

SE District 2022 FALL Newsletter



*Note
from
Sue*

SE District Chair Greetings

Autumn temperatures have arrived! Though not before the 2022 Partners of WHA State Convention held Oct 3-5 at the Chula Vista Resort in beautiful Wisconsin Dells. There were lots to celebrate this year, especially having hospital volunteers and leaders together, in-person, for the first time since 2019! Congratulations to the SE District 2021



Honor Point recipients: Froedtert West Bend Partners, Froedtert Menomonee Falls Hospital Volunteers, and West Allis Medical Center Volunteers! Congratulations to Sharon Scott who was installed as the new State Board President for Partners of WHA! Sharon will start her 2- year term on January 1, 2023.

The 2022 Fall SE District meeting was held virtually on November 9 using Microsoft TEAMS. Nine volunteer representatives from 6 local organizations participated. New resources found on the Partners of WHA website were reviewed. The 2023 budget was

approved.

There are still open positions for the SE District Board: Chair Elect and CHE Chair. Now is the best time to learn about these roles through mentorship and team work. If interested or you have questions about the role(s), please contact Sue Schuelke via email.

SAVE THE DATE! The 2023 WHA Advocacy Day is planned for April 19 in Madison. Participation is free but you must register to attend. Registration (on-line) opens in January 2023.

LOCAL**What's New in the SE District!****UPDATES****Froedtert West Bend Hospital Volunteers**

As we transition in Fall, FWBH volunteers continue to keep busy and provide invaluable service through their generous gift of time. Our Well Wisher Gift Shop provided a \$60,000 donation from proceeds to the hospital in support of patient care needs and three local high school scholarships.

The Tuesday Cookie Crew volunteers saw a one-day, record breaking, 3 ½ hour sale of 63 baker's-dozen or 819 cookies!

Our volunteer's annual fall Wish List funding provided \$35,000 for 10 hospital departments in support of direct patient care and hospital needs.

Lastly, but certainly not least, our very own Partner volunteer, Sharon Scott, was installed as President for Partners of WHA State Board at the State Convention held October 11-13 at Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

**Aurora West Allis Medical Center
Volunteers**

Aurora West Allis Medical Center's Annual Volunteer Snowflake Bazaar was held November 3 & 4 this year in the hospital lobby. The bazaar items for sale included small decorated trees, Autumn and Christmas arrangements, handmade baby afghans, baby hats, and raffle baskets.

Proceeds from the sale are used for our volunteer organization's scholarship fund. This fund supports hospital volunteers, family members of volunteers, and family members of hospital employees who are pursuing college degrees in medical careers.



Public Policy Report

Partners of WHA Southeastern District Public Policy Report November 2022

Here are excerpts from the Public Policy Education information given at the Partners of WHA Convention in October by the Partners State Public Policy Education Chair, William McCullough.

“We have all experienced the disconnect in our traditional volunteer activities, but we must keep in mind our Primary Objectives as stated in our Mission Statement to offer Advocacy, Education, Leadership and Service. The 2021 Public Policy Education Annual Reports revealed the importance of using the tools we have to communicate through our collective Advocacy voice with our Legislature. The total activities in 2021 exceeded those of the preceding two years; we adjusted our Voice of Advocacy. Part of this presentation includes page 2 of the Annual Local Public Policy Education Report that has been updated for every volunteer member’s use to plan and track their individual Advocacy Efforts.”

“One critically important way in which we can extend that voice is through HEAT, Hospital Education and Advocacy Team. If you are not a member, please take the opportunity to sign up TODAY! Contact Kari Hofer at khofer@wha.org. HEAT is not exclusive to Partners of WHA. In fact there are 5100 members, of which only 718 are volunteer Partners. That number represents about 14% of total Partner members. Regrettably our collective voices for Advocacy through HEAT fell short this year. There were eleven HEAT Alerts in total to which only 167 Partners volunteers responded. While these voices were indeed heard, the average is only 15 responses per Alert.”

“We can do better! I would like to put forth a challenge to this membership to increase HEAT membership by 20% to a total membership of 1000 by the end of 2022!”

I have been a member of HEAT for many years. It is easy to give my voice to my legislators through the Heat Alerts. Please sign up for HEAT and let our voices be heard on legislative matters that can benefit our hospital. (Page 2 of the Annual Local Public Policy Education Report can be found on the Partners of WHA website).

Cindy Finger
Southeastern District Public Policy Education Chair

Community Health Education Report

Infectious Disease-2022 Fall State Report (October)

When we first began looking at this health topic, you may recall the statement made about infectious disease being around us constantly. We see this playing out with recent reports on infectious or communicable disease [other than COVID-19] occurring on state, national, and global levels: Monkeypox, Polio, Salmonellosis, E. Coli, Listeria, and most recently, the West Nile Virus, and Cholera (worsened by Pakistan flooding).

INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATE: Various infectious diseases have been identified this summer, polio being one of concern for potential resurgence. Here are a few highlights on what’s in the news:

Monkeypox:

- First 2022 cases in NY, CA, IL; now a global health emergency.
- Vaccination focused on those most affected.
- Vaccine given as intradermal (smaller dose) vs intramuscular; same effectiveness?
- To be labeled an STD? Debatable - it can be acquired through skin to skin contact, not just sex.
- Stigmatizing with highest rate of infection in the gay/bisexual community. Anyone can get Monkeypox.

Polio:

- A case in NY found through waste water testing (unvaccinated individual).

Salmonella:

- Found in shelled peas @ some WI farmer's markets and Jif brand peanut butter.
- Myturtlestore.com, online retailer, sale of undersized pet turtles (illegal).

E. Coli:

- Found to be present in lettuce at some Wendy's restaurants.

West Nile Virus:

- Two animals in WI tested positive for West Nile Virus (mosquito borne).

Listeria:

- Big Olaf Brand Ice Cream-sold only in Florida.

CENTERS for DISEASE CONTROL and PREVENTION (CDC): The CDC is an important US federal agency, working to create the expertise, information, and tools needed to keep our communities safe from health threats. It is an excellent source of factual information based on science and has met the challenge brought on by COVID-19. In addition, the agency has "owned" some of their mistakes in dealing with the pandemic. Moving forward, the CDC is committed to making changes that include more clarity in communication with the general public and how data is collected from the states.

Thank you for the opportunity to share health information on Infectious Disease that helps each of us consider ways in which we can better care for ourselves and our community. I encourage you to continue researching on your own for the latest community health news whether or not the subject is Infectious Disease.

Submitted by Sue Schuelke

State CHE Chair

The Smile and Laughing "bugs" are two that you want to catch this season. They are infectious and contagious with several health benefits:

- Lowers blood pressure.
- Strengthens the immune system.
- Mild pain relief.
- Mood booster.
- Stress reliever



