

*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.*

## Convention Chair Gives Wrap-Up

The Partners of WHA emerged victorious with an expanded playbook! Over 300 volunteers and volunteer services staff members converged on the Hyatt and KI Center in Green Bay to learn and network. An additional 35 guests joined us as coaches (speakers) and fans.

Keynote speaker Ken Culp told us the current status of volunteering in America. As the person in charge of training volunteers for the 4H programs in Kentucky and a researcher in volunteerism, he is uniquely positioned to report on trends. The good news is, the younger members of our population are being trained to volunteer through service requirements. The many workshop speakers provided new skills and knowledge we can use to provide better service to those we serve. Congressman Reid Ribble sent us off with an inspiring message of his father's volunteer efforts and his own work to change how Congress evaluates the economics of research programs.

Wednesday morning, the business meeting included passing the proposed by-law change to align the terms for district officers more closely to the terms for the state officers. Revised by-laws will be posted on the website shortly for downloading to update your Leadership Handbook. The Strategic Planning Committee has completed the revision of the Leadership Handbook, and each local organization should get a paper copy from the district chair. We are indebted to Pat Freeders and Mary Licht for the revision, and the HSHS hospitals—St. Vincent, St. Mary's, and St. Nicholas—for printing the new copies of the Handbook. The budget was passed with a \$.25 dues increase per member, the first increase in many years, to help the organization provide better services to the membership.

We bade farewell to a great officer team, President Sue Lynch, Secretary Dorothy Revnew, and Treasurer Ralph Spindler, and welcomed President Bonnie Olson, President-Elect Mary Licht, Secretary Jan Molaska, and Treasurer Peg Larson. Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch popped in to emphasize the importance of volunteers and install the officers.

Once again, the CEO panel did an excellent job letting us know about the current issues that affect health care. Eric Borgerding from WHA moderated, and Joan Coffman of St. Joseph's in Chippewa Falls, Lisa Just of Aurora Memorial – Burlington and Elkhorn, Dee Ann Thurmer of Waupun Memorial, and WHA board chair-elect Michael Wallace of Fort HealthCare did a great job answering questions from the audience.

Trophies were given! Tuesday night, four great programs received WAVE (Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence) Awards – see page 8 for results. Jan Molaska, chair, complimented all of the submissions for the great work being done throughout the state. Wednesday at lunch, one administrator, Joan Coffman from St. Joseph's in Chippewa Falls, was

presented with the Best of the Best Award, recognizing her support of volunteers in that organization. Sherry Jelic, chair, also commented how difficult it was to select only one administrator from the nominees.

The 2014 Convention allowed volunteers and volunteer services professionals to network, recharge batteries, learn new skills, and enhance their knowledge of health issues. Thank you to all of those who made it possible for us to "Expand Our Playbooks." Pat Freeders and her committee invite everyone to "Join Us in the Winner's Circle" in Madison at the Marriott West October 6-8, 2015.

### Convention Committee

The following individuals and organizations have contributed time, talent, and treasure to make this convention possible. Please thank them. ...continued on page 3



Convention Chair Peg Larson

## A Message from the Partners of WHA President

### Saying Goodbye



Sue Lynch

From the music of *Dirty Dancing* - I had the time of my life - serving as your President for the past two years. I really enjoyed my role and most important, enjoyed working with all of you.

I just returned from Green Bay after attending our annual convention. What a great event! Peg Larson and her convention committee did an outstanding job making this convention

a success. So many of you came up to me and said thanks for the good speakers, wonderful workshops, a beautiful venue to host this event, and having plenty of space for our hospital displays and silent auction to be held. Plus, they loved the "extra time" to just sit and visit with fellow volunteers from around the state and talk about their fundraising and health initiatives in their individual hospitals.

Honor points were given to hospitals for their successes over the past year; we gave out the WAVE awards at our dinner Tuesday evening, and we recognized the Best of the Best CEO at our luncheon Wednesday. We were honored too to have Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch join us Wednesday evening for dinner and saying thank you for supporting our Wisconsin hospitals and providing such a valuable service to the health care of our patients.

I hoped you enjoyed our opening speaker, Ken Culp. I felt the information he provided us to help grow and sustain our organization was extremely helpful and worth the monies spent to have him be our presenter. I also enjoyed Congressman Reid Ribble's message about advocacy. With advocacy in our mission statement, his words saying, "we the people" can have great influence on policy confirms, the Wisconsin Hospital Association needs us to be their voice at the local level.

Now I say goodbye. I would like to again thank the Partners of WHA Board of Directors and the Wisconsin Hospital Association for their support these past two years as part of my T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Accomplishments our Mission) and I wish the incoming officers much success over the next two years.

May God continue to bless all of you! And may God Bless America!

Sue Lynch, President  
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Email: kells52@aol.com

## A Message from the President-Elect

### Leadership Rocks

I loved the leadership theme of the convention! The speakers were outstanding. Thank you to the chairman, Peg Larson, who made the convention run so smoothly. The Committee did an awesome job. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. The final total for honor point winners was 56.

#### Year in review:

I presented an orientation for district chairs and district chair-elects at the spring Board meeting in February. The By-Laws Committee initiated a by-law change to allow more flexibility in the district chair position if a successor was not elected. This by-law was adopted at the convention. Thank you to Jennifer Frank, Partners liaison, for her expertise in planning the board meeting.

Spring Tour is my favorite job as president-elect. We look for the future leaders of Partners of WHA. We have fellowship, food, and fun!

Thank you to Jenny Boese for Advocacy Day in Madison. Volunteers showcase their support by the sea of red, white, and blue colors.

SAL-AHA meeting in Washington, DC in May is always so interesting and worthwhile. How else do we make our voices heard?

I am incredibly honored and humbled to have the privilege of serving Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association as president in 2015 and 2016. I want to thank you for your vote of confidence. For the past eight years, I have valued the generosity of the great dedicated hospital VOLUNTEERS in the state of Wisconsin. I look forward to working with each and every one of you.

Partner volunteers that have been selected to serve in my term of office are:

- Sherry Jelic, Southern District, Community Health Education chair. The focus will be "TAKE A DEEP BREATH," which will include pulmonary disease, COPD, asthma, and allergies. Please have speakers at spring district meetings speak on this focus.
- Cindy Hermel, North Central District, Public Policy Education chair.
- Janet Rubenzer-Pike, West Central District, Parliamentarian
- Gloria Sparacino, Southeastern District, WAVE chair
- Bonnie Timm, West Central District, Best of the Best chair

January 1, 2015, the committees of WAVE and BOB will be on Partners of WHA website: [Partnersofwha.org](http://Partnersofwha.org)



Bonnie Olson

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- **Chair**—Peg Larson
- **Co-Chair**— Pat Freeders
- **Displays** – Auxiliary of Riverside Medical Center, Waupaca - Joyce Buelow, Alice Dombroski, Joann Fulcher, Jean Heniff
- **Hospitality** - Bellin Health Volunteers - Dawn McCole and Aurora Burlington Memorial Hospital Volunteers—Connie Nold
- **Printing** – Kaukauna Health Associates - Carlene Enama and St. Vincent, St. Mary's, and St. Nicholas Volunteers - Sandie Blosser and Chris Kocken
- **Raffle, Traditional** - Volunteers in Partnership with Community Memorial Hospital - Sue Schuelke and Sue Staczyk and St. Vincent/St. Mary's Volunteers - Sandie Blosser
- **Raffle, 50-50** – Oconomowoc Memorial Auxiliary - Kathy Petrarca
- **Silent Auction** – Dorothy Revnew and Gloria Sparacino
- **Table Decorations** – Partners of St. Joseph's Community Hospital, West Bend – Mitzie Bartelt and Joanne Shirkey, and Calumet Medical Center Auxiliary, Chilton - Marlene Thornber
- **Vendors** – Jackie Halverson
- **Workshop Hospitality** – Bay Area Medical Center, Marinette - Gail Wright, St. Nicholas Hospital Auxiliary, Sheboygan - Eve Ko-vacs, and Waupun Memorial Hospital Auxiliary - Justine Port

*Peg Larson, 2014 Partners of WHA Convention Chair  
920-231-3005; Email: pegvoluntr@aol.com*

### **A Message from the President-Elect ...continued from page 2**

I would like to thank Sue for her expert leadership as president for the last two years.  
Here's wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving, Blessed and Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year.

*Bonnie R. Olson, President-Elect  
E2257 Jaybee Drive, Eau Claire, WI 54701  
715-834-1320 (home), 715-379-6797 (cell)  
Email: bhatlady@gmail.com*

### **From the Treasurer**

As we approach the end of the 2014 fiscal year, I will have completed four years as the Partners of WHA treasurer. Peg Larson will take over as Partners of WHA treasurer January 1, 2015.

It has been a privilege to serve the Partners of WHA as a Partners member, a Board member, the chair of the finance committee, and as the treasurer. I was pleased to have had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful and helpful people during these last four years.

I know that Peg, with her financial background, will have success as she takes over the position of treasurer.

*Ralph Spindler, Partners of WHA Treasurer*

## **Secretary Shares Highlights of Four Years**

It has been my privilege to serve as Partners of WHA Secretary for the past four years. As I prepare to leave this office, I would like to share some of the highlights of my terms.

The position as secretary includes many more things than recording minutes; however, recording minutes is very important, as it provides history of the organization.

Some of the other responsibilities are working closely with the president on many things, such as preparing schedules and agendas for many meetings and maintaining up-to-date files of board members' information. The secretary also serves on many committees, such as Bylaws.

You may ask, "What was the most enjoyable?" and I would have to say making dinner reservations and menu choices. I really did try to find something for everyone! More important would be convention, a time to meet new members and greet old members. There is so much to learn from all of these wonderful people.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the officers, board members, and committees with whom I have worked with over these years. I would also like to give a huge thank you to Steve Brenton, Eric Borgerding, Jenny Boese, and Jennifer Frank for all the support they give Partners.

I have enjoyed my duties as secretary, and have gained invaluable knowledge about myself and also Partners and their devoted commitments to the health care field.

A big "thank you" to Sue Lynch for all she has done.

I wish Jan Molaska, our new secretary, the best as her term begins.

Thank you for allowing me to be your secretary.

*Dorothy Revnew, Partners of WHA Secretary*

## Joan M. Coffman Receives 2014 Best of the Best Award



Joan M. Coffman, president and CEO of Hospital Sisters Health Systems (HSHS) St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls and vice president for physician relations for the HSHS Western Division, is the recipient of the 2014 Best of the Best Award by the Partners of WHA.

Ms. Coffman was presented the award at the Partners of WHA Convention October 15 in Green Bay. She joins 19 previous recipients of this prestigious award, which recognizes an on-site hospital executive who demonstrates a cooperative, supportive, enthusiastic, and well-defined relationship with their volunteer organization.

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Ms. Coffman holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of New Orleans.

In addition to working in partnership with and providing administrative support for the Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, Ms. Coffman is a board member of the American College of Health Executives (ACHE) – Wisconsin Chapter, serves on the Rural Hospital Issues Group of the Federal Office of the Rural Health Policy, and the Governing Council of the American Hospital Association Section for Small and Rural Hospitals. In her local community, she serves as a board member for the United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley, the Chippewa Family Support Center, and the Chippewa Valley Technical College Foundation.

The Partners of HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital noted in their nomination that Ms. Coffman has helped the organization understand the current health care landscape and what the future may hold, supports Partners endeavors to expand their involvement in the hospital's advocacy efforts, and creates opportunities for the Partners members to assume a variety of leadership roles. They wrote, "Our Partners organization is able to thrive because we function out of trust knowing that at every turn, our hospital president is behind us 100% and is in our corner to support us whenever help is needed."

*Sherry Jelic, 2014 Best of the Best Award Chair  
608-235-9526, Email: sjelic@msn.com*

## Best of the Best Award Committee Recognized

I would like to recognize the dedicated individuals of the committee that took on the challenge of the selection process for the 2014 Best of the Best Award, and personally thank the committee members:

- Laurie Oungst - 2014 award recipient of Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital
- Jude Bolterman – Shell Lake
- Sue Leibham – Sheboygan
- Mary Licht – Portage

Special thanks is also extended to Jennifer Frank and Sue Lynch for their insights and input into the selection process. Jennifer was also called upon to read and evaluate a nomination that was submitted by a committee member's hospital.

It has been an honor to be asked to chair the 2014 Best of the Best Award committee, and to have worked with the members of this committee. Thank you to Sue and the Partners of WHA Board for allowing me this opportunity.

*Sherry Jelic, 2014 Best of the Best Chair  
608-235-9526, Email: sjelic@msn.com*



## Fun Money made at Convention

50/50 Raffle.....\$1,131.00

Raffle.....\$3,189.00

Silent Auction .....\$3,139.00

**Total.....\$7,459.00**



## Recapping the 2014 Partners Convention



*Bonnie Olson's Installation with her local hospital*



*2014 Outgoing Board*



*2015 Incoming Board*





*A new award was established to be called District Chair Excellence Award. Here is Bonnie Olson and Sue Lynch presenting the award to Jude Bolterman, Northwestern District, Shell Lake. Congratulations!*



*Ken Culp, III, Ph.D. opened the 2014 Convention speaking on "13 Challenges Facing Hospital Auxiliaries and Volunteer Services."*



*Eric Borderding, WHA Executive Vice President, moderated the CEO Panel.*



*CEO Panel from left to right is Michael Wallace, President/CEO, Fort HealthCare, Fort Atkinson; Joan Coffman, President/CEO, HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Falls; Lisa Just, President, Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, Elkhorn, and Aurora Memorial Hospital, Burlington; and Dee Ann Thurmer, Chief Operating Officer, Waupun Memorial Hospital, Waupun.*



*Congressman Reid Ribble spoke about his efforts in improving the lives of those with Alzheimer's Disease.*



*Left to right are Dorothy Revnew, Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, and Sue Lynch. Rebecca extended a thank you to all for supporting Wisconsin hospitals and was a surprise guest.*

2014 Honor Point Award Winners  
*Congratulations!*





## 14th Annual WAVE Awards Presented at Convention

The 14th annual WAVE Awards were presented October 14, 2014 at the Partners of WHA Convention in Green Bay. This year, we received 24 applications in the four categories. In the minds of the committee members they were all winners, and it was a very difficult task to choose just four. The votes were extremely close—some within a point or two. One that did not win last year re-submitted the application and won this year. So, please, we encourage organizations to continue to submit and re-submit applications. You never know what will happen.

The 2014 WAVE Award winners are:

1. **Community Service Program – Gundersen Partners, La Crosse**  
“Alzheimer’s Caregivers Toolkit” – helping to education the community as a whole about resources to help caregivers to individuals with Alzheimer’s disease.
2. **Community Outreach and/or Collaboration – Volunteers in Partnership with Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin Community Memorial Hospital campus, Menomonee Falls**  
“Community Gardens” – to support the Community Outreach Prevention and Wellness Initiative to promote healthy nutrition in the community.
3. **In-Service – Mercy Health System, Janesville**  
“Oncology Volunteer Program” – patient-founded program that provides supportive services to chemotherapy patients and their caregivers.
4. **Fundraising – Partners of Beaver Dam Community Hospital, Beaver Dam**  
“Craft Fair” – the proceeds from this event are donated to a fund called “Employees Helping Employees.”

Congratulations to all the winners!

I would like to thank my committee: Barbara Lehrer, Deerbrook; Sylvia Emerson, Eau Claire; and Carolyn Kaul, Beaver Dam. I would also like to extend a very special thank you to Jennifer Frank at WHA for all her work with re-doing the forms and being on top of everything from getting the forms out to judging when an application was from the hospital of one of the committee members. Jennifer, we couldn’t do it without you. You are the best!!! Also, thank you to Sue Lynch for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the WAVE committee. It is a truly gratifying experience.

Jan Molaska, 2014 WAVE Chair  
715-581-9304; Email: [jmolaska@gmail.com](mailto:jmolaska@gmail.com)



*Gundersen Partners, La Crosse*



*Volunteers in Partnership with Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin Community Memorial Hospital campus, Menomonee Falls*



*Partners of Beaver Dam Community Hospital, Beaver Dam*



*Mercy Health System Association of Volunteers, Janesville*



## Public Policy Education Report

The midterm elections are Tuesday, November 4, 2014. There are several important federal, state, and local elections. Be knowledgeable and exercise your freedom to vote on the 4th!

“WisconsinEye,” a non-partisan, non-profit independent Internet and television network, is conducting interviews with every candidate running for office this election cycle. The Wisconsin Hospital Association is sponsoring the interviews. It is important to become an informed and knowledgeable voter—know the candidates, what they stand for, and what they represent. You will find the information at: [www.wiseye.org/Home.aspx](http://www.wiseye.org/Home.aspx).

Thank you to all who attended the Partners of WHA convention in Green Bay. As always it was a wonderful three days! We had great speakers, educational workshops, and another outstanding CEO panel. Thank you as well for responding so positively to my HEAT message! We play a very important role in advocating for our hospitals; in fact it is the one thing that WHA asks of us. If you haven't joined HEAT, please consider it today. To do so, contact Jenny Boese at [jboese@wha.org](mailto:jboese@wha.org).

Please mark your calendars for Advocacy Day next year—April 28, 2015. It is a fantastic day sponsored by WHA. You will have the opportunity to visit your legislators that day. Remember to wear your red, white, and blue and invite someone new to accompany you!

It has been a rewarding experience serving Partners as the Public Policy Education chair. I thank Sue Lynch for selecting me for that position on her team. I will miss traveling around the state on Spring Tour and sharing the great and good news of advocacy with you.

From an old Irish Triad: three best things to have are plenty of sunshine, wisdom, and generosity. I would like to add a fourth—friends (is that one of Bonnie's “F” words?). I consider all of you my friends. That is the best part of this position—meeting and spending time with all of you and I look forward to seeing you next year.

Continue to expand your horizons—recruit, retain, advocate, and join HEAT! Thank you for all that you do and for what each of you brings to this great organization.

I wish you a most wonderful Thanksgiving and a beautiful Holiday season.

*Diane Westbrook, PPE Chair*  
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*Diane Westbrook*

## Community Health Education Report

Right now some of the brightest and most intuitive minds in science are trying to understand how brain cells change from “healthy” to Alzheimer's. The task is so large that we need to give a breadth of researchers the opportunity to find the clues, see the changes, identify the pathways, and lead us through the clinical trials to the cure.

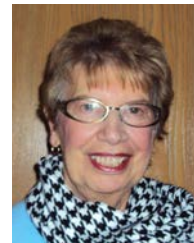
According to the Alzheimer's Association, some researchers are pursuing multiple, diverse paths of discovery, some are doing genetic research, others are searching for early detection, and others are examining the role of our immune system.

Time is of the essence as the number of cases is skyrocketing each year and anticipated to be at 14 to 16 million by 2050. Each study might be the critical link or answer that will propel Alzheimer's research closer to prevention and a cure. All of this research takes time and money; we must, however, persevere in the research.

Here are seven ways to keep your brain smart and strong. These items are from a Sharecare article of September 17, 2014. There is more research needed to confirm whether there is a link between these seven key risk factors and Alzheimer's, but there are plenty of other good reasons to make these changes in your lifestyle.

1. Get Moving - inactivity is linked to greater Alzheimer's risk.
2. Don't Smoke - if you do, QUIT.
3. Eat Bananas - the potassium can help lower blood pressure.
4. Go to Bed - research shows getting a good night's sleep can reduce the risk of Diabetes.
5. Walk Outside - exercise outside versus in a gym can lessen depression, and depression may increase the risk of Alzheimer's.
6. Take a Class - higher education is linked to lower rates of Alzheimer's.
7. Drop a Few - obesity in middle age may be connected to Alzheimer's.

On a personal level, I enjoyed meeting many of you at your district meetings. Listening to your enthusiasm and acceptance of this project was heartwarming. We all learned much about this dreaded disease. I know you will accept the new Community Health Education



*Gloria Sparacino*

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## Around the State

### Langlade Hospital Auxiliary, Antigo:

This past summer, auxiliarians took part in the "Music in the Park" program by baking pies and making coffee for those attending the concerts. Not only was the music a hit, but the desserts went well also.

### Auxiliary of Howard Young Medical Center, Woodruff:

Handcrafters meet every Thursday morning to create items to sell at the Harvest of Holidays event, which is their biggest fundraiser of the year. More than 25 women create hats, socks, mittens, children's sweaters, baby blankets, aprons, placemats, hand embroidered dish cloths, scarves, shawls, table runners, wall hangings, handmade cards, coasters, wine bottle gift bags, and anything they can think of doing.

### Gundersen Volunteer Services and Partners, La Crosse:

In 1995, an autumn blaze maple tree was planted on 7th Street to honor Partners' members for past dedication to Lutheran Hospital. It was also a commitment of continued service to the newly merged Lutheran Hospital and Gundersen Clinic, which is now Gunderson Health System. Due to construction in that area, the 20 year old tree now has a new permanent home on South Avenue. And, it is large already!

## Thank You to Our Backers!

### ***Titanium (\$5,000 or more)***

Ministry Health Care

### ***Gold (\$1,000 - \$4,999)***

Agnesian HealthCare

Aspirus Wausau Hospital

Riverside Medical Center, Waupaca

St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center, Green Bay

St. Nicholas Hospital, Sheboygan

St. Vincent Hospital, Green Bay

Wisconsin Hospital Association

### ***Silver (\$500—\$999)***

Beaver Dam Community Hospital

Geneva Distributing, Inc.

Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin Health System

Gundersen Tri County Hospital & Clinics

Mayo Clinic Health System-Franciscan Healthcare

Memorial Health Center (An Aspirus Partner), Medford

Mercy Hospital and Trauma Center, Janesville

Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire

SSM St. Clare's Hospital, Baraboo

SSM St. Mary's Hospital, Janesville

SSM St. Mary's Hospital, Madison

Tomah Memorial Hospital

### ***Sponsor (up to \$499)***

Beloit Health System

Columbus Community Hospital

Memorial Medical Center, Ashland

Osceola Medical Center

Stoughton Hospital Association

### ***...continued from page 9***

program with the same desire to learn that you accepted the Alzheimer's disease program.

Thank you so much for the welcome you gave at your district meetings, and I will see you at future conventions.

*Gloria Sparacino, CHE Chair*

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## Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
February 2015	Thurs., Jan. 15, 2015
May 2015	Wed., April 15, 2015
August 2015	Wed., July 15, 2015
November 2015	Thurs., October 15, 2015

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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