

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

Happy August!



Peg Larson

As I write this in mid-July, I am preparing for AirVenture in Oshkosh, the first very large gathering that I will attend in two years. Ascension Mercy is starting to return volunteers to some positions. My husband and I are evaluating our life in the “beforetimes” and considering which activities deserve our time. We both agree that our community’s health is number one on our priority list, so I will be

returning to my Mercy volunteer slots as soon as possible.

One of the things we learned is how much we enjoy being with groups in person to network and learn. Terri Donlin and the 2021 Convention Committee are working very hard to present important and valuable information for you October 5-7 at the Madison West Marriott. We hope you will all be able to attend. Due to the generosity of our sponsors, the registration fee will be \$150 as it has been since 2012.

Another thing that we learned is that connecting with others virtually is also valuable. Jan Molaska and volunteer leaders from Minnesota, Iowa, and North Dakota have been building a regional networking group for a few years. Her column talks about the conference that the group has put together. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity, as well.

The Partners of WHA Board has continued to connect and work to advance the work of healthcare volunteers. During the pause, organizations have considered all of their activities and will select the ones that add the most value. We hope that Partners of WHA brings the networking and sharing of information that helps you advance the health of your community. As groups return to service, we look forward to hearing how you have adapted your usual activities.

Let us all move forward thoughtfully continuing the good work for the health of our communities. Join us in Madison to connect in person again and learn together!

Peg Larson

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A Message from the President-Elect

Robust Return to Normalcy...

Ahhhhhh, summertime, the season for enjoying outdoor activities, vacations, travels, and get-togethers.... liveliness’s we saw so little of in the summer of 2020. Oh, but wait, haven’t you personally begun to



Sharon Scott

sense and see the renewed robustness of returning to normal activities??? What a beautiful summer we are having, and I so hope you are experiencing activities that are your special “happy place.” Fire up the grills and enjoy the lazy days of summer.

Spring Tour 2021 was an awesome collaboration of our virtual platform allowing us to meet with all seven districts and join so many of our treasured fellow volunteers from the comfort of our homes!! Speaking on behalf of the “traveling team,” Peg Larson, State Partners President; Sue Schuelke, State CHE Chair; Bill McCullough, State PPE Chair; and myself were honored to share in your district meetings, highlight new state Partners initiatives, and hear of the many creative ways volunteers maintained “normalcy” and activities during 2020. Dedication, commitment, and resourcefulness were the constants heard from around the state. “Never out, just down for a while”—the spirit of volunteering resonated with a very loud voice.

My messaging during the Spring Tour focused on the newly adapted Honor Point scoring approved during the Spring Partners State Board of Directors meeting. Highlights

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from the presentation are the following:

- Honor Points are reinstated for calendar year 2021. Distribution during Spring Tour 2022.
- The minimum 40 points requirement remains unchanged. Dues being suspended for 2021 will NOT penalize organization's ability to receive Honor Point recognition.
- Two new categories have been added with point values of 2 points each. NEW: 2 points for at least one general membership meeting and 2 points for a member serving in a leadership role at the district or state level. Must be serving in the position during the calendar year of tallying Honor Points. To include past presidents, all state boards of directors, and district level positions. This is a correction from the spring meetings, I incorrectly stated only elected leadership roles were eligible for the 2 points. **PLEASE NOTE THE CORRECTED POSITION INCLUSIONS.**
- Additional bonus point (1) will be given for the minimum of three newsletters. Raises point value to 4.
- The new form may be found on the Partners Website, PartnersofWHA.org under the "forms" tab.

Congratulations to the newly installed district chairs: Lois Kreeger (Lakes); Lyn Krohn (North Central); Beth Burnham and Beverly Lazar, Co-Chairs, (Northwestern); Jane Henderson (Southeastern); Barbara Lauersdorf (Southern); Betty Oddo (West Central); and Donna Nelson (Western). I look forward to working with this group of leaders and know they will serve their districts well.

I believe, at this writing, many are beginning to return to their volunteer duties. Although we must all adhere to the new protocols, returning gives us that positive indication of a "robust return to normalcy!!!" We were deeply missed, and I am sure you have received the warmest of "WELCOME BACK... WE SO MISSED YOUR SMILING FACES, DEDICATION, AND FRIENDSHIPS"—in-person interaction is so good for the soul, mental health, and our "natural" volunteer personalities.

In closing, I am so looking forward to our in-person convention, October 5-7 at the Madison West Marriot. A wonderful convention is being planned and I so hope to see many of you attending.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Sharon Scott
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Plans for October 5-7 State Convention Take Place

As convention chair, I would like to personally extend an invitation to all of you to assemble for our Partners of WHA Convention, October 5-7 in Middleton at the Madison Marriott West Hotel and Convention Center. Hosting this year's convention is the Southern District volunteers who are working diligently to make this convention a wealth of wonderful opportunities and experiences for you—"Together We Will Build a Better Future!" It will be an honor to have you join us, and after missing everyone in 2020, we are looking forward to spending this year with you in person.

A wide array of workshop topics are available Tuesday and Wednesday; Keynote Speaker Lisa Hare and Closing Speaker Darcy Luoma will bring winning presentations; a "polished" and engaging CEO panel has been selected; and of course, opportunities to browse and visit the hospital displays, vendors, silent auction items, and participate in the various raffles will further enhance your convention time.

The plan is to deliver the raffle tickets to leaders across the state in August. Once received, do not forget to sell them, and retain them to deliver to the raffle convention chair at the Convention. Please do not mail through the U.S. Postal Service. Again, bring ticket stubs, unsold tickets, and money to the raffle chair during Convention.

Additionally, the agenda includes Tuesday evening's naming of the "exquisite" W.A.V.E. recipient, Wednesday's lunch will include an incredibly special surprise, and Wednesday's dinner will be a celebration of past and present. As for attire—be comfortable, and remember, we will be building together!

Registration brochures were emailed in mid-July. Reminder: All registrations must be received no later than Friday, September 10 and the deadline for hotel reservations is September 13. The Partners website, www.partnersofwha.org will also have available the registration brochure, registration form, and hotel reservation information.

I am looking forward to seeing each of you in October during our themed convention, "Together We Build a Better Future."

Terri Donlin, 2021 Convention Chair
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Convention on the Horizon



Leigh Ann Larson

Summer greetings to all of you! In recent weeks, WHA has welcomed back its employees to 5510 Research Park Drive in Madison. It is good to see and collaborate with colleagues once again. The virtual world was fine, but nothing can replace in-person working relationships. My cats wish I were still at home, but I for one am thrilled to be back at my desk! (For those of you who met them over Teams during meetings – Spencer and Lilly say hi!)

It is evident, by the number of BOB (Best of the Best) and WAVE (Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence) applications that came in, that hard work and quality programming are alive and well in Wisconsin hospitals. The respective committees are busy reviewing and evaluating the application documents and soon the data will be compiled. This is all a sure sign that the Partners of WHA annual convention is around the corner. For many of us, this will be the first time in over a year that we have physically gathered in one place. I look forward to seeing and talking with all of you.

Take care and be safe!

Leigh Ann S. Larson; Email: llarson@wha.org

WHA Vice President of Education and Marketing, Executive Director of the WHA Foundation, Partners of WHA Liaison

The Power of Connections



“We are all in this together.” It seems this has been the negative battle cry during the whole COVID-19 pandemic. However, this adage can also be a positive message and can apply to hospital volunteer organizations across the nation.

A few years ago, I had the opportunity to attend the American Hospital Association (AHA) meeting in Washington, D.C. Volunteer leaders from several states were also in attendance. While networking with these individuals, it became very clear that hospital volunteer organizations, (be they large or small, auxiliaries or volunteers, urban or rural) were facing many of the same concerns and challenges. These discussions led to Wisconsin, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa forming a regional networking group. Unfortunately, COVID-19 intervened before we were able to get the group up and running.

In April 2021, representatives from the four states met via a conference call and talked about goals and objectives. Committee members agreed that connecting with others, sharing information, and establishing a mutually beneficial relationship would be of value to members in all states. The business definition of “networking” is “A group formed with a commitment for the mutual benefit of each member in the group.” This is the purpose of the regional networking group.

Since the initial call in April, the committee has met numerous times and is in the process of developing a regional VIRTUAL conference. The conference, “The Power of Connection,” will be held September 20-21, 2021. The committee is working diligently to bring you an outstanding program of high-quality speakers and diverse topics that are timely, relevant, and educational.

Information and registration materials were sent out in mid-July, prior to the publication of this newsletter. We are including this article in *Reaching Out* so that everyone can be aware of this excellent opportunity. The cost to participate is minimal. As an added incentive, the first 10 interested people who pay the full registration fee for the 2021 Partners of WHA Convention will receive a paid registration to the regional virtual convention. Such a DEAL—2 for the price of 1!!!!

If, after reading this article, you have not received information about “The Power of Connection,” please contact Peg Larson, Partners of WHA president, or Jan Molaska, past president of Partners of WHA. Information on this conference can also be found on the [Partners website](#).

Hopefully, many of you will take this opportunity to reawaken your passion for volunteering. Creating connections is what it is all about.

With gratitude!

Jan Molaska, Past President, Partners of WHA; Email: jmolaska@gmail.com, 715-581-9304

Public Policy Education Report



Bill McCullough

Without question, there has been a lot to be said about the costs and availability of prescription drugs important for the aging population, especially those dependent upon health care services provided by Medicare.

The intention of the 340B program established in 1992 put forth a requirement that drug companies extend discounts of from 20-50% to hospitals and clinics serving low-income Medicare patients. An October 2020 WHA newsletter reviewed actions taken by Health & Human Services to push back on drug manufacturers' intention to no longer honor their obligation to pass on discounts provided under the Program. A TOWNHALL article of February 27, 2021, noted a recent review by the Government Accountability Office found over half of 340B drug manufacturers offered no discounts to their contract pharmacies. The article further stated, "preventing such blatant abuse of this health care safety net shouldn't be a partisan issue."

A key shortcoming of the 340B Program is that Health & Human Services has no negotiating position with drug manufactures under the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

In mid-2019, both Senate Bill 2543 and House Bill H.R. 3 sought action to lower drug costs, and H.R.3 specifically to establish Negotiation of Medicare drug prices. Neither passed approval by their respective counterpart!

The March 2021 American Hospital Association Fact Sheet acknowledges the success from AHA's recent law suit Senate Bill 773, to strengthen Health Resources and Services Administration's oversight of 340B drug pricing. March 23, 2021, the Subcommittee Hearing on Pharma Greed, chaired by Senator Bernie Sanders, introduced legislation to control the rising costs of prescription drugs. Three bills are a part to include: The Prescription Drug Relief Act, with the intent to peg the price of prescription drugs in the U.S. to the median price in Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan; The Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act, directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate lower prices to prescription drugs under Medicare Part D; and The Affordable and Safe Prescription Drug Importation Act, to allow patients, pharmacists, and wholesalers to import safe, affordable medicine from Canada and other major countries.

Representative Lloyd Doggett (D-Texas), stated, "I am pleased to join Senator Sanders in his ongoing crusade against prescription price gouging by sponsoring the House companion to the Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Act, previously introduced by the late Elijah Cummings." The current Bill unequivocally repeals the prohibition for Medicare to negotiate pricing with big pharma.

Under the Prescription Drug Relief Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services can ensure that Americans do not pay more for prescription drugs that the median price of the following countries of Canada, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. If pharmaceutical manufacturers refuse to lower drugs prices to the median price of these five countries, the federal government would be required to approve cheaper generic versions of those drugs, regardless of any patents or market exclusivities that are in place.

Through WHA, our connection to advocacy for health care legislation, we encourage you to review and respond to timely Action Alerts received from HEAT. More to come on this subject, for sure!

Bill McCullough, PPE Chair

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Best of the Best Applications in the Making

Submissions for Best of the Best award were due June 4. Leigh Ann Larson has reviewed the submissions and forwarded them to the Best of the Best Committee. The Committee members will review these submissions and send results back to Leigh Ann who will then forward to me by the end of July.

We are off and running with this award. The results will be announced at the WHA Convention in October. Good luck to the candidates.

See everyone in October.

Beverly Lazar, 2021 Best of the Best Committee Chair

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Community Health Education Report



Sue Schuelke

A nutritious diet is one of the best ways we can keep our immune system functioning well, helping to protect our bodies from bacterial and viral infections. Summertime is the perfect time to add and enjoy immune-boosting foods to your diet. For those of you who enjoy gardening fruits and vegetables, this has been a great growing season with an early harvest. Strawberries, raspberries, leafy greens, peppers, carrots, and broccoli are some of the more popular and nutritious foods grown in Wisconsin home gardens. If you are not a gardener, shopping at your local farmers' market is a great alternative for accessing fresh produce.

In July, the first in a quarterly series of Infectious Disease articles was published on the Partners of WHA website under the Health Education tab. The articles focus on E. Coli and Lyme Disease, both more prevalent during the summer months. The next series of infectious disease articles will be published in Fall 2021. Topics under consideration include respiratory and skin diseases.

COVID-19 Update: I was hoping by this time of year, there would be much less reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, we continue to deal with variants, the Delta variant being the most infectious, transmissible, and prevalent. The highest number of cases seen are in areas of unvaccinated populations both nationwide and globally.

If you have not yet been vaccinated for COVID-19, please consider doing so. You protect yourself, your family, and the community. We don't want to see another surge in COVID-19 cases and have to revert back to the mitigation strategies that were in place for so long!

I hope to see many of you at the upcoming State Convention in October. In the meantime, enjoy the summer months and stay well!

Sue Schuelke, CHE Chair
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Strategic Planning Committee Update

Members of the Strategic Planning Committee have been working on 2021/2022 goals.

Goal #1: Update and keep a current list for receipt of *Reaching Out*

Patricia Franks has done a great job updating the contact information on the Partners website and will provide the lists to Shannon Nelson at WHA prior to the publication of *Reaching Out*. People who have left office or moved out of local leadership will no longer receive it, and the new people in office will get it, making it more accurate and cost effective. More individuals will get it by email (free).

Goal #2: Virtual table at Advocacy Day (completed)

Peg Larson worked with Patricia who created a video for our tile on the LeaderPass platform. Thank you to Leigh Ann Larson for her work and education on use of LeaderPass. We certainly had a great opportunity to put Partners out there to the health care community. Unfortunately, LeaderPass has no capability of tracking the number of "hits" that the video received.

Goal #3: Further develop and implement the leadership Tool Kit

- As part of goal #3, a Volunteer Interest Form has been created by Sue Schuelke and Judy Jaggard. The form will be posted on the Partners website. The plan is to have copies available at local/district/state meetings, as well as include a copy in new volunteer orientations packets on the local level. Completed forms would go to local/district/state leaders, who will then submit copies of completed forms to Sue or Judy by February 1, 2022, to evaluate the measure of success in use of this form. The volunteer interest form and process will be reviewed by the Strategic Planning Committee in 2022 and revised as needed.
- At all Spring District meetings, Bill McCullough defined leadership qualities and defined mentor responsibilities. The current list of mentors was reviewed, contacted, and confirmed to serve in a collaborate effort to assist new district leadership in the duties and responsibilities of their position. The mentor will act as a support system to develop a sense of trust and safety through confidential communication. This relationship can be started by volunteer partners of the same or another district, enhancing and sharing leadership resources.

As you can see, our team has made much progress these past few months to better enhance communication and develop leadership abilities.

Sherry Jelic, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee
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Around the State

Volunteers of Howard Young Medical Center, Woodruff:

Ascension and Aspirus Health signed an agreement to transfer ownership of Howard Young Medical Center, as well as other north and central Wisconsin hospitals and clinics to Aspirus. With those requirements met and necessary approvals obtained, the transfer was effective August 1, 2021.

Ripon Medical Center Auxiliary, Ripon:

During Health Care Week in early May 2021, SSM Health released "Behind the Mask," a remarkable documentary produced at SSM Health to honor the COVID-19 experiences of some of their patients, their families, frontline workers, and team members. The film takes viewers on an emotional journey as personal stories unfold in the lives of their courageous patients and their heroic caregivers. Filmmakers gave a unique look behind the scenes at hospitals, homes, assisted living facilities, and a PPE supply facility across their system.

Friends of Vernon Memorial Healthcare, Viroqua:

Volunteers have taken on a new project of sewing coordinating bibs and burp cloths for the newborn gift baskets in their Obstetrics Department. Fabric is provided in the Volunteer Department.

Kay Lyndahl, Editor

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(Please put me on your newsletter list or email!)

WAVE Award Report Update

Thanks so much for all the 2021 WAVE AWARD Applications submitted in the five categories:

- 2—Community Service
- 5—In-Service
- 2—Fundraising
- 4—Community Outreach and/or Collaboration
- 0—Public Policy and Advocacy

WHA's Partners Liaison Leign Ann Larson sent the WAVE Committee members the list of all submissions by hospital, city, and category to score. The scoring sheets were returned to Leign Ann by July 26, 2021. The WAVE Committee will be meeting on August 3 to discuss the scores and decide the winners in each category.

Thank you to Sandy Gobler – West Central Region, Linda Nandory – Western Region, and Diane Schmidt – Southern Region, for all your hard work on this WAVE Committee.

Leign Ann, thank you so much for the help you have given us. We sure do appreciate it.

Jeanne Tatro, WAVE Chair

*People are prisoners of their phones.
That's why they are called cell phones!*

Reaching Out Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
November 2021	Tues., Oct. 14, 2021
February 2022	Sat. Jan. 15, 2022
May 2022	Tues., April 12, 2022
August 2022	Fri., July 15, 2022

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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