

*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

## **"If you lose a hospital, you lose a town."**



Mark Schaefer

This is what U.S. Congressman Reid Ribble, Wisconsin 8th Congressional District, said.

This is such a poignant comment that indicates how important advocacy is for hospitals and health care in our communities. As WHA's Jenny Boese noted in her presentation at our convention, "Silence means everything is okay." Please stay updated on what can be affecting your community medical system. Diane Westbrook, Partners of WHA Public Policy Education chair, and WHA's H.E.A.T. program are excellent sources. Mark your calendars for Advocacy Day 2012 on April 24 at Monona Terrace, Madison.

Thank you to each participant at our Annual Convention and Meeting, held in Eau Claire, October 4-6. And a tremendous Thank you to Carolyn Ward, 2011 Convention Chairperson, and the convention committee. You will read and observe references in this edition of "Reaching Out." Their golf theme, "Driving for Success," fit well with our unseasonably warm temperatures reaching the 80s. The "golf" fashion show was a big "hit" after our Tuesday dinner—so much inventiveness in each person's outfit. It was fantastic to share the entire time with all of you. The celebration of the Honor Point winners, Best of the Best, Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence (WAVE) recipients, and to see you win money in the 50/50 raffle, Convention raffle, individual hospital drawings, and silent auction was wonderful. With the auction, I saw several volunteers leaving with new items for their wardrobe. And your attention to the business meeting and the several by-law changes that were presented, each voted in by your delegates, was great.

If you were unable to attend this year, please seek out a volunteer that did; they will have a wealth of information from the various workshops and meetings. And if you were able to attend, please share your knowledge with your local volunteer organization or at some point in the fall district meetings. Plan on attending next year's Partners of WHA Annual Convention and Meeting held at Marriott Madison West; chairperson is Pat Freeder.

Also please be aware of the schedule for 2012 Spring Tour visits on pg. 8. Please take notice of the one change based on timing and location. God Bless!

Mark D. Schaefer, President  
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Email: mdschaeferpwha@aol.com

### A Message From the President-Elect

## **Looking to 2012**

It was great being with all of you in Eau Claire for our convention. The committee did an outstanding job planning our event. Kudos to Carolyn Ward and her team! Thank you too for attending, and I hope you enjoyed the speakers and found the workshops to be of value to you and your hospital volunteers.



Sue Lynch

I have made a pledge to all of you that in 2012 I will increase the communication with the district chairpersons. They are your connection to the Board of Directors and I want to make sure we are hearing your voices.

I look forward to our Spring Tour in 2012, to hear about all your wonderful events at the local level. Plus, I want to encourage every hospital to apply for the WAVE and HAVE awards. They are given to recognize all the hard work we do for our hospitals and communities. I think we have a lot to celebrate in our state as Partners!

Thanks again for allowing me to serve and I wish everyone a blessed and happy holiday season.

Sue Lynch, President-Elect  
608-792-5131  
Email: kells52@aol.com

## Strategic Planning Committee Plans for 2012

The Strategic Planning Committee met on October 3, 2011 to discuss progress made since meeting in March. Additional issues were also brought forward and discussed. Committee members present included Mark Schaefer, President of Partners of WHA; Susan Stariha, Strategic Planning Committee Chair; Dorothy Revnew, Secretary of Partners of WHA; Ralph Spindler, Treasurer of Partners of WHA; Bonnie Olson, CHE Chair; and Jean Heniff, member.

Progress made since March includes:

- **Convention Planning:** Hotel contracts have been signed for 2012 and 2013. Hotel negotiations are in progress for 2014 and 2015.
  - We had hoped to see convention attendance grow by five percent in 2011 and 2012. Although we did not see that growth in 2011, we hope to see an increase next year. Overall economics plays a very large role in convention attendance.
- **Advocacy:** The group attending Advocacy Day was around 800. We would like to see attendance grow by seven percent in 2012.
- We would like to have all local and district PPE chairs review the job descriptions for the PPE positions. The job descriptions listed are the minimum standards for the PPE position. Those job descriptions can be located in the Leadership Handbook on the Partners website. Communication is key to accurate, timely completion of the PPE reports.
- **Recruitment/Retention:** Goals include meeting with six potential new member organizations over the next year and recruiting two groups. We are presently looking forward to one new group joining the organization.
  - We are looking to the district chairs to identify issues within their district to prevent loss of membership. Local presidents should feel free to contact their district chair, the Partners of WHA President, or another member of the executive board if there are questions or concerns about continued membership in the state organization.
  - Jennifer Frank, WHA liaison, and Mark Schaefer are working toward an opportunity to address the WHA Board in an effort to recruit volunteer organizations from WHA member hospitals as members of Partners of WHA.
- **Leadership Development:** We would like to encourage local organizations to use the Confidential Personal Profile document found on the Partners website, under 'Forms.' This document will give the local organizations an opportunity to inventory the skills and interests of their members. It will also give the locals a chance at improving satisfaction for their members. It's also a great tool to be able to identify potential leaders at the local, district, and state levels. If you are not using a similar tool, please look at the document on the website.

### Mission Statement:

*"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."*

Other Issues Addressed:

- **Completion of reports** has come forward as an issue concerning communication, especially with CHE and PPE reports. A new document will soon be available on the Partners website, in the 'Forms' section that identifies responsibility for completion of each report. Please remember that if you do not have a PPE or CHE, the local president is responsible for completing the PPE and CHE reports.
  - We would like to encourage electronic filing of reports as much as possible. This will eliminate the need for copies. Please remember that even though you file your reports electronically, it is still highly recommended that you retain a paper copy of your completed reports for your records.
  - Please avoid acronyms/abbreviations when completing reports. The abbreviations, especially for facility names, make it very difficult for the state committee chairs to identify the name of the submitting organization.
- **Expenses of convention registration volunteers:** A limited number of complimentary rooms will be available in the future for the convention registration volunteers.

I would like to thank the Strategic Planning Committee members for being such an easy group to work with. We are able to stay focused and on task to address issues that come forward. We also have a good strong plan for the year ahead and I look forward to another year as chairperson.

Susan Stariha Strategic, Planning Committee Chair  
Starsue\_99@yahoo.com



## WHA President's Report

### ***Federal deficit: Medicare, Medicaid cuts still on table; phase II of WHA grassroots campaign underway***

Federal deficit negotiations are centered around the work of the “super committee” as it tries to meet the November 23 deadline of coming up with \$1.5 trillion in savings. As the committee looks for savings, cuts to Medicare and Medicaid are still very much on the table and the Wisconsin Hospital Association has an ongoing, aggressive grassroots campaign fighting back against them.

Some of the proposals cutting Medicare include:

- Reduce bad debt payments to 25% for all eligible providers over three years starting 2013.
- Reduce Indirect Medical Education payments. These are payments to hospitals that train physicians.
- Cuts to small, rural hospitals known as “critical access hospitals.”

Some of the proposal cutting Medicaid include:

- Reduce or outright eliminate provider assessments, like Wisconsin has successfully implemented and which has resulted in hundreds of millions of additional Medicaid dollars.

- Changing the way (and likely reducing the level at which) the federal government pays states for Medicaid.

To fight back, the Wisconsin Hospital Association has had an ongoing grassroots campaign, including being on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC to meet with Wisconsin's Members of Congress. In addition to the DC fly-in, a few other elements of WHA's aggressive grassroots campaign over the past four months have included:

- Launch of several HEAT Action alerts. To date, HEAT advocates have made over 1,800 contacts to Congress via email or phone!
- In-district, high level meetings between hospital leaders and Members of Congress:
  - Rep. Petri at Agnesian Fond du Lac (July 18)
  - Rep. Duffy at St. Joe's Marshfield (July 22)
  - Rep. Kind at Mayo-Eau Claire (July 29)
  - Sen. Johnson at St. Elizabeth's Appleton (Aug. 9)
  - Rep. Ribble at St. Mary's Green Bay (Aug. 12)
- Op-eds, letters to editor placed in every Congressional district:
  - Sandy Anderson letter in Baraboo News Republic, ran 7/17
  - Mike Wallace letter in Fort Daily Union, ran 7/18
  - Joint letter from Brian Kief/Jeff Martin in Marshfield News Herald, ran 7/17
  - Joan Coffman letter in Chippewa Herald, ran 7/17
  - Duane Erwin letter in Wausau Daily Herald, ran 7/17
  - Therese Pandl op-ed in Green Bay Press Gazette, ran 7/18
  - Bill Petasnick letter in Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, ran 7/23
  - Ken Buser letter in Racine Journal Times, ran 7/25
  - Mark Herzog letter in Manitowoc Herald Times, ran 7/28
  - Dean Gruner letter in Appleton Post Crescent, ran 7/29
  - Garith Steiner letter in the Vernon Broadcaster, ran on 9/7
  - Joint opinion editorial from WHA President Steve Brenton and Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative Executive Director Tim Size submitted to newspapers across the state.
  - Sample opinion editorials and letters to editor provided to for hospital boards and CEOs to submit to local newspapers.
- Launch of the WI Hospitals Issue Advocacy Council (WHIAC), an affiliated 501(c) (4), radio ad campaign in targeted



*L to R: Dave Fish, HSHS; Bob Van Meeteren, CEO, Reedsburg Area Medical Center; Rep. Ron Kind; Marian Furlong, CEO, Hudson Hospital*

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### **WHA's President's Report...continued from page 3**

markets across the state. Radio ads intended to educate the public and policymakers about the impact of cuts to Medicare and Medicaid.

- Ongoing communications with Members of Congress.

WHA will continue advocating for our hospitals and against Medicare and Medicaid cuts. You can help in the fight by turning up the HEAT when we ask you to take action. Thank you.

*Steve Brenton, President,  
Wisconsin Hospital Association*



*L to R: Theresa Van Meeteren; Bob Van Meeteren, Reedsburg Area Medical Center; Nick Hill, St. Joseph's Hospital Chippewa Falls; Rep. Sean Duffy; Marian Furlong, Hudson Hospital; Jenny Boese, WHA; Jeremy Levin; Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative; Terry Brenny, Stoughton Hospital; Dave Fish, HSHS*

Questions? Contact WHA's Jenny Boese, VP-External Relations & Member Advocacy, at 608-268-1816 or [jboese@wha.org](mailto:jboese@wha.org).

## **Flu Season Means Flu Shots**

Ahh ... those dog days of summer have come and gone. It's hard to believe flu season is just around the corner! Now is the time to start thinking about how to stay healthy, and fend off the flu. To help prevent any illness, eat healthy foods, get enough sleep, exercise regularly, and wash your hands often. A flu (influenza) shot is recommended for anyone who wants to reduce the risk of flu, but especially for high-risk groups.

### **Who should get the flu vaccine?**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends annual flu vaccinations for everyone age months or older, and especially the groups below.

1. People who are at a higher risk of complications from the flu, including:
  - Adults age 50 and older
  - Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
  - Adults with a chronic condition (such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease)
  - Young children
  - Pregnant women
2. People who live with or care for those at high risk of complications from the flu, including:
  - Caregivers and household contacts of anyone at high risk
  - Household contacts and out-of-home caregivers of children under 6 months old (these children are too young to get the flu shot)
  - Health care workers



### **Who should avoid flu shots?**

Flu shots are safe for almost everyone. However, if you've had a serious reaction to a dose of flu vaccine, or are allergic to eggs, or have a fever the day of your shot, ask your doctor for advice.

### **What's the best time for a flu shot?**

Flu shots need updating every year because the virus strains change frequently. Shipment of the 2011-12 vaccine started in August 2011 and was expected to continue through September and October. It takes up to two weeks to build immunity after a flu shot. But you can benefit from the vaccine even if you don't get it until flu season starts. (December through March).

### **What are the side effects?**

Some people may have a minor reaction, such as soreness at the injection site, mild muscle aches or a slight fever for a couple of days afterward.

These days, taking care of yourself is a necessity of life — not only to stay healthy but also to avoid rising medical bills if at all possible. We make it our mission to provide practical, easy-to-understand information on topics of interest to millions of health-conscious people like you!

*Robert D. Sheeler, MD, Medical Editor, Mayo Clinic Health Letter*

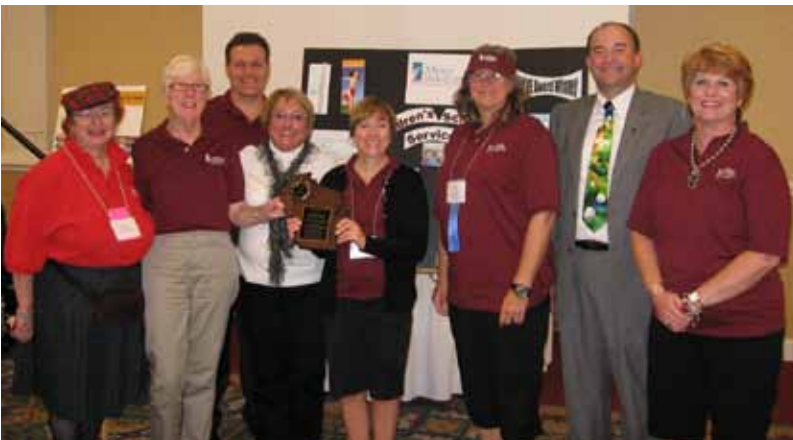


## 2011 Honor Point Award Winners

# *Congratulations!*



# Fun Filled Days at Partners Convention 2011





## Public Policy Education Report

It continues to be an honor to serve the Partners of WHA, Inc. in the position of Public Policy Education Chair for the term of 2011 - 2012. It is exciting to watch, learn, and report on what is going on with government in Wisconsin and the nation as it affects our local hospitals....ever changing and evolving. In addition to state issues, we need to be aware of what is happening in Washington. I receive communications from WHA and AHA that discuss the state and national issues that we all need to continue to monitor. I, along with the district PPE chairs and the local PPE chairs, share the duty to educate all our members on Public Policy. Partners of WHA has extremely well informed district PPE chairs and they share the information in a timely fashion to the locals.



*Diane Westbrook*

We accomplish this by several methods:

- Writing articles for the state, district, and local newsletters.
- Reading and sharing WHA's newsletter, "The Valued Voice."
- Giving oral reports on issues that are or will affect our hospitals.
- Encouraging members to make contact with their respective legislators.
- Motivating and encouraging hospital volunteers and employees to join the grassroots advocacy program, HEAT!

As health care volunteers, we play an important role in advocating on behalf of our hospitals. The role of advocate is an important one. When state or federal policymakers hear from a volunteer or a community member about an issue, they take notice. Advocating effectively is one of the most vital skills volunteers can develop. This is where the HEAT program comes into the picture!

Let this be the day you become a member of HEAT, the grassroots advocacy program that provides members with information, insight, strategy, and assistance needed to bring "heat and light" to legislative issues that impact the hospitals and communities we serve and volunteer in. Members are sent fact sheets and alerts on issues of importance.

In 2010 there were 209 members of HEAT.....to date in 2011, membership is up to 317. Forty volunteers signed up for HEAT during Spring Tour. We really need to expand those numbers! Now is the time to do it! Contact Jenny Boese at WHA, 608-274-1820 or [jboese@wha.org](mailto:jboese@wha.org). Jenny is available to attend one of your meetings, whether local or district, to share the "good news" of HEAT and advocacy as well.

### **Advocacy Day**

Advocacy Day 2011 attendance was 750 (Partners comprised 350 of that number), setting a record for the largest Advocacy Day event in WHA's history. Were you there?

Jim VandeHei, a Wisconsin native and co-founder/executive editor of "Politico" spoke on "A View from Capitol Hill." Governor Scott Walker addressed the crowd during lunch. Eric Borgerding, WHA executive vice president, brought all up to date on legislative issues before the attendees traveled to the Capitol to meet with their respective legislators.

During the legislator visits following Advocacy Day 2011, we asked the legislators to support the 1.3 billion for Medicaid proposed by Gov. Walker in the state budget. This will plug a large portion of the projected Medicaid deficit and help to preserve the Medicaid safety net, especially for those who have no other options.

Save The Date: Advocacy Day April 24, 2012 at Monona Terrace, Madison. Don't forget to wear red, white, and blue! By doing so, it shows our unity as an organization and our support for WHA.

In June, Gov. Walker signed into law the Biennial Budget. It includes: no reduction in hospital Medicaid rates, 1.3 billion in new revenue to the Medicaid budget, and preserved supplemental payments made to hospitals.

### **Partners of WHA, Inc. Annual Convention**

The Partners of WHA convention in Eau Claire was terrific - informative workshops and great speakers. There was excellent feedback on the CEO panel and rightly so. Kudos to Carolyn Ward, convention chair; Pat Freeders, convention co-chair; and the entire convention committee for organizing and producing this outstanding convention!

Thank you to Jennifer Frank, our liaison from WHA, and to Jenny Boese, our WHA legislative liaison, for all they do for the Partners organization. It is deeply appreciated.

A contingent from WHA was in Washington the week of October 4 for the AHA Advocacy Day. They were there to discuss the proposals that seek to eliminate or roll back the critical access hospital (CAH) designation that the President recently proposed. This is for CAH hospitals that are less than 10 miles from the nearest hospital. This will result in job losses and reduced access to health care for our most vulnerable citizens. In Wisconsin, there are 134 hospitals that belong to WHA and of those, 59 are CAHs. They heard the proposals being considered by the Joint Select Committee on

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### **Public Policy Education Report..continued from page 7**

Deficit Reduction ("Super Committee"), including options for cutting funding for hospital services. The Committee is charged with finding 1.5 trillion by November 23, 2011 to reduce the national debt.

Tell the members of Congress: "Protect our small rural hospitals" – no more cuts!

#### **Health Reform 2011**

- Creates a voluntary long-term care insurance program to provide a modest cash benefit helping disabled people stay in their homes.
- Provides Medicare recipients in the prescription coverage gap with 50% discount on brand name drugs; begins phasing in additional drug discounts to close the gap by 2020.
- Provides a 10% Medicare bonus to primary care doctors and general surgeons in underserved areas.
- Freezes payment to Medicare Advantage plans, the first step in reducing payments to the private insurers who serve about ¼ of seniors. The reductions would be phased in over three to seven years.
- Boosts funding for community health centers, which provide care for many low-income and uninsured people.
- Requires employers to report the value of health care benefits on employees' W-2 tax statements.
- Imposed 2.3 billion annual fees on drug makers, increasing over time.
- Would require individual and small group market plans to spend 80% of premium dollars on medical services. Large group plans would have to spend 85% on medical services.

#### **Health Reform 2012**

- Sets up a program to create nonprofit insurance coops that would compete with commercial insurers.
- Initiates Medicare payment reforms by encouraging hospitals and doctors to band together in quality-driven "accountable care organizations" along the lines of the Mayo Clinic. Sets up a pilot program to test more efficient ways of paying hospitals, doctors, nursing homes, and other providers who care for Medicare patients.

#### **Election Year 2012**

The election will include the 57th quadrennial United States Presidential election. Become a better informed voter. Get to know the candidates. Gain knowledge on how they stand on the issues, especially those that will affect our hospitals. Let your voice be heard by casting your vote in the most informed way! Never forget for a moment that every vote counts!

Remember....stay informed on the issues that are or will affect our hospitals and communities. You *can* make a difference!

*Diane Westbrook, PPE Chair*  
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 d-westbrook@sbcglobal.net

## **William Calhoun Receives the Best of the Best**

William Calhoun, President of Mercy Medical Center in Oshkosh since August 2007, was presented the Best of the Best Administrative award for 2011 at the Partners Annual Convention in Eau Claire.

Bill has 20 years of health care administration experience. He is a Wisconsin native earning a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy at UW Madison and a Masters in Business Administration from UW-Milwaukee.

While presenting the award, Pat Freeders, Best of the Best Committee chair, noted that Bill worked closely with both the auxiliary members and volunteers to change their structure. All volunteers are now members of one Partners organization with the state dues paid by the hospital.

She also noted that he has included the volunteers in Peer-to-Peer recognition and in the Assisting Clinical Excellence awards. Bill's commitment to understanding the duties of various volunteer jobs included a stint with the projects group learning to do needlepoint.

While addressing the group, Bill acknowledged his volunteers and the contributions they make to the hospital. He projected that the \$1.5 million impact of the Mercy Medical Center volunteers is representative of volunteers in the 5,000 hospitals in the nation. Volunteers nationwide provide at least \$5 billion of services and donations to benefit their hospitals. He thanked all of the attendees for their dedication to excellent health care in Wisconsin.

*Pat Freeders, Best of the Best Committee Chair*

## **Spring Tour 2012**

Tuesday, April 10	North Central District
Wednesday, April 11	Lake Michigan District
Tuesday, April 17	Northwestern District
Wednesday, April 18	West Central District
Thursday, April 19	Western District
Tuesday, April 24	Advocacy Day, Madison
May 6 – 9	AHA Meetings, Wash., DC
Tuesday, May 15	Lake Winnebago District
Wednesday, May 16	Southern District
Thursday, May 17	Southeastern District



# Community Health Education Report

## ***What Exactly Causes Diabetes?***

Diabetes is a chronic condition in which the body produces too little insulin or can't use the available insulin efficiently. The digestive juices into a simple sugar called glucose, the body's main source of energy, break down the food we eat.

## ***What is Type 1 (Insulin-Dependent) Diabetes?***

Type 1 diabetes was formerly known as "juvenile diabetes," but can appear at any age. Type 1 diabetes is when the pancreas makes little or no insulin because their insulin-producing beta cells have been destroyed. Type 1 diabetes begins with a glitch in the immune system.

## ***What is Type 2 (Non-Insulin-Dependent) Diabetes?***

In type 2 diabetes, the pancreas makes insulin, but the body doesn't respond to it properly. Type 2 diabetes most often occurs in adults after the ages of 30, but may develop in children. Factors that can contribute to insulin resistance and type 2 diabetes are family history, physical inactivity, aging, and obesity. Type 2 diabetes is not an autoimmune disease!

## ***What is Gestational (Pregnancy) Diabetes?***

Gestational diabetes accounts for about three to eight percent of all cases of diabetes. It usually doesn't arise until 20 weeks of pregnancy. Left uncontrolled, it can be dangerous for both mother and baby. The condition occurs when hormones produced by the placenta increase the mother's resistance to insulin.

## ***Take Charge of Your Health!***

With health care systems changing, it's up to you to steer the direction of your care. Stay abreast of new research and developments in diabetes care. Find a physician who will spend time with you and will work with you to keep diabetes under optimal control. Ask your physician to refer you to a diabetes educator.

Keeping records of every test, every result, every dose, and every sign is one of the best ways for you and your physician to assess the success of diabetes control. This allows you to identify patterns of high and low glucose levels, the effects of certain foods, and your body's response to exercise.

## ***Seize the Day***

Don't let diabetes keep you from doing what you should and would like to do. Yes, taking care of diabetes requires time, energy, and lots of focus. Diabetes can give you appreciation of your health and the strong desire to keep it. It may lead you to see how precious every moment of every day is.

Some medical facilities are requiring FLU VACCINE for their employees and volunteers. Influenza is a serious disease. Each year 200,000 people in the U.S. are hospitalized and about 36,000 people die because of the flu. I urge you to protect yourself this year.

*Bonnie R. Olson, CHE Chair*

*715-834-1320 (home), 715-379-6797 (cell)*

*Email: bhatlady@gmail.com*



*Bonnie Olson*

## **WAVE Awards Presented at Convention**

The Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence – WAVE Awards were presented at the Partners of WHA Convention to four outstanding hospitals. They are:

- Indianhead Community Healthcare, Inc., Shell Lake, for their "Grocery Getters" Community Service Program.
- Aurora Lakeland Medical Center Associates, Elkhorn, for "Hospitality Cart" In-service Hospital Volunteer Program.
- The Friends of Vernon Memorial Hospital, Viroqua, for "Chili Cook-off & Pumpkin Carving Contest" Fundraising Program.
- Mercy Medical Center, Oshkosh, for "Children's Screening Services Volunteers" Community Outreach and/or Collaboration Program.

This year the WAVE committee received 27 submissions, a 42% increase from last year. Goes to show that Partners are proud of their programs and want to share their ideas with others. Keep up the good work!

*Sheree Schaefer, 2011 WAVE Chair*

*shereel@charter.net*

## Around the State

### **Aurora West Allis Medical Center, West Allis:**

Today, after 50 years, the name for West Allis Memorial Hospital which opened September 19, 1961 has been changed to Aurora West Allis Medical Center, but the care and dedication of those first volunteers lives on in the volunteers and Auxiliary members of today. On September 15, 2011, the Auxiliary sponsored a Tea Party in order to celebrate their beginnings. The function was attended by one of the very first auxiliaries along with 55 current members.

### **Gunderson Lutheran's Partners and Volunteer Services, La Crosse:**

This group was the recipient of the Upper Mississippi Valley Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professional Outstanding Philanthropic Organization for 2011. The honor recognizes the outstanding achievement in raising funds to support four categories: quality patient care, education, research, and community outreach.

### **Memorial Health Center Volunteers, Medford:**

These volunteers recently celebrated their 50th anniversary in September. Senator Pam Galloway and Representative Mary Williams presented a Citation Plaque to two active charter members, Dodie Hodge and Gail Gruneberg. Billie Brunn, who started within months of the charter, has also remained active.

### **St. Mary's Hospital Auxiliary, Madison:**

Over the years, this auxiliary has increased their knitting projects to include baby booties, blankets, prayer shawls, renal sleeves for dialysis patients, countless mittens and hats for needy Madison school children, cancer caps, and hats for the military. Recently, they have been knitting bereavement gowns for stillborn babies, other babies that do not go home with their parents, and miscarriages. Thankfully, not many of the gowns are needed.

## Partners of WHA Website Tech Update

Please take a moment to check out the Partner's website, [www.partnersofwha.org](http://www.partnersofwha.org). New items have been added or will be posted in the near future. Remember, to find the most up-to-date information regarding our organization, go to the website. This includes officer information, convention information, newsletters, and up-to-date news around the state.

Please email me your convention, district, and local organization's digital pictures to share with others on our photo gallery page of the website. Make sure you give me the information on what the photo is about and who is in the photo for identification purposes.

Thank you to many local and district newsletter editors for including me in your email newsletter mailings. You will see those posted for everyone to read. If you do not have email capability to send your newsletters (they must be in pdf or Word format), please send via the postal service. My correct address is:

**Ann Bergmann, 970 20-3/4 Ave., Cumberland, Wisconsin 54829.**

I assure you I read these and will glean information out of all newsletters to share on the up-to-date news around the state.

### ***Suggested websites for you to view:***

- [www.ahvrp.org](http://www.ahvrp.org)
- [www.nationalwellness.org](http://www.nationalwellness.org)
- [www.volunteertoday.com](http://www.volunteertoday.com)

*Ann Bergmann, Partners of WHA Website Coordinator  
abergmann@centurytel.net*

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap,  
but by the seeds you plant."  
- Robert Louis Stevenson

## Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
February 2012	Sun., January 15, 2012
May 2012	Sun., April 15, 2012
August 2012	Sun., July 15, 2012
November 2012	Mon., October 15, 2012

Partners *Reaching Out* is published four times a year by Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc. Visit the Partners Web site at [www.partnersofwha.org](http://www.partnersofwha.org). Direct questions or comments to:

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