



HEARTLINE

RMC AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER • JUNE 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are moving into warmer weather and life is becoming more like normal to some extent. Let's hope we have gotten through the worst of all of this, and things will continue to improve for us.

The Auxiliary Board was able to meet in the hospital on May 12 with our masks on and social distancing. We will hold another Auxiliary Board meeting at the hospital on Wednesday, June 9. Unfortunately, there will not be a June luncheon as the hospital is still closed for those types of functions. Hopefully, we can have our usual luncheon in September. There will be no elections held this year for the positions of president (Julie Stellmacher) and vice president (Barbara Behlen) positions. These positions will carry over for one more year due to the unusual situation, along with the treasurer (Bobbie Pollesch). The secretary's position (Ann McDonald) was a one-year extension and is vacant for the FY 2022. Thank you to all these people for continuing in these positions. We have also received the resignation of the Public Policy Education Committee chairperson. Please contact me if you are interested in filling either of these positions.

The Wisconsin Hospital Association held their Advocacy Meeting on April 14 virtually attended by Julie Stellmacher. The Lakes District Meeting was also held virtually on April 29 from St. Nicholas Hospital in Sheboygan. It was attended by Bobbie Pollesch, Barbara Behlen and Julie Stellmacher. Eight hospitals were represented with 17 people attending the meeting. It was remarkably interesting to see how the other hospitals were doing during the pandemic. Ripon Medical Center and our Auxiliary were able to have some of our volunteers back sooner than other hospitals and have had some incredibly positive fund raisers. The Spring Flower Sale held at Bloch's surpassed last year's sales by 23 percent Lights of Love sales were 43 percent higher than last year's sales. Candy Bar sales are also doing very well! Great job everyone!

We have a new volunteer coordinator at Ripon Medical Center. His name is Jason Blonigen. He replaces Julia Treichel, who moved on to another career and Betty Walleser who was our interim coordinator. We met Jason at our May 12 board meeting. He will be working between Fond du Lac, Waupun and Ripon hospitals. He will be in Ripon on Wednesdays. He is available by phone at (920) 745-3670 or by e-mail at jason.blonigen@ssmhealth.com.

We awarded three \$1,000 scholarships again this year. Thank you to the scholarship committee for all your work on this endeavor. The following students were awarded the scholarships:

- Cassandra Jennings – Ripon High School
- Gracie Mast – Markesan High School
- Makinna Post – Markesan High School



Sadly, we did lose two of our Ripon Medical Center Auxiliary members. Grace Albright, Joan Nault and Jan Steffen passed away this past year. These ladies served very faithfully on the Auxiliary and as volunteers for many years. Our sympathy goes out to their families.

I hope all is well with everyone and I look forward to seeing many of you soon. Please take care.

Julie Stellmacher, President

WHAT'S NEW AT RIPON MEDICAL CENTER

DeAnn Thurmer, President, Ripon Medical Center and Waupun Memorial Hospital

We have a lot going on at Ripon Medical Center these days - all exciting developments to help us continue our efforts to grow and offer as many services as possible at a local level. I'm proud to share with you but a few of these key advancements.

COVID-19 Vaccination Walk-In Clinics

With warmer temperatures and wonderful spring scenery, schedules are quickly filling with gardening and yard work, safe outdoor activities like walking and biking, and backyard barbecues. In addition to other day-to-day tasks, time can be tight some days and it can be challenging to fit everything that needs to be complete within a given day.

At the same time, it remains increasingly important to help continue to slow the spread of COVID-19 pandemic through vaccinations. That's why the Agnesian HealthCare vaccine clinics in Fond du Lac, Ripon and Waupun are now accepting walk-in visits for individuals over age 18 at their weekday clinics. Individuals 12 to 17 years of age can be vaccinated with Pfizer at Fond du Lac. Walk-ins are accepted from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Clinics are available:

- Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays, Fond du Lac
- Tuesdays, Ripon
- Thursdays, Waupun

The clinics feature the two-dose Moderna vaccine. Participants do not need to be Agnesian HealthCare patients. For those who want to schedule their vaccine appointments ahead of time, they can schedule same-day appointments for the COVID-19 either by calling (920) 926-8400 or at [agnesian.com/vaccine](https://www.agnesian.com/vaccine). The COVID-19 vaccination phone line is available weekdays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Calls after those times will be returned next business day.

Emergency TeleNeurology Coverage

Agnesian HealthCare is now offering emergency teleneurology coverage at Ripon Medical Center, St. Agnes Hospital and Waupun Memorial Hospital, in partnership with SOC Telemed, a national provider of telemedicine technology and solutions to hospitals and other health care organizations.

The partnership enables the hospitals to virtually access time sensitive neurological care expertise whenever and wherever it is needed through the use of SOC video conferencing software and technology.

Teleneurology allows for rapid, real-time neurology consults when most needed - for stroke patients being evaluated for tPA administration, for other adult neurological emergencies, as well as emergencies arising in the hospital requiring an urgent neurologist consultation. Neurologists specialize in disorders of the brain, spine and central nervous system.

Using video conferencing software, providers - mainly in the emergency departments - will have immediate access to a neurologist. Other hospitals that use telemedicine services report that families find comfort in the expertise provided by highly-experienced, board-certified specialists during their time of emergency.

By providing teleneurology consultations to patients in emergency departments, SOC will support and collaborate with our staff by virtually reviewing cases and making recommendations for onsite staff. Together with SOC, Agnesian HealthCare providers and staff are also solving time-sensitive issues and building better care plans for patients.

With a board-certified neurologist available to see stroke patients virtually, eligible patients can receive treatment, such as thrombolytic agents faster. Alteplase IV r-tPA works by dissolving the clot and improving blood flow. If administered within three hours, it may improve the chances of recovering from a stroke.

Foundation Donation

A special thank you to The Foundation for Ripon Medical Center for their donation, which helped make available to our certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs) in surgery anatomical training equipment to practice central line insertion. The equipment has been valuable in offering hands-on training of critical care skills for our staff.

Patient Experience Honors

SSM Health is recognizing many Greater Fond du Lac Ministries departments with first quarter 2021 patient experience awards. Top performer awards are given within each point of care setting to departments and units that perform within the top 25 percent of the Press Ganey database and to clinics that perform in the top 10 percent of the Press Ganey national database.

Ripon Medical Center Medical Imaging received the most improved award for Ripon Medical Center with an increase of 7.7 percent top box.

Suicide Screening

Suicide is a serious public health concern. The death of a loved one by suicide touches all of our community. There are many factors that contribute to suicide. The goal of suicide prevention is to reduce factors that increase risk and increase factors that promote resilience.

Predicting and preventing suicide attempts is crucial. Agnesian HealthCare has been utilizing a screening tool called the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS). This tool was designed to screen not only adults but also youth, ages eight to 17, regardless of their reason for seeking care. This series of yes-and-no questions, using clear, plain language, has been saving lives in 45 countries around the world.

The C-SSRS includes a maximum of six questions to quickly and simply identify whether someone might be at risk and needs help. The actual number of questions used depends on each individual's answers, and there are several versions of the questions geared to specific populations, including friends, neighbors and family members.

Since May, Agnesian HealthCare is now screening patients ages eight and above during hospital visits, including the emergency department and inpatient units, using this tool. It is important to know that asking these questions does not put the idea of suicide in the person's head. Suicide can be difficult to talk about, but not asking does not help us reach those that are often suffering in silence or not sure how to talk about their thoughts themselves.

All patients who screen positive will be further assessed to determine follow-up resources needed including (but not limited to) support groups, outpatient therapy, partial hospitalization programs, psychiatry referrals or inpatient stabilization.

"Behind the Mask"

During Health Care Week in early May, SSM Health released "Behind the Mask," a remarkable documentary produced at SSM Health to honor the COVID-19 experiences of some of our patients, their families, frontline workers and team members. The film takes viewers on an emotional journey as personal stories unfold in the lives of our courageous patients



and their heroic caregivers. We are deeply grateful to them for their generosity in allowing us into their most vulnerable moments. View it at <https://www.youtube.com>.

Produced during a time when the pandemic surge was at its peak, filmmakers give us a unique look behind the scenes at hospitals, homes, assisted living facilities and a PPE supply facility across our system. Although our health ministries were experiencing unprecedented capacity, our fatigued health care team remained present and unwavering in their commitment to our Mission.

We invite you to watch “Behind the Mask” and reflect on the compelling stories of courageous men and women who have carried on the legacy of our founding sisters through these extraordinary times.

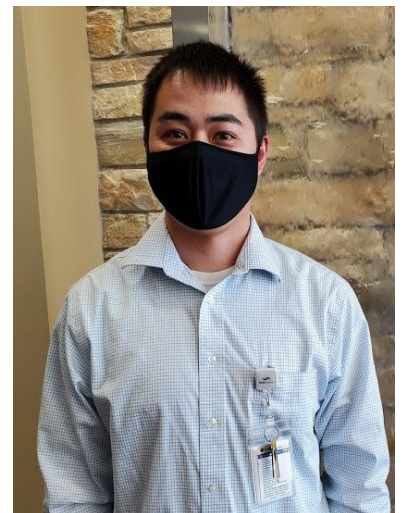
VOLUNTEER NEWS AND NOTES

Hi everyone, for those I haven't had a chance to meet my name is Jason Blonigen. I joined Agnesian Health Care in April as a volunteer services coordinator. I am responsible for volunteers at Ripon Medical Center, St. Agnes Hospital and Waupun Memorial Hospital. Prior to my position here, I served as a supervisor of Best Buy for 15 years and hold a degree in Human Resources Management. I am a lifelong Fond du Lac County resident and grew up in North Fond du Lac and Eldorado. My family is composed of my wife Megan, our one-year-old daughter, Moxie and our dog Cheyenne.

I look forward to meeting the rest of the Auxiliary members soon and am excited to work with everyone. I normally serve volunteers Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please know that even though I travel between three locations I have the support of the Volunteer Services team and Betty will still help in Ripon as her schedule allows. To everyone I have met so far thank you for your kindness, patience and help. Thank you all for everything you do for the Ripon Medical Center and the community!

If anyone has any questions or concerns, feel free to let me know. I can be reached through e-mail Jason.Blonigen@ssmhealth.com or by phone (920) 745-3670.

Jason Blonigen, Volunteer Service Coordinator, Ripon Medical Center



PROGRAMS UPDATE

RMC Auxiliary Meeting/Luncheon

We are still not able to gather in large groups in the hospital, so we are not having a June 2021 meeting/luncheon. We are hoping we can all be together once again in September. We miss seeing you all!

If you have any suggestions about future programs, please contact me at (920) 539-2150 or kanddshady@gmail.com.

Enjoy your summer!

Diane Shady, Chairperson, Programs

TREASURER'S REPORT
FINANCIAL REPORT APRIL 30, 2021

While not able to hold many of our fundraisers between January through April, we did have a very successful Flower Basket Sale, netting \$1,687, which was 23percent higher than last year's profit of \$1,370. We were also able to have our Vande Walles Candy Sale out in the community which is doing well.

The Gift Shop reopened mid-March. April sales exceeded that of April 2019 and 2018. It is good to be back!

We had \$24,658 in cash at the end of April. We have the funds to meet our \$3,000 scholarship commitment in June and for gift shop purchases, leaving a nice cushion to meet any unplanned needs of Ripon Medical Center in the future.

The Board is preparing a FY 2022 budget, making reasonable assumptions based on remaining COVID-19 unknowns. Fund-raising opportunities are starting to come back, so we will plan accordingly.

RMC Auxiliary, Inc. Treasurer's Report
Four Months and 10 Months Ended April 30, 2021

	Jan - Apr Actual	Year to Date Actual	Annual Budget
INCOME			
Fund-raising	\$ 7,143	\$ 15,377	\$ -
Donations	11	61	-
Membership Dues	-	500	-
Gift Shop Sales	4,561	4,810	-
Total Income	\$ 11,715	\$ 20,747	\$ -
EXPENSES			
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 6,023	\$ 6,912	\$ -
Sewing Supplies	-	-	-
Luncheons	-	-	-
State Conventions/District Meetings	-	-	-
Organization Expenses	-	62	-
Gift Shop Expenses	1,673	4,475	-
Total Expenses	\$ 7,696	\$ 11,449	\$ -
Net Income Before Distributions	\$ 4,019	\$ 9,298	\$ -
DISTRIBUTIONS			
Scholarships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Donations for RMC	-	-	-
Staff Appreciation Treats	212	212	-
Total Distributions	211.92	211.92	-
NET INCOME AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 3,807	\$ 9,086	\$ -
CASH BALANCES		\$ 24,658	

Bobbie Pollesch, Treasurer



MEMBERSHIP

Hello volunteers!

I would like to invite you to find new members to be part of our Auxiliary. If they would like to help promote and raise money for our local hospital, we need their help. If you have any questions regarding recruitment of new members, please let me know.

It is also that time of year, that your \$10 dues for 2021-2022 are due. Please make checks payable to RMC Auxiliary and send to:

Donna Schulz
N7297 County Rd FF
Ripon, WI 54971

We are slowly getting back to all of our fund-raising activities. Members are encouraged and appreciated to help in even a small way with various fund-raising events. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these activities when you send in your dues.

Looking forward to raising money for our local hospital!

Donna Schulz, Chairperson, Membership

Check This Out!!!

The RMC Auxiliary has a new landing page on the Agnesian HealthCare web site.

<https://www.agnesian.com/page/rmc-auxiliary>

PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION UPDATE

Information from the Virtual Advocacy Day April 2021 can be found at
https://www.wha.org/2021_Advocacy_Day_Review.pdf

Stay Informed



WHA's Hospitals Education and Advocacy Team (HEAT) is a statewide network designed to facilitate grassroots involvement in health care policy. The HEAT

program provides members with information, strategy and assistance to share their perspectives on legislative issues that impact hospitals and the communities they serve.

Sign up to receive HEAT alerts at www.wha.org/actioncenter.



Vacant, Chairperson Public Policy, Education

COMMUNITY HEALTH EDUCATION

FIVE OF THE WORST INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE U.S.

These diseases are caused by pathogenic organisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites and fungi. Sometimes their spread leads to pandemics that tear through populations, such as the 14th-century bubonic plague, which killed about 50 million people in Europe, or 1918's Spanish Flu, which infected a quarter of the world's population.

While the race to find a vaccine for COVID-19 continues, modern medicine and today's sophisticated healthcare systems go a long way to protect us from many of these organisms. But even so, we're still at risk from the diseases they can cause. Here are some of the deadliest.

1. Tuberculosis

About 10 million people fell ill with tuberculosis (TB) in 2018, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). About 1.5 million died. And even though it's curable and preventable, it's still the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent. And it's in the top 10 causes of death worldwide.

TB is caused by bacteria spread from person to person in the air through coughs or sneezes. It can be treated with antibiotics, but when these drugs aren't used properly or are mismanaged, multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB can occur. Treatment for these strains is long and expensive, and the WHO says multidrug-resistant TB is a public health crisis – in 2016, nearly 500,000 people worldwide developed it.

2. Measles

Measles is a highly contagious, serious disease, caused by a virus and spread through coughs, sneezes and close contact. It can survive for two hours in the air and is so contagious that up to 90 percent of people surrounding an infected person will get the disease if not already immune. A safe and effective vaccine is given to large numbers of the world's children by their first birthday – 86 percent in 2018.

But in developing countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, it's still lethal, killing 140,000 people in 2018. More than 95 percent of these deaths occur in countries with low per capita incomes and poor health infrastructure. And outbreaks are particularly devastating in places that have suffered from conflict or a natural disaster – just 59 percent of Haitian children under the age of one received their routine vaccination a year after the 2010 earthquake, suppressing herd immunity.

3. Malaria

History has shown malaria can be effectively managed. It was prevalent in Western Europe and the U.S. but wiped out by the mid-1930s and 1951 respectively. However, in 2018, there were an estimated 228 million cases across the globe, with 405,000 deaths – most of these (94%) occurred in the WHO's Africa region, with children under five representing the most vulnerable group.

Deaths from malaria, however, have reduced by half since 2000, according to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. But one species of mosquito – the Anopheline – is developing resistance to insecticide, while the parasite the mosquito transmits is also starting to resist key drugs. Vector control (insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying) is a vital frontline defense, but as the mortality reduction rate slows, the onus is now on finding new and innovative ways to eradicate the disease, such as using epidemiological data for planning and analysis.

4. Influenza

Just as winter arrives every year, so does an influx of influenza, known as the flu. And for most people, the result is a few unpleasant days in bed. But for those in high-risk groups – such as pregnant women, the elderly or people with chronic health conditions – it can be fatal.

The WHO estimates three to five million people a year contract severe flu worldwide, and up to 650,000 people die. This can put healthcare systems under immense strain during peak infection periods (health workers are at a

heightened risk of contracting the disease), and there is a knock-on economic effect as schools and workplaces cope with absences of pupils and staff.

5. Diarrhoeal disease

Cholera and dysentery may sound like 19th-century killers but, unfortunately, the reality is very different. Diarrhoeal disease kills around 525,000 children under five every year – in fact, it's the second-leading cause of death in young children after acute respiratory infections.

It's usually caused by an infection of the intestinal tract – bacterial, viral or parasitic – and it's often down to poor hygiene (being passed from person to person) or contaminated food or water – which especially affect the world's poorest regions. The WHO says 780 million individuals across the globe lack access to clean drinking water and 2.5 billion lack decent sanitation.

From 1980 to 2019, between eight and nine people per 1,000 have died each year in the United States. In 2019, the most recent year with official death estimates, 2,854,838 Americans died and 3,747,540 were born. That means that 8.7 people died per 1,000 that year — up from a low of 7.9 deaths per 1,000 people in 2009.

Due to lag time in reporting, official data on 2020 deaths will likely not be released until late 2021 or early 2022. However, preliminary weekly data can provide estimates of how the pandemic affected deaths in the U.S. in 2020. More than 350,000 Americans died of COVID-19 in 2020. According to preliminary weekly data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (as of April 26, 2021), 3,427,321 people died from all causes in 2020.

You can use the site <https://www.nfid.org/infectious-diseases/> for the information on infectious diseases

Barb Benkoski, Chairperson, Community Health Education

FUND-RAISING

The 2021 flower basket sale netted \$1687.30, 23 percent above last year's profit of \$1369.50. Thank you to Radene and all who worked and sold baskets.



Vande Walles candy bars are back in several different locations. Center House, Adams Rib, Thrasher Opera House, Homans to name a few locations. A bargain at \$1 for quality chocolate.

Georgia Stellmacher, Chairperson, Fund-Raising



Radene Abel

The broadest, and maybe the most meaningful definition of volunteering: Doing more than you have to because you want to, in a cause you consider good. ~ Ivan Scheier

GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop Is back in business! We welcome two new scheduled volunteers: Radene Abel and Jeanne Payton.

With gratitude we thank two faithful volunteers, Rae Miller and Jean Zeto, who have given MANY hours volunteering in our shop and have decided it best not to return. Rae Miller: 1435 hours and Jean Zeto: 2728 hours. THANK YOU ladies and we wish you the best. It is with sadness; we wish God's eternal blessing on Janet Steffen who died from cancer. Her positive attitude and ever ready smile are missed.

NEW BEGINNINGS! Mary is no longer lead volunteer for the shop. The gift shop is being managed by a team of volunteers. We expect smooth sailing and a great exchange of ideas that will make RMC Gift Shop 'the best'.

The following list contains the team's members and their primary responsibility.

- Radene Abel: Consignment
- Barb Behlen: Greeting cards and Hughes candy
- Laura Kasuboski: Inventory
- Barb Miller: Weekly shift envelopes and bank deposit
- Pat Phillips: Vande Walles candy bars
- Bobbie Pollesch: Finances
- Mary Schieffer: Buyer
- Donna Shultz: Orientation and cash register updates with volunteer coordinator

Feel free to offer any one of these ladies your suggestions for our Gift Shop. We look forward to seeing, and your friends there soon!

Gift Shop Team

GIFT SHOP LEADERSHIP TEAM



Bobbie Pollesch, Laura Kasuboski, Pat Phillips, Barb Behlen, Mary Schieffer, Radene Able, Donna Schulz
Barb Miller (missing from photo)



Let's Go Shopping!!!

RMC AUXILIARY BOARD MEMBERS

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Barb Ann Behlen, Newsletter

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Time to pay your 2021-22 dues!