

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.

Partners Convention 2013 - A Little of Everything



A Message from the Partners of WHA President

Year End Report 2013: “Still Batting Strong after 60 years!”



Sue Lynch

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the Partners of WHA. It continues to be a blessing to follow exceptional volunteer leaders who for the past 60 years have steadily built upon the strong foundation set by our Founders in 1953.

Our year began with a “retreat” in the Wisconsin Dells with your leadership T.E.A.M. (Together Everyone Accomplishes the Mission). We map out our goals for the year and look to the future to help continue to grow our membership and financial base. I believed very strongly to include everyone in planning for 2013 and I think our results showed you our successes.

In March the Board of Directors met in Madison to discuss the many issues facing our organization. The number one concern was and still is recruitment of new members. A DVD was made for each district chair to show at your meetings and or use as a recruitment tool to help better explain our state, district, and local levels of membership participation. We have received a very positive response to this tool. We also updated the Partners of WHA brochure and a copy is available on our website. The intent was to make sure each member could share this brochure with someone who might be interested in joining a Partners group in your area.

The most exciting update was the web site. Thanks so much to Mary Licht for working with me to make sure all the information is current. Please take the time to review the site (<http://www.partnersofwha.org>) and also thank Mary for the many hours she has put in on this project.

Spring tour was wonderful. I always enjoy traveling the state and hearing about your local groups efforts to help our hospitals and provide the needed funds for equipment or community projects when requested. So many great projects and fundraising ideas!

Advocacy Day 2013 broke all records with attendance of over 900 supporters in Madison. We must continue to support WHA in their efforts, on both the state and federal issues affecting our hospitals. Advocacy will continue to be a priority in 2014.

Summer was spent planning and working with the Convention Committee. Mary Licht, chair of the convention, and her committee worked tirelessly over the summer to make sure our convention was a success. That is was! Three hundred fifty three attendees - three days of wonderful speakers and workshops - celebrating 60 years together at the Kalahari was outstanding and I loved being with all of you.

So on to 2014 – let’s continue to make a difference in our local hospitals and count our blessings for the excellent health care we provide our patients in this great state!

God bless all of you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sue Lynch, President
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A Message from the President-Elect

WOW Convention!

What a WOW convention! Sue Lynch was up to bat with COMMUNICATIONS on first base, WEB SITE on second base, and BYLAWS on third base and Sue hit a GRAND SLAM home run! It was great way to end a very successful year. My thanks to everyone who planned and worked on the convention. The convention provides an excellent environment to meet your peers in volunteerism, build relationships, attend workshops, and exchange lessons learned.

The following bylaws changes were passed at the convention - Article III: Section 1, Section 2, Section 3; and Article VII: Funds. The bylaws will be updated on the Partners website to reflect the changes.

Congratulations to Sherry Jelic who received the District Chair Excellence Award. Sherry is chair for the Southern District.

The Honor Points were awarded to 54 Partners organizations. Partners of WHA has a membership of 70 medical facilities. Next year, we are anticipating better participation.

The Honor Point form was changed to give smaller hospitals an equal opportunity to achieve Honor Points.

As president-elect, I am committed to bring you the best of Partners of WHA. It is my honor and distinct privilege to be available to help you in any way I can.

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Bonnie Olson

Recap of 2013 Convention

This year's convention was, to say the least, an adventure. It was high, it was low, it was fun, it was challenging, it was easy, it was funny, and it was frustrating. Put it all together and sum it up to say, I had the time of my life. It was all because I had the best team in the world to work with. They excelled on the high points and met the challenges with a determination to win. The sponsoring districts were the North Central and Northwestern.

Our attendance was 353 Partners and guests - a good crowd. The entertainment Tuesday night was the Milwaukee Brewers Racing Sausages. So naturally, we had them race with some of our Partners. We had a representative from each district, and Sue Lynch ran for the board members. Everyone could cheer on their favorite sausage and Partner. There was a photo-op after the races and people had their picture taken with the sausage of their choice. What a hoot!

Wednesday night, we had our own very talented Partners perform with a variety of skits and songs. I think my favorite was the "new" baseball team member performed by Donna and Jude, or was it my favorite the song from the Aspirus "choir," or maybe it was our new chant—"We are the Partners, mighty, mighty Partners, everywhere we go, people want to know, who we are, so we tell them..." That was stuck in my head for a while.

I think the most popular workshop was the one presented by Kevin Stranberg with 103 plus attendance. But they were all very good. We tried something new this year; we had a workshop panel to discuss issues in the gift shop.

Next year the Partners Convention will be in Green Bay, and Peg Larson will be the chair.

What a wonderful, and sometimes challenging, experience. I am glad I was a part of it.

Mary Licht, Chairperson, 2013 Partners of WHA Convention

2014 Convention to Go from Baseball to Football

We hit several home runs at Convention this year. Mary and her team did a great job! However, the World Series is over and we're moving on to football. We are going to "Go for a Touchdown" in Green Bay! Please save October 14-16, 2014 to spend at the KI Center in Green Bay learning leadership skills and networking with your fellow volunteers from around Wisconsin. There will be displays to peruse, vendors to shop, raffle tickets to buy, award winners to honor, good food to enjoy, old friends to catch up with, new friends to meet, and mostly SKILLS and KNOWLEDGE to benefit your hospital and community!

Save the dates and we'll score a touchdown in Green Bay!

*Peg Larson, 2014 Partners Convention Chair
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pegvoluntr@aol.com*

2014 Calendar of Events

Monday, January 13	Executive Committee meeting	Wisconsin Dells
Monday and Tuesday, February 10- 11	Full Board meeting	Madison - WHA Offices
<u>Spring Tour</u>		
Tuesday, March 25	Lakes District	Green Bay
Wednesday, March 26	Southern District	Ft. Atkinson
Thursday, March 27	Southeastern District	Burlington
Tuesday, April 1	West Central District	Eau Claire
Wednesday, April 2	Northwestern District	Park Falls
Thursday, April 3	North Central District	Wausau
Thursday, April 24	Western District	Viroqua
Wednesday, April 16	Advocacy Day	Madison - Monona Terrace
April 6 -13	Volunteer Week	
Sunday, April 20	Easter Sunday	
May 3 – 7	AHA Meeting	Washington, D.C. - Washington Hilton
June 25 - 27	WADVS Meeting	Madison - Marriott West
August 19 – 22	State Auxiliary Meeting/ AHVRP	Washington, D.C. - Hyatt Regency Crystal City
Monday and Tuesday, October 13-14	Full Board Meeting	Green Bay - Hyatt on Main
Tuesday- Thursday, October 14-16	Partners of WHA Convention	Green Bay - Hyatt on Main

WAVE Awards Presented at Convention

The 13th annual Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence awards were presented Tuesday, October 6, at the Partners of WHA 2013 Convention at the Kalahari in Wisconsin Dells.

Twenty four applications were received for the four categories of the award. Non-winning applications this year are urged to resubmit their project; a new year and new judges makes for a possible win in 2014. Each application counts towards an Honor Point.

The voting took place via a teleconference call set up for the committee by Jennifer Frank. A big thank you to Pudge Kimbel, Sue Leibham, and Jackie Hillman who served on the committee. The WAVE committee members all expressed how impressed they were by all the tremendous programs and projects our Partners groups provide their hospital and communities.

2013 WAVE Winners

- Community Outreach and/or Collaboration: Auxiliary of Riverside Medical Center, Waupaca with IMPACT Concussion Testing Program
- Fundraising: Langlade Hospital Auxiliary, Antigo with Langlade Hospital Auxiliary Parade of Homes
- In-Service Hospital Volunteer Program: Memorial Health Center Volunteers, Medford with Stampin' with Dorothy
- Community Service Program: Mercy Health System Association of volunteers, Janesville with Mercy Hospice Pet Therapy Program

Jennifer Frank and her staff have honed this process to run extremely smooth. She gave her time, energy, and input to make this task, for us, an enjoyable one.

I especially want to thank our President, Sue Lynch, for allowing me the very gratifying opportunity to serve as a WAVE chairman and to be a part of "her team."

Karla Martinsen, 2013 WAVE Award Chairperson

Email: karla@martinsen.us.com



Auxiliary of Riverside Medical Center, Waupaca



Langlade Hospital Auxiliary, Antigo



Memorial Health Center Volunteers, Medford



Mercy Health System Association of volunteers, Janesville

Partners Convention 2013



District Chair Excellence Award presented to Sherry Jelic



Happy faces



Milwaukee Brewers Racing Sausages



CEO panel: Steve Brenton, Dr. Timothy Johnson, Marita Hattem, David Grundstrom, Terry Jacobson, Eric Borgerding.



Past Partners of WHA presidents



Sue Lynch and Wisconsin Hospital Association President Steve Brenton

2013 Honor Point Award Winners
Congratulations!



Fall State Legislative Update

The Wisconsin State Legislature is working on a variety of important hospital-related issues during its fall legislative session. The Wisconsin Hospital Association is working on the following and wanted to keep you updated.

Success! Senate Bill 137/Assembly Bill 139 (Jandre)

With the support of HEAT members, the state Assembly and state Senate passed legislation to address the Supreme Court's split decision in *Jandre v. Wisconsin Injured Patients and Families Compensation Fund*. Senate Bill 137 and Assembly Bill 139 address Jandre by requiring a physician to inform his or her patient about the availability of reasonable alternate medical modes of treatment and the risks and benefits of those treatments. The bill would establish the "reasonable physician" standard as the legal standard a physician must meet when informing his or her patient. As a result of the complex Wisconsin Supreme Court decision in Jandre, which included three separate opinions none of which garnered four votes, physicians are left with an unclear standard to meet when obtaining a patient's informed consent for medical treatment.

For those of you who are HEAT members and contacted your legislators in response to our Action Alerts on Jandre, thank you! It was successful and we should celebrate!

WHA's Behavioral Health Agenda

Since 2008, WHA has been working with the WHA Behavioral Health Task Force, chaired by Bellin Health System President/CEO George Kerwin, to develop proposals to help modernize Wisconsin's mental health policies that have created barriers to better outcomes for individuals with mental health needs in Wisconsin. WHA has worked closely with members of the legislature to advance many of these recommendations as legislation for this fall. *One of WHA's key recommendations is to pass the "HIPAA Harmonization Bill" which would enable all treating health care providers to view their patient's physical health and mental health information, except for psychotherapy records, as is permitted by the federal HIPAA health care privacy and security law.*

Wisconsin's current mental health records law, which predates the federal HIPAA laws, requires in practice that mental health information be segregated from a patient's physical health information in their medical record and forces treating health care providers to make assumptions about an individual's mental illness in the absence of accessible relevant information about the individual's mental illness in the medical record. To the detriment of patients, this segregation of information stands in the way of modern holistic and coordinated care that integrates physical and mental health. For example, a 2013 published study from the Johns Hopkins Department of Psychiatry found that hospitals that could share mental health information with non-mental health providers had approximately 35% fewer psychiatric readmissions.

WHA's other proposals include several reforms to the current emergency detention process, a clarification on a physician's duty to warn and tools that will help policy makers understand the current set of core mental health services provided by counties across the state.

WHA will be seeking passage of these bills. Please watch for HEAT alerts in the coming weeks and TAKE ACTION. Your emails do make a difference and help WHA with our advocacy in the Capitol.

For more information on the issues or the HEAT program, contact Jenny Boese at 608-268-1816 or jboese@wha.org.

Jenny Boese, VP-External Relations & Member Advocacy, WHA

Volunteer Partners Win Award

The Volunteer Partners of Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire recently were notified and congratulated on being awarded the Daily Point of Light Award for their demonstrated efforts in meeting community needs. The Daily Point of Light, a national program, honors individuals and groups creating meaningful change in communities across America, with innovative ways to meet community needs and impact social problems in their communities.

The Daily Point of Light was established by President George H. W. Bush in 1993 to engage individuals, families, businesses, and groups to solve community programs through volunteer services. President Bush continues to sign all of the awards, and in July there will be a ceremony to honor the 5,000th Daily Point of Light Award.

The Volunteer Partners received the 4,641th award given. They received a certificate signed by President Bush, and on July 26, 2013 were honored for their work on the Daily Point of Light website at www.pointsoflight.org.

Congratulations to the Volunteer Partners!

Donations Supporting our 60th Anniversary - Partners of WHA 1953 – 2013

\$1,000 Level

Aurora Health Care, Inc.

\$500.00 Level

Mayo Clinic Health System – Franciscan Healthcare – La Crosse

Mercy Health System - Janesville

Meriter Health Services - Madison

Gundersen Health System – La Crosse

Beaver Dam Community Hospitals, Inc. - Beaver Dam

Sacred Heart Hospital – Eau Claire

Agnesian HealthCare – Fond du Lac

Partners of Tomah Memorial Hospital - Tomah

Mercy Medical Center - Oshkosh

\$300.00 Level

Amery Regional Medical Center - Amery

Beloit Health System - Beloit

\$200.00 Level

HealthPartners

Columbus Community Hospital - Columbus

Osceola Medical Center - Osceola

Memorial Medical Center, Inc. - Ashland

Lakeview Medical Center – Rice Lake

\$100.00 Level

St. Clare Hospital - Baraboo

Southwest Health Center - Platteville

St. Joseph's Hospital Ministry Health Care - Marshfield

Ministry Health Care Howard Young Medical Center - Woodruff

Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital and Clinic – Prairie du Sac

Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital – Prairie du Chien

Gundersen Tri-County Hospital and Clinics - Whitehall

A special thank you to the former Lake Michigan District for their contribution of **\$817.77**

Thank you for supporting the Partners of WHA

Oungst Named 2013 Best of Best Award Recipient



Laurie Oungst, regional vice president of operations for Ministry Health Care's Northern Region Hospitals, has been named the 2013 Best of the Best Award recipient by Partners of WHA.

Oungst was presented the award at the Partners of WHA Convention, October 9 in Wisconsin Dells. She joins 18 previous recipients of this prestigious award, which recognizes an on-site hospital executive who demonstrates a cooperative, supportive, enthusiastic, and well-defined relationship with his or her volunteer organization.

Oungst oversees operations at Eagle River Memorial Hospital, Howard Young Medical Center in Woodruff, Sacred Heart Hospital in Tomahawk and Saint Mary's Hospital in Rhinelander. In addition to working in partnership with and providing administrative support for the volunteers at Eagle River and Howard Young, she is also responsible for facilities engineering, environmental services, dietary, imaging, lab, therapies, and pharmacy, as well as assisted and independent living housing operated under the Howard Young health care organization.

In nominating her for the award, Auxiliary Partners of Ministry Eagle River called her a positive and resourceful leader, a strong advocate for volunteers, a passionate promoter of programs and events hosted by her local Partners of WHA organizations, and a guiding force in empowering and encouraging hospital volunteers. In addition to these qualities, Eagle River Partners stated that Oungst possesses a strong commitment to community.

Laurie and her husband of 26 years, Troy, have raised two sons, Evan, a business major at UW-Stout, and Austin, a UW-Eau Claire health care administration major.

Her Partners organization calls her their champion, mentor, and friend and quoting their nomination, "We can always count on our VP not to walk ahead of us or behind us, but to walk with us in any and all of our endeavors."

Julie Steiner, Best of the Best Chair
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Public Policy Education Report

Under the ACA, the insurance exchange began on October 1. Is it up and running? Well, perhaps not so smoothly yet—this will be interesting to watch!

The critical access hospital (CAH) designation is again being focused on. 52/53 of the 58 CAH hospitals that are in the line of fire as far as losing that designation - 61 state legislators (bipartisan) have signed and sent a letter to Congress asking for the dismissal of this action. The closing of CAHs will negatively affect many in small rural areas. Our hospitals in Wisconsin focus on high quality care, value, and community commitment, and that equates to better results for our patients and improved health care for all consumers. We should be very proud of our hospitals and do our best to advocate for them!

The Wisconsin Hospital Association depends on hospital advocates, including our volunteers, to make their voices heard in the capitol. They take our involvement very seriously and ask that as many of us as possible join the HEAT program. Encourage others in your volunteer group to apply and let's not forget the staff at your hospital! Less than 2% of our hospital workforces are HEAT members. Let this be the day that YOU join HEAT. You will receive an alert when it is time to contact your legislators on an issue. Ask your fellow volunteers and the staff at your hospital to join, as well. Sign up by contacting Jenny Boese at www.jboese.org. Thank you to those who signed up at Convention! Let this be the day that you join us in becoming a member of HEAT! Remember, you can make a difference, but only if you engage with your legislators!

Advocacy Day is April 16, 2014 in Madison - can we count on you to attend?? What will you be wearing when you arrive?? RED, WHITE, BLUE??? Out of the 900 who attended this year, Partner volunteers comprised approximately 42% of that number, or 375. Can we raise that number to 400? Or 450? Invite another person—the goal is to reach close to 50% next year. WE CAN DO IT!!!

Thanks again for all that you do; it does not go unnoticed!

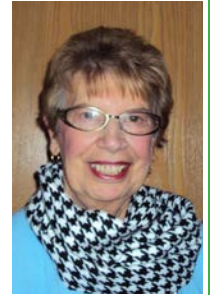
Diane Westbrook, PPE Chair
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Diane Westbrook

Community Health Education Report

This information is from the latest correspondence I received from the Alzheimer's Association. It is estimated that every 68 seconds someone in the United States develops Alzheimer's disease.



Gloria Sparacino

Alzheimer's quick facts:

1. Deaths from Alzheimer's increased 68 percent between 2000 and 2010, while deaths from other major diseases, including the number one cause of death (heart disease), decreased.
2. In 2013, the direct costs of caring for those with Alzheimer's or other dementias to American society will total an estimated \$203 billion, including \$142 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid.
3. The direct cost of Alzheimer's and other dementias is greater than any other condition in the United States, including heart disease and cancer.
4. Alzheimer's is the only cause of death among the top 10 in America that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed.
5. Almost two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's 65 and over—3.2 million—are women.

Some milestones in the fight against Alzheimer's are:

- 1980 - The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association is formed.
- 1982 - The Association awards its first research grant.
- 1993 - FDA approves first drug treatment for Alzheimer's disease.
- 2000 - The Association assumes management of the Alzheimer's Association International conference (AAIC)—the world's largest conference of its kind.
- 2010 - The Association launches **TrialMatch**, a tool to help prospective participants identify clinical studies that might be a good fit.
- 2012 - The first-ever national Alzheimer's Plan is released - an historic achievement. It outlines the important goal to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025.
- 2013 - President Obama allocates 100 million dollars toward the fight against Alzheimer's and the implementation of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.

Gloria Sparacino, CHE Chair
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Around the State

Volunteer of Aurora Memorial Hospital, Burlington:

Patient advocate volunteers give out items to patients who are interested. They include Word Search, Crossword, and Sudoku puzzle books; pencils and pens; note cards or pads; unopened lotions or chapsticks; decks of cards; and reader glasses. These items are donated and must be new and unopened.

Meriter Volunteer Services/Friends of Meriter, Madison:

Comfort Blankets are knit by volunteers for their hospitalized end-of-life patients. Something soft and handmade calms patients and is very much appreciated by the patient's family members. They are 36" x 36" and yarn is provided by Volunteer Services.

Bellin Hospital Volunteers, Green Bay:

Volunteers are especially proud of a 130,000 Lego building blocks replica of Lambeau Field that resides in the main lobby to welcome all who enter the hospital. The structure is a gift from the Green Bay Packers organization and the Milwaukee School of Engineering. The students said it took an estimated 1,500 hours to plan and complete the 13' x15' replica, weighs almost 500 pounds, and features a working scoreboard, lights, seating, interior and exterior architectural details, and a field complete with players. If you are in the area, stop and see this marvelous structure!

Partners of Stoughton Hospital, Stoughton:

The Painted Chair Auction was held in September. Chairs were painted and decorated for this event and tickets were sold in the gift shop for \$5.00. Hors d'oeuvres and live music were provided. Hope you had some good bidders! Monies were going for an upcoming renovation of the Urgent Care/ER.

Indianhead Community Health Care, Shell Lake:

ICHC is making Hope Scarfs for all women diagnosed with breast cancer who received a mammogram at their hospital. Along with the Hope Scarf, this note is enclosed: "This scarf is a friendly reminder that you are not alone. Each one is made with love and hope. Each stitch pulls together everyone who is thinking of you – and hope multiplied is love from above. Prayers go with you from all of us." Scarfs are also available for purchase to wear in support of a person fighting breast cancer.

From the Treasurer

Just a reminder to our local presidents that as we approach the end of the 2013 fiscal year, the annual president reports for 2013 are due to be sent to their district chair by January 31, 2014.

The membership dues to Partners of WHA are one dollar per local member as shown on the annual president's report for the previous year. Twenty cents of the membership dues collected is returned to the district for the district's operating expenses. The treasurer sends out membership dues invoices in April based on the numbers of local members shown on the local president's report for the previous year.

Dues payments for 2014 will be due by June 30, 2014 for the local organization to be eligible to receive Honor Points for 2013.

Ralph Spindler, Treasurer
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Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
February 2014	Wed., January 15, 2014
May 2014	Tues. April 15, 2014
August 2014	Tues. July 15, 2014
November 2014	Wed., October 15, 2014

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. Direct questions or comments to:

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