

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.

Not too Early to Think of Best of the Best Award

It is once again time to acknowledge our Best of the Best onsite administrator, chief executive officer, executive director, vice president, or chief financial officer of your local hospital/medical center who is a strong advocate for your volunteer organization—one who demonstrates a cooperative, supportive, and enthusiastic relationship with you.

The Best of the Best Award application packets will be sent out in March to medical facilities. I look forward to your applications. After being on this committee for three years, I have enjoyed and been delighted to hear about the partnership experiences between your volunteer group and your leader on what a team you make running your hospital.

The committee members for 2015 are Bonnie Timm, West Central District (chair); Barb Jamerson, Southeastern District; Diane Brown, Western District; Nancy Steinback, Southern District; Joan Coffman, 2014 Best of the Best Award Recipient; and Jennifer Frank, WHA liaison.

Please read the directions carefully, as the specific criteria and eligibility requirements and directions need to be followed exactly. Forms are due by June 21, 2015. For questions on the nomination process, please contact me.

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*“Great friends
 are hard to find,
 difficult to leave,
 impossible to
 forget.”
 – Unknown*

2015 Calendar of Events for Partners of WHA

March 24	Executive Board Meeting	WHA Office Madison and Quality Inn
March 25-26	Full Board Meeting	WHA Office Madison and Quality Inn
SPRING TOUR:		
April 7	Lakes District	Oshkosh
April 8	Southeastern District	Menomonee Falls
April 9	Southern District	Madison
April 13	Western District	Boscobel
April 21	North Central District	Woodruff
April 22	Northwestern District	Spooner
April 23	West Central District	River Falls
April 12-18	National Volunteer Week	
April 28	Advocacy Day	Monona Terrace, Madison
May 2-6	SAL/AHA Meeting	Washington D.C. (Washington Hilton)
June 18-19	WADVS MEETING	Green Bay
June 30	Executive Board Meeting	TBA
September 19	AHVRP/State Auxiliary Meeting	Orlando
October 5	Executive Board meeting	Marriott West, Madison
October 5	Full Board Meeting	Marriott West, Madison
October 6-8	Partners of WHA Convention	Marriott West, Madison

A Message from the Partners of WHA President

Working Together

I am very excited to start my journey as president of Partners of WHA. I've long been associated with Partners and have had rewarding experiences in the past. I am looking forward to a successful two years with all you wonderful health care volunteers. I will strive to continue the high caliber of work and management that the previous Partners Board did.

Come to think of it, I'd also like to thank all the past presidents that I've known over the years—they have been outstanding role models and a huge inspiration for me as I look to my leadership role as your president. It's truly an honor and a privilege to be among these dedicated volunteer leaders.

I hope you will join me in welcoming Eric Borgerding as president of the Wisconsin Hospital Association. Eric succeeds Steve Brenton, who will now hold the position of WHA senior policy advisor. Also, I hope you will join me in welcoming some new members to our Board. These new board members, along with our current ones, have many new ideas for improving our organization—please stay tuned.

President-Elect of Partners of WHA, and Webmaster Mary Licht, needs your help in keeping our website current. Please send Mary and myself all changes of information in a timely manner. Communication is so important to an organization. Also, send in pictures of your local organization activities. Pictures are important and we hope to change them frequently so everyone can be featured.

WEBSITE: www.partnersofwha.org

And finally—as the Partners president, I see one of my major roles as a facilitator of our members needs. I am very open to listening to our members and what their needs may be. This will help further our Partners organization and its upcoming programs. Please know that I'm hoping that each and every one of you will send me your ideas, thoughts, and critiques (constructive please) to help Partners be the best it can be.

I have a question for you. Where can you picture yourself in the Partners organization? Imagine what Partners of WHA can be, and how can we create new and interesting programs together. Partners has so many possibilities; we're just waiting to see what visions you have to help us move forward and into the future. Please say to yourself, "How can I help move Partners into the next wave of creative endeavors in volunteerism?"

Here is one answer. With your creativity and ingenuity, we can implement many new ideas. YOU just have to get involved. Share with us what you'd like to have our Partners organization do!

"It's the greatest mistake to do nothing because you can do a little. Give what you can, and do it together. That's the power of one. Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Dan Zadra

God Bless you for all you do for Partners!

*Bonnie R. Olson, President of Partners of WHA
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Bonnie Olson

A Message from the President-Elect

Focus

Hello my friends and volunteer family. As your new president-elect, I look forward to working with you over the next two years. I find volunteering to be rewarding and fun filled. I have met so many fantastic people from all walks of life—every one of them doing their best to help others with no thought to future personal gain and their only purpose is to give themselves with fierce enthusiasm. And I thought to myself, this is fabulous, I want to be one of them. So here I am, fervently eager and ready to serve.

My goal is to focus on our website. I want it to be as user friendly as possible. I plan to add more photos of happenings in your local hospitals. We need to share what we do with our fellow volunteers. I always find it interesting to see what other hospitals are doing and I think you will also. If you have an event, fete, photo-op, just a funny occasion, or something you want to share, please send me your pictures with a short description. If you do not have a computer, have your DVS send them to me. Let the rest of us share in your familiarity and felicity.

As Bonnie says, our focus is the F word.

*Mary Licht, President-Elect
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Mary Licht

Save the Date

Partners of WHA Annual Convention
"The Winners Circle"
October 6 - 8, 2015
Madison Marriott West
Hosted by Southern District

A Message from WHA President Eric Borgerding

WHA's "Integrated Advocacy" Thrives with Help from Partners

On January 1, 2015, I was honored and privileged to become the next president of the Wisconsin Hospital Association. For the past 13 years, under Steve Brenton's exemplary leadership, I helped craft and implement WHA's robust lobbying and advocacy efforts, working to achieve our goals with WHA's top-notch staff and our team of allied organizations. When it comes to the latter, quite frankly, no organization during those 13 years has been as critical to our advocacy mission and success as the Partners of WHA.

Standing in front of the 900 people at WHA's annual Advocacy Day, I'm always struck by the hundreds of Partners in the audience. Equally notable are the hundreds who then head to the Capitol, citizen lobbyists whose only agenda is standing up for their community hospital. These numbers and this commitment are well noted by state legislators, but the most lasting impression is made on an appreciative WHA team.

The Partners of WHA brings the advocacy "muscle" we need to drive issues over the finish line in Madison and Washington, and we'll need you again, soon, to help realize our shared goal—enacting public policy that enables hospitals and health systems to deliver the best quality care for their patients.

2015 promises to be another year of tremendous challenges, which you'll hear more about in the near future. WHA will meet these challenges head-on, in our typical and purposefully proactive way, including joining with our allied organizations to advocate for sound public policy. It is an "integrated advocacy" strategy that reflects the characteristics of WHA's members, our evolving organization, and strength of partnerships we create and often lead.

For 61 years, Partners of WHA has been one of WHA's most important allies. It is, and always will be, recognized, valued, and appreciated by the WHA team.

So, as I humbly transition into some big shoes here at WHA, my message to you is a simple one delivered on behalf of the entire WHA staff *THANK YOU Partners of WHA* for all you do to support your team here in Madison and your community hospitals back home.

Best wishes for a safe and successful 2015.

*Eric Borgerding, President
Wisconsin Hospital Association*



Eric Borgerding

WHA Update: Advocacy Day 2015, Medicaid, New Legislators

By Jennifer Boese, WHA VP-Federal Affairs & Advocacy



Advocacy Day, April 28, 2015

Yes, we're telling you about Advocacy Day already because registration is now open. WHA has already received confirmation of one busload of volunteers coming for Advocacy Day and we expect many more buses and vanloads of hospital advocates to travel to Madison for this premier event April 28.

You'll hear from journalist and political commentator, Tucker Carlson, during his presentation, "Today's Political Landscape and What's Ahead in the 2016 Race for the White House." As always, we'll have our wonderful panel of legislative leaders and luncheon remarks from Governor Walker (invited) before we send you off to the State Capitol (just two blocks away) to meet with your legislators. *...continued on page 4*

The afternoon's legislative meetings are the most important part of the day. We'll be discussing key issues like hospital Medicaid reimbursement. Did you know that Advocacy Day falls right during the Legislature's state budget deliberations? That's why you'll want to stay for these legislative meetings and make your voices heard.

Don't miss joining with 900 hospital employees, leaders, trustees, and volunteers from across the state on April 28 in Madison. Register today at: <http://events.signup4.net/15AdvocacyDay0428>.

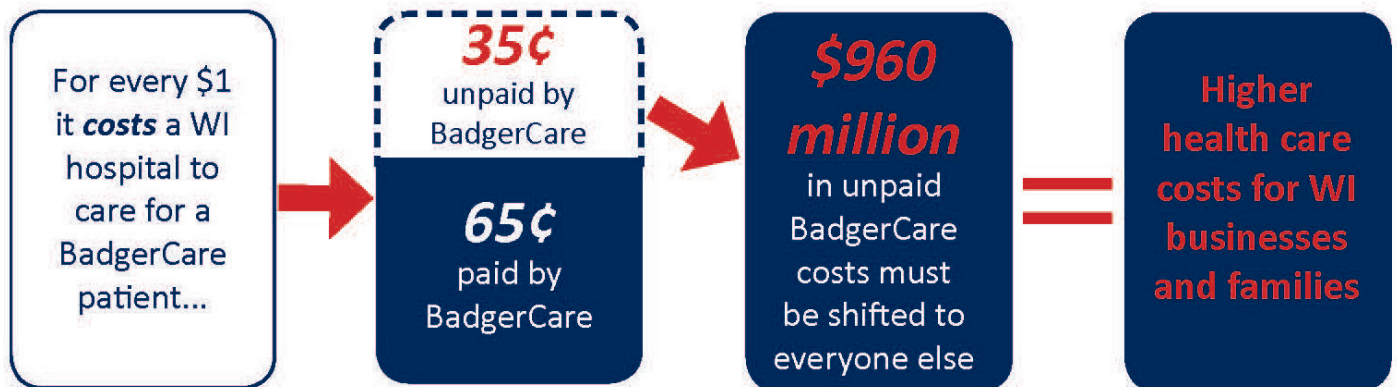
Our Push for Adequate Medicaid Reimbursement Continues

Here's the Issue...

In the previous state budget, the Governor and State Legislature reestablished for two years a specific hospital payment under Medicaid known as the "Disproportionate Share Hospital" (DSH) program, a program that targets payments to hospitals based on their higher Medicaid volumes. WHA strongly supported the DSH program and the \$30 million that was allocated to it.

Why was this Medicaid DSH program needed? Because of the vast uncertainty with Wisconsin's Medicaid eligibility changes, concerns about increasing levels of uncompensated care, Wisconsin's historically poor Medicaid reimbursement rates, and how that translates into a \$960 million "hidden health care tax" on everyone. See our graphic describing the "hidden health care tax."

Wisconsin's Hidden Health Care Tax



Here's the Process...

With all the changes in health care coverage over the past year, you can imagine that this funding has been extremely important, and that hospitals greatly needed it. However, the Medicaid DSH program goes away at the end of this year unless the Governor and Legislature extend it in the upcoming 2015-2016 budget. Over the next several months, the Governor and State Legislature will develop the biennial budget bill. We need to make sure the DSH program is renewed in this budget.

Here's what you can do...

During each part of the budget process, we'll need you to help us make that case that adequate funding for hospitals treating Medicaid patients is important for access and sustainability. You can:

- Join WHA's HEAT advocacy program to keep informed and take action: www.wha.org/heat-sign-up-now.aspx
- Respond to WHA's HEAT Action Alerts when you receive them
- Keep abreast of hospital issues by reading WHA's *Valued Voice* every Friday: www.wha.org/valuedVoice.aspx

Elections Results Are In, Your New State Legislators Are...

Following November's elections, a full one quarter of Wisconsin State Legislature are newly elected. That's 32 new legislators for you and your hospitals to get to know better. In the coming legislative session, hospitals (that means each of you!) will need to aggressively make your case on issues. It's never too early to start developing those legislative relationships.

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* These individuals were newly elected to the State Senate but are not true “freshman,” as they each had previously served in either the State Assembly or State Senate.

Newly-Elected - State Senate

District	Name/Party Affiliation	Hospitals in District
9th SD	Devin LeMahieu, Republican	Calumet Medical Center (Chilton) Holy Family Memorial (Manitowoc) St. Nicholas Hospital (Sheboygan) Aurora Sheboygan Memorial Medical Center (Sheboygan)
11th SD	Steve Nass, Republican*	Beloit Health System (Beloit) Aurora Lakeland Medical Center (Elkhorn) Mercy Walworth Hospital and Medical Center (Lake Geneva) Fort HealthCare (Fort Atkinson)
15th SD	Janis Ringhand, Democrat*	Edgerton Hospital and Health Services (Edgerton) Mercy Hospital and Trauma Center (Janesville) St. Mary’s Janesville Hospital (Janesville)
17th SD	Howard Marklein, Republican*	Grant Regional Health Center (Lancaster) Gundersen Boscobel Area Hospital and Clinics (Boscobel) Southwest Health Center (Platteville) Mile Bluff Medical Center (Mauston) Reedsburg Area Medical Center (Reedsburg) The Richland Hospital (Richland Center) Memorial Hospital of Lafayette Co. (Darlington) Monroe Clinic (Monroe) Upland Hills Health (Dodgeville)
19th SD	Roger Roth, Republican*	Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin - Fox Valley (Neenah) Theda Clark Medical Center (Neenah) Appleton Medical Center (Appleton) St. Elizabeth Hospital (Appleton)
21st SD	Van Wanggaard, Republican*	Aurora Medical Center in Kenosha (Kenosha) Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare - All Saints (Racine) Aurora Memorial Hospital of Burlington (Burlington) Lakeview Specialty Hospital & Rehab (Waterford)
25th SD	Janet Bewley, Democrat*	Spooner Health System (Spooner) St. Mary’s Hospital of Superior (Superior) Flambeau Hospital (Park Falls) Hayward Area Memorial Hospital (Hayward) Memorial Medical Center (Ashland) Cumberland Healthcare (Cumberland) Indianhead Medical Center (Shell Lake) Lakeview Medical Center (Rice Lake) Mayo Health System – Northland (Barron)

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Newly-Elected - State Assembly

District	Name/Party Affiliation	Hospitals in District
1st AD	Joel Kitchens, Republican	Ministry-Door County Medical Center (Sturgeon Bay)
4th AD	Dave Steffen, Republican	Bellin Psychiatric (Green Bay)
10th AD	David Bowen, Democrat	
19th AD	Jonathan Brostoff, Democrat	Columbia St. Mary's (Milwaukee)
22nd AD	Janel Brandtjen, Republican	Froedtert & MCW Community Memorial Hospital campus (Menomonee Falls)
26th AD	Terry Katsma, Republican	HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital (Sheboygan)
27th AD	Tyler Vorpapel, Republican	Aurora Sheboygan Memorial (Sheboygan)
28th AD	Adam Jarchow, Republican	Amery Regional Medical Center (Amery) Burnet Medical Center (Grantsburg) Osceola Medical Center (Osceola) St. Croix Regional Medical Center (Saint Croix Falls)
33rd AD	Cody Horlacher, Republican	Fort HealthCare (Fort Atkinson)
45th AD	Mark Spreitzer, Democrat	
51st AD	Todd Novak, Republican	Memorial Hospital of Lafayette Co. (Darlington) Monroe Clinic (Monroe) Upland Hills Health (Dodgeville)
55th AD	Mike Rohrkaste, Republican	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin – Fox Valley (Neenah) Theda Clark Medical Center (Neenah)
57th AD	Amanda Stuck, Democrat	St. Elizabeth Hospital (Appleton)
58th AD	Bob Gannon, Republican	Froedtert & MCW St. Joseph's Hospital Campus (West Bend)
59th AD	Jesse Kreme, Republican	Aurora Medical Center in Washington Co. (Hartford)
60th AD	Robert Brooks, Republican	
70th AD	Nancy Vander Meer, Republican	Mayo Health System - Franciscan Healthcare (Sparta) Tomah Memorial Hospital (Tomah) VA Medical Center (Tomah)
74th AD	Beth Meyers, Democrat	Flambeau Hospital (Park Falls) Hayward Area Memorial Hospital (Hayward) Memorial Medical Center (Ashland)
75th AD	Romaine Quinn, Republican	Cumberland Healthcare (Cumberland) Indianhead Medical Center (Shell Lake) Lakeview Medical Center (Rice Lake) Mayo Health System – Northland (Barron)
78th AD	Lisa Subeck, Democrat	
81st AD	Dave Considine, Democrat	Divine Savior Healthcare (Portage) Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital (Prairie Du Sac) St. Clare Hospital & Health Services (Baraboo)
85th AD	Dave Heaton, Republican	Aspirus Wausau Hospital (Wausau)
87th AD	James Edming, Republican	Memorial Health Center (Medford) Rusk County Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home (Ladysmith)
88th AD	John Macco, Republican	
97th AD	Scott Allen, Republican	Pro HealthCare – Waukesha Memorial Hospital (Waukesha)

Partners of WHA Executives, District Chairs, and Committees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Best of the Best 2015

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New Board Members' Biographies

Mary Licht – President-Elect



Mary Licht

I received my college degree from Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI. After college, I also received my C.P.M. (Certified Purchasing Manager) from the professional group NAPM (National Association of Purchasing Management). While working as a senior buyer for Prime Manufacturing, I joined NAPM, and took the position of chair for the Speakers Committee for them. My professional career was as an industrial buyer, from which I retired in 2005.

After I retired, we moved from the Milwaukee area to Portage, where I first volunteered at my local hospital. I enjoyed working in the various areas around the hospital such as the gift shop, blood pressure screening, heart care program, employee wellness program, and other areas as they were assigned to me. I was asked if I wanted to join the volunteer board and I accepted. I soon found myself in the position of vice-president, after which I served a term as president for two years. I served on committees at my hospital such as the scholarship committee and then the cookie committee, which I also co-founded. I am currently the secretary of my hospital's Board.

I was then asked if I would like to serve on the district board as the secretary/treasurer, which I was happy to accept. At the 2012 convention, I was asked to chair the 2013 convention at the Kalahari, which I agreed to do. During my time as Convention chair, I also volunteered to do the Partners website. Because of the shape the old website was in I had to totally take down the old site and rebuild a new site, which is up and running now and I still do the maintenance and updates. After my term as district secretary/treasurer I moved on to the chair-elect position, and after my two years as chair-elect, I am now the chair of the Southern District.

I find that being a volunteer is a more rewarding position than I ever expected it to be. I find more pleasure in helping others than I ever did earning a paycheck—no comparisons. It is truly a labor of love.

I am the mother of three, grandmother of seven, and great grandmother of two. My husband's name is Keith and I had three sisters who are all deceased.

I like to read, I belong to a small book club, and I like to crochet. I also like working on my computer. I don't have problems with it—just challenges, and I do enjoy a good challenge.

Jan Molaska – Secretary



Jan Molaska

I am a lifelong resident of central Wisconsin. I received an undergraduate and master's degree in communicative disorders from UW-Stevens Point and was employed as a speech and language therapist in the public schools for 36 years.

In 2006, I retired from the Wausau School District, but the need to help people was still very strong. Our daughter, Wendy, was diagnosed when she was five years old with Marfans Syndrome. We spent numerous times in clinics, hospitals, and ICU's. So when it came time for me to find something to fill my time, I joined the Aspirus Volunteers with the intention of just giving a couple hours a week. Initially, I volunteered in the ICU waiting room and called Bingo once a week. After a short period of time, I was asked to serve as vice-president and then served two years as president of the Aspirus Volunteers. While serving as president, I was a member of the Aspirus Wausau Hospital Accountability Board. I continue to work on many of the volunteer projects and can often be found baking cookies at 5:30 AM for the hospital cookie sales.

In 2010, I was elected to serve as co-chairperson of the North Central District. In 2013, the North Central and Northwestern Districts hosted the Partners of WHA convention. I served as the coordinator of the North Central committees for the convention and the liaison between the district and the convention chairperson. As a district chair, I served on the state board. I have served as the chairperson for the Best of the Best Award and the WAVE committees.

On a more personal level, my husband Ken and I have been married for 44 years and have two children. Our daughter, Wendy, is a family practice/OB/GYN physician in Platteville and her husband, Keith, is chief technology officer for a company based in Madison. Our son, Bryan, is a teacher and lives with his wife, Monica, who is a physician's assistant in Highlands Ranch, CO. We recently were blessed with our first grandchild. Wendy and Keith had a beautiful baby girl, Sophia.

Travel is one of my passions. We have visited Costa Rica, Hawaii, Alaska, and almost all the other states as well as many cities across Europe. When not at the hospital, I enjoy biking, reading, and spending time with family and our new granddaughter.

Peg Larson – Treasurer



Peg Larson

I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve Partners of WHA as treasurer for 2015 and 2016. I am very committed to the work that volunteers do to support the work of our hospitals. My accounting training and involvement over the years will come in handy to move the organization forward. Partners has a history of great fiscal responsibility, allowing us to provide great networking and training opportunities for our membership. I hope to continue the tradition as we move into a challenging era in health care. Thank you for your confidence.

After earning a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting at the University of Hartford, I practiced as an auditor with Arthur Andersen and Company in Hartford, Connecticut. We then moved to Worcester, Massachusetts where I was an internal auditor at Paul Revere Life Insurance until our first son was born. Two more moves brought us to Oshkosh, Wisconsin and a second son.

Since 1986, I have had the luxury to be a full time volunteer and to choose activities to make our community better. Over the years, I have served on the boards of the local Catholic Schools twice, the Oshkosh Symphony and Symphony League, Oshkosh Youth Soccer, Oshkosh Area United Way, Mercy Health Foundation, and the Mercy Medical Center Volunteers, as well as committees at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish and the Finance Council of St. Peter Church. I have served as treasurer of many of these groups and still serve on the finance councils of the Mercy Health Foundation and Lourdes Academy and the audit committee of the Oshkosh Area United Way. I volunteer at Mercy Medical Center in the Gift Shop and as a tour guide. I also help in the EAA Warbirds Gift Shop.

I am married to Paul Larson, MD, a math major turned radiologist, and we have two sons, Robert, a history/theater teacher, and Andrew, a software developer with a master's in Byzantine History. My purse always has a quilt project (or two). I teach soccer referees, sing at Most Blessed Sacrament in Oshkosh, and am involved with the Oshkosh Community Players, a drama group. I look forward to working with the great group of volunteers that comprise the Partners of WHA.

Cindy Hermel – PPE Chair



Cindy Hermel

Politics and public policy have been long-standing areas of interest for me. I majored in political science and enjoy observing the political process. I can be found enjoying morning coffee while switching between CNN, MSNBC, and Fox News. As Public Policy Education chair, I will manage to keep you informed about and share information regarding pending state and federal legislation impacting hospitals, medical professionals, patients, and their families.

Volunteering at Aspirus Wausau Hospital is one of my favorite things to do. I like the variety of serving in several areas including Surgery Waiting, Patient Registration, and the Volunteer Board. In addition to volunteering, I enjoy reading, playing bridge, bowling, scuba diving, and skiing. Me and my husband, Oren, spend as much time as possible at our cottage up north.

Sherry Jelic – CHE Chair



Sherry Jelic

I became involved in health issues when I was 16 and my father was rushed to our community hospital in renal failure. Over the next two years, dialysis, and two renal transplants in hospitals about 90 miles away, we got to know what was on the hospital cafeteria menus every weekend. This was in 1966, and my life's profession in nursing was already set. I have worked in hospitals—operating/recovery room, surgical, and oncology units, and for the past 17 years in clinic family practice. I still continue to work—it gives me access to all kinds of health education. Each job position has given me different perspectives related to health needs focus, insurance, and political actions. The last—political/advocacy, has never had such an important influence on the way our hospitals and medical systems function today.

My husband and I live in Sun Prairie and have two adult daughters. The older lives in Maui and works in agricultural research, and the younger lives in De Pere and teaches a Spanish-speaking second grade class.

I love to search for health information and share as much as I can find. I believe that our primary focus for health can no longer be just care of diseases and symptoms, but instead has to be prevention. I am so excited to be able to exercise this passion through the Community Health Education position.

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Bonnie Timm – Best of the Best Chair

I live in Amery with my husband Richard. We have two children, Michelle and Richie, with four granddaughters and three grandsons ranging from six months to 22 years of age. I volunteer at the Amery Hospital and Clinic putting in about 245 hours a year and have received three Bronze and one Silver Presidential Award for Volunteerism at our hospital. I'm active in our group and have held the position of president for 15 years. My favorite thing is helping people who need help and attending our district and state meetings. Over the years, they have presented so many fantastic programs that I have been able to come back and share with our unit and the organizations. Because of these, many people have saved thousands of dollars by the health tips, exercise tips, and my favorite was how to dissolve kidney stones, that has saved me from surgery and lots of money.



Bonnie Timm

I am the administrative assistant for Our Savior's Lutheran Church for the past 30 years. I'm very active in the Boy Scouts of America holding positions on OA Lodge, district, and local troop with lots of traveling with the scouts over the United States and England. I'm also president of our local Women of the ELCA church group, leader for our local Red Hat Society, secretary for 30-years for our homemaker's club, and on the HCE board. For four years now, I have cooked the dinners for our Community Christmas Day Dinner event for those alone and who have no one to share the Christmas holidays with. Preparing many of the funeral dinners, Cabbage Roll St. Patrick's Day dinner, and Thanksgiving dinners for our church is done every year. I love to knit, crochet, make jewelry, and most of all spend time with my grandchildren.

Gloria Sparacino – WAVE Award Chair



Gloria Sparacino

I joined the auxiliary at Aurora West Allis Medical Center in 2001—a short time after I retired from Metropolitan Insurance Company. I managed the day-to-day operation of two offices—Milwaukee and Racine. I got bored just sitting around the house and needed an outlet.

At the hospital, I served in many positions, from historian to four years as president. During the time as president, my hospital hosted a district meeting and I met several of the officers from state. Having met such lovely people, I ran for and was elected district chair of the Southeastern District, of which I served for three and one half years. Sue Lynch asked me to chair the Community Health Education committee and this was a great experience. As part of the travel team, I met so many people around the state and learned from each meeting we attended.

Now, in Bonnie Olson's term of office, I will be the chair of the WAVE committee which I know I will enjoy. I look forward to working on this committee.

WAVE Report

I am very happy to be the chair for the WAVE Award. The time I served on this committee was a very rewarding time. It was so enlightening to learn about the things that are done around the state. So, I am happy to chair the committee.

For your information, the other members of the committee are: Sylvia Emerson of the West Central District; Ginny Bosse of the Northwestern District; Joanne Fulcher of the Lakes District; and of course, Jennifer Frank of WHA.

I hope that we will have many applications to review. Hopefully the District Chairs will urge all their hospitals to submit an application.

Gloria Sparacino, Chairman
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Healthy Choices for Better Eating

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has some guidelines for better health and include the following:

- Avoid oversized portions.
- Enjoy your food, but eat less.
- Make one half of your plate with fruits and vegetables.
- Switch to fat free or low fat milk.
- If you eat grains, make them whole grains.
- Compare sodium content in foods, such as breads, soups, and frozen meals choosing foods with lower numbers.
- Drink more water instead of sugary drinks.
- Need a dessert? Try fruits with vanilla frozen yogurt. Cereal in the morning with fruit is excellent or makes an excellent snack between meals.

Public Policy Education Report



Cindy Hermel

The breezes of new beginnings can be heard and felt throughout state and federal government as newly-elected representatives assume their seats and begin work to serve their constituents. One quarter, which equals 32 new legislators, have joined the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Let's make every effort to meet them and to share our perspectives on the importance of sponsoring and supporting legislation that assists our hospitals in serving patients and contributing to Wisconsin's communities.

Medicaid reimbursement has been and continues to be a critical issue for Wisconsin hospitals. On average, our hospitals are getting reimbursed 65 cents for every dollar they spend caring for a Medicaid patient. This shortfall translates into a \$960 million hidden health care tax on everyone. We can help by advocating for the Medicaid DSH (Disproportionate Share Hospital) program to be included in the Governor's biennial budget proposal. Watch for HEAT Alerts and communicate with your legislators—your support for this component of the biennial budget bill is very necessary.

WHA's annual Advocacy Day is an event you will not want to miss. It is an informative and enjoyable experience. The nationally-recognized speakers share a wealth of information and suggestions for positively impacting public policy. Insight into the "nuts and bolts" of developing legislation and shepherding it through the process of passage is provided by Wisconsin state legislators who participate in the legislative panel. The day culminates with hundreds of attendees meeting with their legislators at the State Capital. Advocacy Day's large attendance is always a surprise to out-of-state speakers. In previous years, up to 900 hospital advocates have attended the event. The goal for 2015 is to reach 1,000 participants for the first time in Advocacy Day's history. Let's help meet that goal. Invite a friend; wear red, white and blue; and make your way to Madison April 28, 2015 for Advocacy Day. I look forward to seeing you there.

Cindy Hermel, PPE Chair
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Community Health Education Report



Sherry Jelic

ATTENTION—this is from your CHE chair, and we are about to embark on a new health education project for 2015—**TAKE A DEEP BREATH**. I hope you are as excited as I am to learn more about the importance of our lungs, as well as diseases that affect lungs, making breathing difficult for too many people.

The average adult takes over 20,000 breaths a day, which brings air into the body. In the lungs, the oxygen from each breath is transferred to the bloodstream and sent to all the body's cells. The lungs are delicate tissues directly connected to the outside environment. Anything you breathe in can affect your lungs. Germs, tobacco smoke, and other harmful substances can cause damage to your airways and threaten the lungs' ability to work properly.

More than 64 million people have a diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease—or COPD—and this number is expected to increase 30% over the next decade. One in 11 children and 1 in 12 adults have asthma. In 2011, lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer deaths.

We know that many of these cases can be prevented, or the progression of the disease slowed (ex: covering a cough!)

Conditions of the lungs impact our health care systems, so it is really worthwhile to focus on these conditions. How do these impact your hospital, your community, or the quality of life of the person?

I hope to hear how these issues impact your community/hospital/clinic/home. In future articles, we'll discuss differences in the three conditions mentioned and specifics about diagnosis and management, as well as local and national organizations that are great resources.

Sherry Jelic, CHE Chair
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Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.

Around the State

Partners with St. Joseph's Hospital, Marshfield:

A number of Partners members volunteered their time and baking skills in the 9th annual Rotary Winter Wonderland Lights project. There were three ways to earn hours by donating bakery items, collecting donations during one work night, and by helping with the set-up and/or clean-up.

Friends of Meriter Volunteer Services, Madison:

An Armchair Quarterback Raffle kicked off the football season in 2014. A donation of a 32 inch television and a leather recliner was provided and tickets were \$25.00 each with a maximum of only 250 tickets available. The drawing was January 30, 2015.

Volunteer Partners of Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire:

The Sacred Heart Hospital Guild was organized in 1939 and this year will celebrate 75 years. It began with 15 women with this motto, "Volunteers caring for the patient, family, hospital, and community through service and dedication." Bonnie Olson, president of Partners of WHA, was president from 7/04 to 6/05.

Riverview Hospital Auxiliary, Wisconsin Rapids:

The Care Shawl Project continues by volunteers to knit and crochet shawls for cancer patients. Left over yarn is used to create hats, mittens, and scarves and donated to the Wisconsin Rapids School System.

River Falls Area Hospital Auxiliary, River Falls:

Can you believe that one of the best sellers in the gift shop was a "Krystal Kissing Mistletoe Ornament?" Guess it was the perfect gift for anyone!

Happy Easter April 5!

All I need to know I learned from the Easter Bunny!

- Don't put all your eggs in one basket.
- Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.
- There's no such thing as too much candy.
- All work and no play can make you a basket case.
- A cute tail attracts a lot of attention.
- Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day.
- Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.
- Some body parts should be floppy.
- Keep your paws off of other people's jelly beans.
- Good things come in small, sugar coated packages.
- The grass is always greener in someone else's basket.
- To show your true colors, you have to come out of your shell.
- The best things in life are still sweet and gooey.



Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
May 2015	Wed., April 15, 2015
August 2015	Wed., July 15, 2015
November 2015	Thurs., October 15, 2015
February 2016	Mon., January 15, 2016

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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