to develop our blueprint for the future. Over the next two years, Mary Licht, our new president, will lead us in developing our vision for the future and leading us on a journey toward making a difference in our ever-changing world.

Partners of WHA has a long history of facing challenges head on and working collectively to find the imperfections in the world and making improvements by acts of kindness, dedication, and caring. Margaret Mead once said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." As individuals we can accomplish some things; but as an organization we can accomplish a whole lot more.

Our volunteers are incredible and so diverse. Each volunteer has strengths and special talents—talents given willingly and passionately. Each of you chooses to make a difference in the lives of other individuals and in your communities by generously giving of your time and talents.

I am so very proud to be a member of Partners and honored that you put your trust in me by

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Jan Molaska

***A Message from the President-elect...
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allowing me to serve as president-elect. I look forward to Spring tour and getting to know all of you better and observe first hand the great work you are doing in your hospitals and communities. Let's all be the reason someone smiles today.

I look forward to working with each of you and will do my best to see that Partners of WHA remains a strong and effective force in advocating for our hospitals and communities.

Jan Molaska
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Best of the Best Award Established in 1994

In 1994, Partners of WHA established the Best of the Best Administrator Award to recognize and thank administrators for their support for the work we do. It honors on-site administrators, CEOs, presidents, executive directors, first vice-presidents, and CFOs of Wisconsin hospitals and medical centers who participate in exemplary and supportive relationship with their volunteer organization.

Nominating forms will be mailed to all Partners of WHA presidents in March. They will also be available at the Spring District meetings. Information can also be found at www.partnersofwha.org. Anyone nominated must have been in the present position for no less than 24 months as of June 10, 2017. The deadline for submission of nomination forms is June 10, 2017. If you have submitted a nomination in the past, but were not successful, please feel free to resubmit after you have reviewed it in light of the criteria.

The 2017 committee includes 2016 award winner Edward H. (Ned) Wolf, chief administrative officer of Lakeview Medical Center/Marshfield Clinic Health System in Rice Lake; Mary Lou Bausch, Lancaster; Jude Bolterman, Shell Lake; Cindy Hermel, Wausau; and Jackie Halverson, Ripon.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Jackie Halverson, Chair,
2017 Best of the Best Committee
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Community Health Education Report



Sherry Jelic

If you watch television, use the Internet, read a newspaper or magazine, or volunteer at any health organization, the chances are almost 100% that you have heard the term opioid epidemic. The definition of epidemic is that which affects a disproportionately large number of individuals within a population. An opioid is a class of drugs with chemicals that are similar to our own endorphins produced

naturally to relieve pain. Opioids act on receptors in the spinal cord, gastrointestinal tract, and brain to reduce the intensity of pain perception, and affect brain areas that further diminish the effects of pain stimuli. Treatment for pain—this is a good thing, right?

Good if these drugs are used in the way intended at the dosage prescribed, but here's where the good ends. There is an epidemic of misuse—taking these drugs in higher amounts, for reasons other than their intended use resulting in poisoning or overdose.

According to a statement by the Centers for Disease Control, since 1999 the number of overdose deaths involving opioids and heroin quadrupled. From 2000 to 2015, more than half a million people died from drug overdoses. Ninety one Americans die every DAY from an opioid overdose.

Wisconsin hospitals and health systems applauded Governor Walker for the creation of the Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse. Representative John Nygren's HOPE Agenda and Attorney General Brad Schimel's Dose of Reality campaign have brought awareness to the urgency of identifying solutions to Wisconsin's dramatic rise in use and overdose deaths from heroin and opioid drugs in recent years. According to the report by the Office of Health Informatics, Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the rise was nearly 70 percent from 2005 to 2015.

Our CHE focus this year is the **opioid epidemic**. We can discuss how this impacts our hospitals, communities, and sadly many of our personal lives. We can learn what Wisconsin leaders, physicians and the public are doing toward awareness, prevention, and treatment. Take the pledge from the **Dose of Reality Campaign**: *I am concerned about the growing prescription painkiller abuse problem in Wisconsin. I pledge to use any medications I am prescribed only in the way they were intended by my doctor. I pledge to not share my prescriptions or use anybody else's. I pledge to safely and securely store my prescription painkillers or other medications and safely dispose of them when they are no longer needed or expired.* Because the reality is, **drugs end dreams**—of those who use drugs, of their friends, of their families, and of their communities.

Sherry Jelic, CHE Chair
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Public Policy Education Report



Barb Filla

Greetings, and wishing you and your family the best in 2017! Let's move forward every day toward achieving our desires and goals, living with purpose as we experience life's successes and overcome challenges as they arise. Taking an active role as part of a team or group is one way we can do that. WHA's Advocacy Day is an opportunity in health care, which is coming up soon. You are invited and encouraged to participate.

Advocacy Day in Madison – April 19, 2017

Reasons to Attend: 1.) Annual legislative day to inform, educate people on current health care-related issues; 2) Offers grassroots advocacy opportunities with legislators

Who is Invited: Hospital CEOs, CFOs, managers, nurse executives, hospital volunteers and trustees, WHA HEAT grassroots members, Volunteer Partners of WHA members, WHA corporate members, and all other hospital staff

Extra Benefits: Enjoy the camaraderie of friends and peers, great food at lunch, and scheduled visits to the capitol with your state legislators

Where: Monona Terrace in Madison, WI

Time of Day: Usually 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Program: As soon as information is received by WHA, it will be sent to you.

Registration: Required and available about six weeks before April 19, 2017

Challenge: Come and bring "Just One More Person" to their FIRST Advocacy Day Event!

Please share this info with your volunteer and hospital colleagues and also participate in the challenge. "Just One More Person" can add hundreds of people to Advocacy Day attendance.

2017 WHA Goals and Governor's Funding Support

WHA is in the process of developing their goals for 2017, which will be known later in February. However, some major Wisconsin WHA issues under discussion that are in process with Governor Walker and Wisconsin legislators that you might want to learn/be aware of are as noted in recent issues of Valued Voice: Governor Walker reiterated his support for funding three of WHA's key priorities—the Disproportionate Share Hospital Program (DSH), Graduate Medical Education (GME), and workforce initiatives.

"Obviously we are going to continue to support DSH payments. It is important, and for the state as a whole, we will continue to make that commitment as we have in the past," Walker said. "And, for the larger workforce needs, we support GME in rural and underserved areas, focusing on the appropriate level of support. Not just to attract physicians, but it is critically important that we keep them in these areas."

Your Thoughts, Ideas, Issues, and Successes in Your Communities

Let me know how I can be of service in representing/sharing your hospital, patients and community's health care issues, and successes. Your voice is important and I want to listen, learn, and share.

Barb Filla, PPE Chair

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Barb Filla – PPE Chair Bio

My entire life has involved many aspects of health care and government regulations—as a mom to a developmentally disabled first-born son, working in a multi-faceted long-term care facility, CPA auditor and consultant to acute and long-term care health care providers, and active member of local community volunteer and state health care associations. I loved and enjoyed serving my clients. After 42 years of being married and raising our four sons (a real joy as they were so active, creative, and energetic), I became a widow. Too young to retire, I started a new business of remodeling and selling homes, a great challenge and fun, in Florida and Wisconsin.

In 2008, I became a volunteer at HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, serving in transportation and Family Waiting Center, and as board member/president, and volunteer Partners local and district PPE Chair. I enjoy variety, challenges and hobbies—quilting, reading, dancing, playing cards, fishing, travel, and being with family and friends. There's always something new that is interesting and fun to do.

Since 1970, I've had to keep up on public policy/regs related to health care/accounting. It became a passion for me because of the huge impact of all policy/regs on the lives of people and our country. I'm a daily reader of books and on the Internet, and watch TV and news media to try my best to know the truth and facts. As PPE Chair, I will put forth my best effort to share information with you and work with WHA in the best interests of health care in hospitals and for patients, families, and the communities we live in. I also welcome and appreciate your ideas and thoughts on how I can best serve you to be great advocates for quality health care.

Around the State

Essentia Health St. Mary's Hospital of Superior Auxiliary, Superior:

"Perfect Petzzs" are new to this gift shop. They are adorable plush animals that actually breathe like a real pet and come with a collar, pet tag, plush bed, hairbrush, adoption certificate, cardboard pet carrier, and battery. It is an ideal gift for persons in "no pet" apartments, care centers, and for children with allergies—and are maintenance free!

Partners of Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital, Eagle River:

Recently, this auxiliary had a very special guest speaker at one of their meetings. Patty Bonack is an author who lives in Three Lakes and has written two non-fiction books: "The Man Who Killed My Daughter" and "Heroes and Hospital Gowns." Patty gave a kidney two years ago to a member of their own auxiliary. Would this be considered a speaker for a convention or other volunteer group?

Mercy Health Association of Volunteers, Janesville:

"Widows' Coffee Support Group" meets monthly for women who have lost a spouse or significant other in Rock County. Guest speakers meet with them to discuss emotions, struggles, achievements, and new realities. Outings are planned to include shopping, theater, bowling, etc. and meant to fulfill the need to socialize, connect, belong, and participate.

Osceola Medical Center Volunteers, Osceola:

Last June, a "Mystery Trip Outing" was planned for a cost of \$21.00 and \$10.00 for lunch. No one knew where they were going, but to plan for about a seven-hour journey. This is worth it for a fun day! Maybe we'll hear where the "stops" took them!

Kay Lyndahl, Editor

2017 Schedule Updated

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|-------------|---|
| March 14-16 | Spring Board Meeting - Madison |
| March 28 | Spring Tour – Green Bay - Lakes |
| March 29 | Spring Tour – Oconomowoc - Southeastern |
| March 30 | Spring Tour – Stoughton - Southern |
| April 5 | Spring Tour – Ladysmith - Northwestern |
| April 6 | Spring Tour – Osceola - West Central |
| April 7 | Spring Tour – Medford - North Central |
| April 11 | Spring Tour – Lancaster - Western |
| April 16 | Easter |
| April 19 | Advocacy Day |
| April 23-29 | Volunteer Week |
| May 7-10 | SAL/AHA Meeting – Washington D.C. |
| Oct. 3-5 | Convention – Hyatt in Green Bay |

Reaching Out Deadlines

| <u>Issue</u> | <u>Deadline</u> |
|---------------|------------------------|
| May 2017 | Thurs., April 13, 2017 |
| August 2017 | Sat., July 15, 2017 |
| November 2017 | Sat., October 14, 2017 |
| February 2018 | Mon., January 15, 2018 |
| May 2018 | Friday, April 13, 2018 |

Save the Date

It's October 3 – 5, 2017 for the Partners of WHA Convention in Green Bay at the Hyatt/Convention Center on Main Street.

The theme this year is "Partners Building a Better Tomorrow." 2017 is the Green Bay Packers centennial season, and we have a very special surprise for the attendees of the convention. Stay tuned for details!

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

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