

*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

## Reviewing and Planning



*Mark Schaefer*

This edition of "Reaching Out" will take us from a review of the Spring District Meeting Tours to the planning of our Annual Meeting and Convention along with Fall District Meetings.

The Spring Tour officers started in the southern part of our state, with bone chilling cold weather, and the last tour stop was the Northwestern District, in which we enjoyed a sunny, warm day. As the saying goes, you never know what to expect of Wisconsin weather, in particular spring weather. Each of our eight districts showed great enthusiasm for supporting the health care in your communities. And thank you to all the participants in our breakout sessions. Each group of volunteers reviewed questions regarding advocacy for our health systems. The groups were given questions from two different sets. Being an advocate does not always mean going to Washington D.C. or Madison; you can be an advocate with discussions with your friends and community members regarding the great assets your health system provides in your community. I saw the great pride you all have regarding the care your hospital provides the community and we should not be too shy to show others our admiration. Please review the suggestions on pages 5-6 that each district provided with your local organization.

Are you ready for our Partners Annual Meeting and Convention in Eau Claire this year? The committee has done excellent planning for your arrival in October. Please see if you can attend this year—this truly is the summation of all of our efforts to support our hospitals and health systems. Bring someone new to the meeting—sure is easier if a friend joins. Many activities, speakers, meetings, social events, raffles and 50/50 drawings are there for you to choose from, and I also heard the committee is considering a golf putt game. The speakers and breakout sessions are based on volunteer's suggestions at the previous conventions and district meetings. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, I suggest you attend your Fall District Meeting. The time commitment is part of one day and items presented at the Annual Meeting can be reviewed. God Bless!

*Mark D. Schaefer, President*  
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### A Message from the President-Elect

## Eau Claire Bound

Just two months from now we will be arriving in Eau Claire for the 2011 Partners of WHA convention. I hope all of you are planning to attend. The convention committee continues to do an outstanding job preparing for this event. Things are well under way to welcome all of you to a very exciting venue of speakers and workshops! I am excited to hear that so many of you will be attending and sharing with us all your successes from this past year.

I would like to discuss the Honors Points, which every local Partners group has an opportunity to receive. This Award is a recap of the previous year's activities all assembled into one report to your district director and then shared with everyone at our convention. We also report to WHA and AHA everything we compile, to help understand the value of our Partners organization. When I look at the criteria needed to complete this form, I think of a road map to success for each hospital. Every group might be slightly different in their approach to raise money, distribute scholarships, highlight health projects, and contact their legislators, but this Award is meant to acknowledge each organization for all their hard work. Be proud of what you do and I look forward to presenting these awards at our convention.



*Sue Lynch*

*...continued on page 4*

## Web Site News You Can Use!

There will be a new addition to the Partners of WHA web site effective August 1, titled "Partner's News Update – What's Happening Around the State." In this section, you'll find current news tidbits from local Partners. The information shared will come from local newsletters, emails, press releases, etc.

This information can only be shared with our website readers if you provide it. So, please make sure that every local Partners organization sends me their newsletters by mail or email. If the volunteer office mails them out, please have them place my name on their mailing list. Also, as I have changed addresses, make sure that every president/DVS knows of the change of address. I have been receiving newsletters that are using the old address. After October the post office will not forward my mail. **New address: 970 20-3/4 Ave., Cumberland, WI 54829.**

Remember, this mode of communication can only be as good as the information provided. I hope that you will read about a recent successful fundraiser, how one group had a strategic planning retreat, and even ideas for district meetings. Sound interesting? I hope so. See you in October!

*Ann Bergmann, Partners of WHA Web Site Coordinator*

## 2011 WHA Partners Convention: "Driving To Success" October 4-6, 2011; Eau Claire, WI

Convention is just around the corner and with it a chance to reconnect with old friends, share ideas, learn new leadership techniques, improve our existing programs, and renew and energize our commitment to our hospitals and communities. By now you have received your registration booklets. Please take the time to read them thoroughly and encourage your members to attend.

You will read below about Trey Schaub and Nancy Conger, two dynamic speakers who, alone, are worth the price of registration. We have many other great speakers, including a two-hour workshop on gift shops by professional retail consultants Kari Ihle and Cheryl Olson.

### Two Keynote Speakers Scheduled for October Convention



*Trey Schaub*

Many of you will remember Trey Schwab from our 2010 Convention in Green Bay, as part of a group from Gundersen Lutheran in La Crosse when they accepted the WAVE Award for their program, "Organ/Tissue Donation Education Fair." Trey's story and inspiration touched us all and it was a story we wanted to hear more about so he will be one of the keynote speakers.

Since August 2005, Trey has served as the Outreach Coordinator for the UW Hospital Organ Procurement Organization. Prior to this, he was an assistant basketball coach at the collegiate and professional levels for 22 years, most recently coaching with the Marquette University and the Minnesota Timberwolves of the NBA.

Trey was diagnosed with an incurable lung disease in the fall of 2001 and received a successful double lung transplant at UW Hospital in Madison on February 17, 2004. That, in itself, is amazing, but the truly amazing part is how Trey lived his life during and since that time. Trey's inspiring story is one you will want to hear. He will also be conducting a workshop to educate and raise awareness about organ/tissue donation.

Our Endnote Speaker is Nancy Conger. Nancy is a multi-talented woman who is a life coach, speaker, workshop facilitator, author, and instrumentalist. She has been asked to pull our convention together and send our members home on a high note. With a unique blend of charm, wit, energy, and humor, I am sure she will do just that.

"The Truth About Women and Horses," 11 Monologues written and performed by Nancy, has been in great demand in the Twin Cities and surrounding areas. Other topics she has covered are \*Awakening the Creative Spirit \*Beauty and Body in America \*Becoming a Woman of Substance and \*When God Was Fun.

I don't know yet what Nancy has in store for us but I have no doubt it will be entertaining and enlightening.

I look forward to seeing you all in Eau Claire.

*Carolyn Ward, 2011 Convention Chair  
gward001@centurytel.net*



*Nancy Conger*

## WHA President's Report

It may be difficult to appreciate given the cacophony of clanging pots and pans and trumpeting vuvuzelas in the Capitol rotunda, but it has been a terrific six months at the state level for Wisconsin health care, a fact particularly noteworthy given the massive Medicaid budget deficit that faced Governor Walker and Wisconsin lawmakers back in December.

Consider this roster of outcomes:

- Every dime in projected new revenues for the upcoming biennium was plowed into the 2012-13 Medicaid budget.
- The new Medicaid budget seeks to bring spending into equilibrium by re-engineering the program—not by cutting already low provider payment rates, further shifting unpaid costs to Wisconsin employers or tossing thousands of beneficiaries off the Medicaid rolls like so many other states are now doing.
- Base Medicaid payment rates (unrelated to the hospital assessment) for most hospitals will actually increase July 1—the first such non-assessment related increase in years.
- Preserves all the supplemental hospital payments, which are crucial for hospitals that serve large numbers of, or provide specialized care to, Medicaid patients.
- The Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund is about to be paid back the \$200+ million taken several years ago to help paper over a previous budget deficit.
- Wisconsin now has a modern era peer review statute (the Quality Improvement Act) that transcends the walls of individual hospitals and allows proactive patient safety and improvement programs among hospitals and physician groups and within integrated delivery organizations.
- The threat of criminalizing medical errors has been largely removed.
- Privately-insured individuals and families with health savings accounts (HSAs) will now be able to have contributions to those accounts from pre-tax earnings, similar to 48 other states in the nation.
- The restrictions on providers' ability to recover the actual administrative costs of producing medical record copies, slipped into a budget bill two years ago by plaintiff attorneys, was replaced with a fair fee schedule that will be annually adjusted for inflation.

The caveat with all of this good news is “the rest of the story,” specifically the remaining work associated with the Medicaid re-engineering work and anticipated federal Medicaid waiver. It is important that Medicaid remain a safety net program for vulnerable individuals and families and that the state's admirable track record on coverage continue.

### **Federal Debt Ceiling Negotiations – Hospital Medicare/Medicaid Cuts**

At the federal level, however, hospitals are facing some significant and potentially devastating cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. At a minimum, \$100 billion in cuts to hospitals is already on the table and the potential for more is there. These cuts are being debated in conjunction with federal debt ceiling/deficit talks. To combat cuts, WHA has rallied the grassroots troops and HEAT advocates have already sent some 500 emails into Members of Congress telling them “enough is enough. Stop cutting hospital care.” Advocates either called or emailed their Members of Congress at 1-866-887-CARE or by logging onto WHA's online Action Center: <http://www.votervoice.net/wiha/advocacy/?issueid=25656>.

Your active involvement on this and other important hospital issues is the only way to make an impact on state and federal policies that affect hospitals. I encourage you to actively participate in our advocacy efforts so your voice is heard.

*Steve Brenton, President, Wisconsin Hospital Association*

## WAVE Committee Reviewing Award Applications

The committee members are happy to see the number of applications for the Wisconsin Awards for Volunteer Excellence, or WAVE Award. We received a total of 27 applications, up from 19 in 2010. This shows that this award is growing and more and more volunteer organizations are taking pride in their projects for their hospitals and communities. The committee will review the applications and select the winners by early August. The winners will be contacted by the end of August and the awards will be presented at the Partners of WHA Annual Convention in Eau Claire this October.

Good luck to all of you who took the time to submit an application. Even though we can't select all of the great projects for this award, remember that your efforts are a benefit to your hospital, community, and the Partners organization.

Remember to keep in mind the projects you do throughout the year and make sure to apply for the 2012 WAVE Award. Thank you to all our members for all they do for the Partners of WHA.

Each application counts for an Honor Point!

*Sheree Schaefer, 2011 WAVE Chair  
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# Federal Deficit Talks: Medicaid, Medicare Cuts in the Mix; WHA Launches Grassroots Campaign



For weeks Congress has been wrestling over how to address the national debt, with action on the debt ceiling needing to take place by August 2. By the time you read this newsletter, final deliberations may have taken place; but at the time of writing, Congress is still very much discussing potentially drastic cuts to Medicare and Medicaid, prompting the Wisconsin Hospital Association to launch an aggressive grassroots and media campaign.

The grassroots campaign includes engaging WHA's

HEAT grassroots network (see sidebar for details on our action alert), placing letters to the editor in local papers, scheduling face-to-face meetings in-district with members of Congress and hospital CEOs, and launching a radio ad campaign. The significance of activity going on in Washington, D.C. underscores the need for hospital advocates to engage.

Debt ceiling/deficit negotiations have included any number of ways to cut Medicaid and Medicare, including: across-the-board program cuts, arbitrary limits to federal spending levels, eliminating Medicare bad debt payments to hospitals, reductions to rural hospital programs, and others.

With respect to Medicaid cuts, there are several concerning proposals in play. One proposal would change then reduce the rates the federal government pays states for Medicaid. A second proposal would limit or eliminate a state's ability to use provider assessments, like Wisconsin's successful hospital assessment. If this proposal were to move forward in Washington, it could dramatically impact Wisconsin hospitals and our state's safety net program, Medicaid.

## State Budget Signed into Law

Governor Walker signed the 2011-13 Biennial Budget bill, setting into law Wisconsin's spending priorities for the next two years. The Governor first introduced his budget proposal in early March with the Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee making some modifications before voting on the final version that was forwarded to the entire Legislature. While changes were made to the original budget bill, the Legislature left the Governor's budget proposal largely intact.

The final enacted version includes some notable budget details:

- Plowing some \$1.3+ billion in new revenue back into the Medicaid budget.
- No reductions in hospital Medicaid rates.
- The proposal for the Department of Health Services (DHS) to use various, but yet-to-be-specified, changes and reforms to find an estimated \$466 million (all funds) in savings over the biennium in the Medicaid program remained in the final budget. A number of transparency and legislative oversight provisions related to those reforms, supported by WHA, were added by the Legislature.
- While targeted for elimination early in the budget process, all of the state's supplemental payments made to hospitals—amounting to nearly \$35 million annually—were ultimately preserved.
- The fees that health care providers can charge for copies of medical records were increased. This was a WHA-requested provision.
- The fees for newborn screening test cards must now be determined by administrative rule. This was also a WHA-requested provision.

Jenny Boese, Vice President, External Relations & Member Advocacy  
Wisconsin Hospital Association  
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## Take Action NOW ....

Contact your Members of Congress on potential cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. Hundreds of billions of dollars in cuts to these programs are being proposed. Your community and your hospital need you to speak up!

To date, over 525 emails and phone calls have been sent to Congress but this is by far not enough activity! If you have yet to act and no deal has yet been made, call 1-866-887-CARE or log on to to do so:

[www.votervoice.net/groups/wiha/advocacy/?issueid=25656](http://www.votervoice.net/groups/wiha/advocacy/?issueid=25656)

## A Message from the President-Elect... continued from page 1

So, start planning for your trip to Eau Claire. Our convention chair, Carolyn Ward, is thrilled to welcome all of you. The district baskets are being assembled, 50/50 drawing is going to happen, and our raffles will be the best ever. Join us for a spectacular event this year!

Sue Lynch, President-Elect  
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## Breakout Session Results Regarding Advocacy

Thank you for everyone who participated in the 2011 Spring District meeting Drive for Success breakout sessions regarding advocacy. Your willingness to provide ideas to our Partner organizations will help us all become more effective advocates for our hospitals and health systems. As I promised, the information provided will be shared through the Wisconsin volunteer organizations.

Each district meeting broke into groups that provided ideas for several questions.

### Group #1 questions:

#### 1. How do you communicate your hospital issues?

- Email, phone, letters and word of mouth
- Government information officer
- Hospital Advisory Council
- Meeting of volunteers
- Continuous contact with legislators
- Volunteer newsletter
- Encourage volunteers to go to [www.wha.org](http://www.wha.org) or [www.heat.org](http://www.heat.org)
- Use newspaper coverage and local public cable channels
- Bulletin board in volunteer office
- Webcast
- Invite legislators to volunteer meetings
- “Valued Voice” available for volunteers to read
- Print out H.E.A.T. emails and place in volunteer office
- Start with volunteer board
- Meet with CEO/President
- Publications in between newsletters regarding important issues
- Talk with friends
- Issues information provided to department heads
- Advocacy Day
- Encourage new people to get involved
- Develop group email
- “gossip”

#### 2. How do we get volunteers to report advocacy efforts to PPE chair?

- Let volunteers know who the local PPE is and how to contact that person.
- Reminder in newsletters
- Give local PPE chairpersons phone number or email address
- Make note or check mark column on volunteer time-keeping record
- Each monthly meeting we are reminded
- Information provided to PPE chair at each monthly meeting
- PPE chair providing information to local board regarding efforts

- Send cc copy of each email sent to legislators to local PPE chair
- We have no policy on this, will need one
- Stress need for information to complete annual report
- Do not wait until the end of the year to try to remember what advocacy you have done throughout the year.
- Verbal reminders
- One volunteers makes 300 contacts each year. PPE chair calls her.
- Local has a form that is completed with each contact
- Open communication between PPE chair and volunteers
- Impossible. No one calls.
- Each volunteer keeps a paper record of each contact

#### 3. What barriers prevent volunteers from being hospital advocates?

- Lack of knowledge
- Volunteers are concerned about voicing opinions
- Too busy
- Disinterest
- “I am one person, what effect would I have?”
- Shy
- Present political climate
- Privacy considerations
- Hospital strict rules on advocacy
- Commitment phobia
- Do not want to get involved
- Time
- Do not want to be a “complainer”
- Lack of computer and computer knowledge
- No support from hospital
- Intimidation
- Does not understand the political process
- Fear
- Apathy - let someone else do it
- Do not know what to say
- Do not know whom to contact
- Do not agree with hospital standing on issues

...continued on page 6

## Breakout Session Results...continued from page 5

### Group #2 questions:

#### 1. Are your volunteers members of HEAT? How can you encourage more members to join?

- Discuss at each meeting
- Invite Jenny Boese
- Each hospital board member should join
- Through gossip
- Brochures at meetings
- Education on why volunteers should join, benefit to joining
- Hospital administration support
- Articles in Partners newsletters
- Find enthusiastic volunteers to encourage others to join them
- HEAT information available on Partners Web site
- Just heard about it - better communication
- Get list of local HEAT members so we know who is a member
- Each HEAT member invites at least one other volunteer to join
- PPE chair present at general meetings
- How issues effect each of us
- New volunteers given HEAT information in orientation materials
- Never received any information about it
- Sign up at Advocacy Day
- Joining today after hearing about it at district meeting
- HEAT pins to wear

#### 2. What elements are needed for successful advocacy?

- Communication (mention in most discussion groups)
- Working with neighboring hospitals
- Knowing your legislators
- Knowledge of political issues effecting hospitals
- Encourage more health care speakers
- Hospital administration needs to stay in touch with volunteers
- Bombarded by all parts of media. Need to diffuse their myths.
- Attend Advocacy Day
- Political interest
- Statements that provide back up facts
- Follow-up
- Willing to listen
- Read "The Valued Voice"
- Find a means of communication that works for everyone
- Someone in the group that knows what they are talking about

- Clear explanations
- Were to find the most up to date information
- Promote interest with volunteers and community
- Why it is important to be an advocate
- Recruit your own family members
- Arrange an evening event to educate regarding bills before they become laws.
- Cheerleader in local organization
- Find a way to bring out our enthusiasm
- Sharing
- Importance of community hospitals
- Issue topics like fraud in Medicare and Medicaid

#### 3. How does your group contact Legislators?

- Emails, letters, phone calls, in person, social media
- Town meetings
- At Advocacy Day
- H.E.A.T.
- Legislators at our meetings
- Develop personal relationships with legislators even if no issue at present
- How can we get legislators to respond to us?
- Chamber
- Issue breakfasts
- Our PPE chair
- Congressional local meetings
- Find out whom each of our legislators are
- Work with hospital policy

## From the Treasurer

Thanks to our member organizations for paying their dues by the June 30 deadline. We had a 96% compliance rate. This was outstanding considering that we had difficulty locating some of the local presidents' names and addresses and/or getting their local membership numbers, causing delays in sending out the dues invoices.

The dues for belonging to Partners of WHA is one dollar per member in each local organization as reported on the local president's report to the district in January. Twenty cents of each dollar paid in dues is returned to the district for their expenses. Dues must be paid by June 30 to be eligible to receive Honor Points.

Checks were sent out to the districts on July 8 for their share of the dues in addition to the amounts Partners pays for district newsletters, leadership training, and speakers fees.

*Ralph Spindler, Partners Treasurer*  
 ralphspindler@att.net

## Community Health Education Report

Thank you for a wonderful Spring Tour! Each district did an outstanding job with educational speakers and motivators. It was so good to see old friends and meet new volunteers. Thank you for embracing the Community Health Education Diabetes project for this year.



Bonnie Olson

The American Diabetes Association's Web site has a new way to enhance your skills in the kitchen. Authors of ADA cookbooks take you into the kitchen and show you how to prepare some of their recipes, step by step. Please visit: [www.diabetes.org](http://www.diabetes.org), click on Food & Fitness, and then on Recipes.

People with diabetes of all ages should talk to their doctors about their A1C goals. This is a blood glucose test. The "sweet spot," according to a study, is below 8 percent but above the 6 percent mark.

Keep in mind that exercise and eating healthy are important, especially if you are a person with diabetes!

### ***New Food Icon Revealed—How to EAT HEALTHY MEALS CHOOSE MY PLATE!***

On June 2, a new federal government food icon, "MyPlate," was unveiled. The icon, in the shape of a dinner plate, is a reminder to help us make healthier food choices. The dinner plate replaces the MyPyramid diagram as a guide for healthy eating. (See [www.choosemyplate.gov](http://www.choosemyplate.gov).)

Tips for putting together a healthy meal: Fill half your plate with fruits and veggies, keep  $\frac{1}{4}$  of your plate for your meat portion, and the other  $\frac{1}{4}$  whole grains. Don't forget the dairy! Pair your meal with a glass of low-fat milk or yogurt.

**TAKE YOUR TIME: SAVOR YOUR FOOD!** Eat slowly, and enjoy the tastes and textures of your food as you get started with healthier eating habits with "MyPlate."

Clinical trials are research studies that use volunteers to help medical professionals test new treatments for a wide array of diseases and health conditions. For information and how you can volunteer to help with a clinical trial, visit: [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) or [www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/clinicaltrials.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/clinicaltrials.html).

May you be blessed with good health this summer!

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## Public Policy Education Report

Attendance at Advocacy Day 2011 was 750, setting a record for the largest Advocacy Event in WHA's history. The keynote speaker was Jim VandeHei, co-founder and executive editor of *Politico*, who gave us "A View from Capitol Hill." Governor Scott Walker addressed the crowd during lunch. Eric Borgerding, executive vice president of WHA, brought all up to date on the legislative issues before attendees traveled to the Capitol to meet with their respective legislators. It was wonderful to see you all dressed in red, white, and blue! If you have not attended Advocacy Day, I encourage you to do so next year! It is a free event sponsored by WHA. Registration information will be available for the 2012 event early next year from WHA.



Diane Westbrook

Thank you to all the hosts of the 2011 Spring Tour District Meetings! The meetings were filled with great programs and speakers, wonderful food and an atmosphere of fun and camaraderie. I do believe, however, that someone forgot to tell whoever is in charge of the weather that it was spring and not a continuation of winter! The focus was on advocacy and the HEAT program was presented during the Spring Tour and attendees were encouraged to join. Forty new members signed on! Partner members of HEAT now total 357 out of the 1,750 total members. I believe we can do better than that! Join me in encouraging more volunteers to join. It can be done so easily—just go to [www.wha.org](http://www.wha.org). There you will find all the information needed to sign on. Members of HEAT receive timely alerts to remind them to contact their legislators on an important "call to action." Jenny Boese is available to come to your local Partner meetings, District meetings, and hospitals to share the HEAT program. You can email Jenny at [www.jboese@wha.org](mailto:www.jboese@wha.org).

While on the tour, someone asked me to define what a rural hospital is. (I contacted Jenny Boese at WHA to make sure I had the correct information!) Rural hospitals have fewer than 25 beds and are critical access hospitals (CAHs). There are 59 in Wisconsin and they are all members of WHA. We have 134 Hospitals in Wisconsin. Basically every hospital in Wisconsin is a WHA member. Jenny shares that "when we (WHA) say we speak for the hospitals in the state, we mean it!"

In Wisconsin, recall primaries were held in

...continued on page 8



## Around the State

### St. Mary's Hospital of Superior Auxiliary, Superior:

The Lap Blanket Project is only a little over two years in the making and they already have over 2,000 fleece lap blankets made and distributed to the swingbed/in-patient facility. The purpose of the project is that each patient admitted receive a blanket, which is theirs to take home. Volunteers can join the Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon group or work from home.

### Oconomowoc Memorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Services, Oconomowoc:

The "Bearheart" Program, which creates handmade bears for their Regional Cancer Center and Center for Breast Care patients meets monthly to put the final touches on each bear, was begun in June 2002. Now, an additional "Bear Hug" bear is made for young children in the Day Surgical Department, ICU Department, and Emergency Department. These bears are designed with different colors, patterns, textures, and shapes with donated material. A handmade heart, eyes, and nose complete each bear.

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

Just behind Gundersen Lutheran Hospital, volunteers are working on making raised beds, creating pathways, weeding, and planting in the Southside Community Garden. This is a 70 by 140 foot plot of land dedicated to feeding people in need, and providing a place for community members and students to come together and learn. It is currently run through a partnership between YES AmeriCorps, Hamilton Elementary, Gundersen Lutheran, and the City of La Crosse. In 2010, about 3,350 pounds of food were produced and went straight to the community!

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

July and the general elections will be held August 9 and 16. Recall primaries were held in Districts 2, 8, 10, 14, 18, and 32. If you reside in one of these districts, get to know the candidates. Find out where they stand on the issues that are important to our health care facilities and to you, as well. You have the opportunity to choose—the opportunity to exercise your right to vote!

July 8, Governor Scott Walker signed ACT 35 into law which permits individuals to carry and conceal a weapon if the individual undergoes training and receives a license to do so. ACT 35 becomes law on November 1, 2011.

At the federal level, Congress has been tackling the federal debt ceiling/deficit negotiations. They are wrestling with how to best address the national debt. Multiple proposals are being discussed by Congress; among these would be significant cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. Medicare and Medicaid are 21% of the national budget. By the time this issue reaches you the deadline of August 2 may have passed. We can only hope that our messages to our legislators to preserve Medicare and Medicaid have been answered positively.

The Partners of WHA Convention will be held in Eau Claire at the Plaza Suites. The dates for the convention are October 4 - 6. There will be a CEO Panel on Wednesday, October 5 which will include Joan Coffman, president and CEO of St. Josephs Hospital in Chippewa Falls; Dave Dobosenski, CEO of SCMC in St. Croix Falls; David Miller, president of River Falls Area Hospital; and Erik Severson, MD, 28th District Representative. Eric Borgerding, WHA's executive vice president of government relations, will be the facilitator.

A Legislative workshop session will be presented by Jenny Boese of WHA during the Convention.

Diane Westbrook, PPE Chair  
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*"When you are good to others, you are best to yourself."*  
- Benjamin Franklin

## Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
November 2011	Sat., October 15, 2011
February 2012	Sun., January 15, 2012
May 2012	Sun., April 15, 2012
August 2012	Sun., July 15, 2012
November 2012	Mon., October 15, 2012

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