



# HEARTBEAT

NEWSLETTER OF THE AUXILIARY - PARTNERS OF MERMH

Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital

March 2017

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1



Joan Holdman, Diana Sell, Sandy Anderson, Laurie Oungst, Diane Schessow, Marie Maciag, Andrea Mathews, Ginger Gullen, Sally Gibbs, and Kristi Hehn



Kathy Viergutz - Volunteer Coordinator, Sandy Anderson - HYHC President, Joan Holdman - Thrift Shop Chair, Laurie Oungst - HYHC COO

## Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop Recognized by AHA for Volunteer Excellence

Our Thrift Store was selected by the American Hospital Association as a finalist in the 33rd annual Hospital Award for Volunteer Excellence (HAVE) program. This program was established by the AHA board of trustees to showcase outstanding volunteer programs throughout the country.

The Thrift Store has operated for over fifty years. It collects gently used items and sells them to the community at 209 East Pine Street in Eagle River, WI. It also has an arrangement to honor vouchers issued by local churches and not-for-profits to assist community members who are struggling financially.

The proceeds from sales, usually around \$50,000 annually, benefit the hospital. Funds have helped the hospital to purchase an ambulance, two Lifepac 15 V4 defibrillator monitors, outpatient surgery equipment and a digital mammography unit.

The shop is run entirely by about thirty-eight volunteers. It is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The Thrift Store received a certificate from the AHA which will be proudly displayed on a wall at the store.

**Congratulations volunteers for all of your hard work!**

### THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you looking for a fun volunteer position benefiting the Ministry Eagle River Memorial Hospital? Or, perhaps you have a friend or neighbor who would like to join a spirited team of volunteers who enjoy what they do?

Your commitment of time could vary if you so choose.

Training is provided!

Call Joan Holdman at 715-479-6930 for more information.



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Teri Kressin, President, Eagle River Memorial Hospital Auxiliary

Happy March! Wonder if it will come in like a lion or lamb. As I sit here writing this we are expecting a big snowfall. We do need this for all the winter sports. Much of our snow has melted and we've experienced a brief spell of warm spring weather. According to the news even some of the animals who are usually still in hibernation at this time of year have come out! The other day I was visiting one of our dedicated volunteers in the hospital and we saw a flock of over 100 Cedar Waxwings. They were beautiful.

Hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Christmas. For everyone who attended the Christmas party, I'm sure you will agree with me that a good time was had by all. The food was great, decorations beautiful, great entertainment with Norma Yaeger at the piano, and wonderful door prizes. In January we started our new year with quarterly meetings instead of monthly. We also are having luncheons with our meetings, as long as we have enough volunteers to host the meal. The meeting was very productive. Attendance has been down due to the weather and our snow birds. Hopefully that will all change with our April meeting. The daffodils and tulips will be up, the birds will be singing. All the snow will be gone! This is my wish list.

There are a lot of events going on in April (besides my birthday and our secretary's). On April 7 the Spring District meeting will be held in Medford. All of you should have received your invitation by the time you receive this newsletter. It will be held in Medford, which is a little distance away, but we're planning on carpooling. The state officers are at the Spring District meeting and we have some new ones. Those of us who attended the State Convention last fall got to meet them and if you attend the Spring District Meeting, you will too.

Advocacy Day will be held in Madison on April 19. This is a wonderful experience and opportunity to meet your state legislators and they will be in session at the time of the meeting. Last year Scott Walker signed some bills into law while we were there.

We've had some changes in our chairpersons. Our long time CHE, Lisa Pepp, has decided to step down after many years of service and also our PPE, Blanche Babcock. We want to thank both of you ladies for all your contributions and will miss you as our chairs. With that said, if anyone is interested in those two positions, or in the office of President-elect, please contact me or if you have any questions.

Thanks to all of you volunteers who do a great job and are so valued in whatever area you volunteer. As always, we need more volunteers. Our Help program is in desperate need of volunteers. If you like working one on one with patients this is your chance. It's very rewarding and a chance to help those who are hospitalized. So if you have a few hours to spare we would love to have you.

Happy Spring and Happy Easter in April. See you at our April meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

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### Life Direct Program

By Pam Cira

Just an update about what is happening with this service. First of all, we are no longer able to offer units with "fall detection" since the manufacturer of those units has discontinued production. We do have a new GPS capable unit (the 8200) but it does not have the "fall detection" feature. It can, however, locate the wearer so that the appropriate response center is contacted in an emergency. For example, if you have this device and live in Eagle River but are vacationing in Alabama and push the button, CST (the service provider) would notify the 911 dispatch center for the community you are visiting of your location so an ambulance would be sent to you and not your Eagle River address.

The other units that are available include the base unit (Bob 4200) which operates off of the subscriber's landline telephone and the walkie-talkie unit (7200) which also operates off of a landline but utilizes a wrist worn device that allows you to communicate with CST from your garden, driveway or deck.

If you or someone you know would like more information about these devices, please call us at 715-479-0211.

## Christmas Luncheon Eagle Water's Resort



## Christmas Tree Project

Submitted by Diana Sell, Publicity

Thank you to all who donated new and gently used hats, mittens, and scarves to our third annual Christmas Tree project. The tree looked beautiful with all the bright colors. The Salvation Army was very grateful for our donation again this year. There are many needy individuals who benefited from this worthwhile project. Thank you, Auxilians for your generosity!



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## Drugs End Dreams

Submitted by Diana Sell

Partners of WHA has selected the health issue of "addictive drugs" to focus on in 2017. The CHE topic is titled "Drugs end Dreams". The state of Wisconsin has recognized that its opioid epidemic is a public health crisis. WHA is supporting the efforts in the state to deal with this epidemic. Governor Scott Walker has established a task force to address the crisis. Legislative bills have been introduced and our Wisconsin Attorney General, Brad Schimel, launched a campaign in 2015 to fight against prescription drug use titled "Doses of Reality". Articles related to this topic can be found on the Partners website.

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## Membership

Pam Cira, 715-479-5485

While we are in a brand new calendar year, we are in the middle of our Auxiliary year, which now runs July 1 through June 30. That means that dues are not due yet. They will be due in July and remain \$10/year for active members and \$25/year for patrons. We also have an Honorary Member category and, if you are interested in submitting someone for this membership classification, please let me know as there is a form to fill out and provide to the board. Safety reviews should be returned with membership dues. It is the sheet of paper that you need to sign regarding your acknowledgement that you have read the information about required practices, like maintaining confidentiality for example. TB forms are sent to members during their birthday month and should be returned to me as soon as possible.

Meetings are now held four times a year and lunch is provided by a "hospitality" group of volunteers. The meetings are still in the hospital cafeteria and we encourage everyone who can to attend. Members gain a lot of information by attending the meetings. For example, I think there are still a number of our volunteers, even at the Thrift Shop, who are not aware that our Thrift Shop received recognition as one of two national finalists for last year's HAVE award. That's kind of a big deal for our small, rural organization to have a national honor! By attending meetings, you will also know what things the organization desperately needs -- like board offices that need to be filled and helpers with certain events. So, please, find the time to come to meetings and help our auxiliary become a more vibrant support to our hospital.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WORK IN OUT-PATIENT SURGERY

We are at an all-time low for volunteers working in Out-Patient Surgery at this time of year. If anyone reading this article knows of anyone who might enjoy volunteering in this area, please contact Mickey Jensen or Pam Cira (Membership). We would love to talk with that individual.

On the other hand, we are pleased to report that the women volunteering their many hours and caring for patients in the Out-Patient area are doing above and beyond their share of the work during these winter months. These women are Bev Ginnow, Margo Granat, Rose DeBartelo and Dawn Guzman. They are truly faithful volunteers, working year around, always saying "yes" when called. "CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE WOMEN AND THANK YOU, FOR CARING AND SERVING OTHERS!"

Please think of Marlys Lee at this time, with prayers and hope for fast healing after her surgery. Marlys is involved in many on-going volunteer endeavors at our hospital and will truly be missed, as she recuperates for an extended time.

FOR OUT-PATIENT INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Mickey Jensen, Co-chair – Schedules Volunteers, Trains Volunteers and Heart Beat Article  
715-479-7504 or [flipdaflyr@msn.com](mailto:flipdaflyr@msn.com)  
Marlys Lee, Co-chair – Trains Volunteers and Attends Board Meeting  
Pam Cira, Membership Chair –  
715-479-5485 or [pamcira@yahoo.com](mailto:pamcira@yahoo.com)

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## Coming Soon! 6th Annual Healthcare Hero Award

By Diana Sell, Publicity

Last year's Healthcare Hero went to Tim Adamovich from the Outpatient Surgery Department. It's time to be thinking of nominations for 2017. You will be receiving a separate mailing describing the award and a nomination form. The nominees are employees of MERMH who exemplify the mission and values of our hospital and who truly make a difference in our hospital and community.

The award will be presented at the Recognition Luncheon on June 8th. The recipient will receive a plaque and a donated (from one of our members) monetary gift. We look forward to receiving many nominations from our auxiliary and employees of the hospital.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 7** - Spring District Meeting, Medford

**April 18** - General Membership Meeting,  
11:00 AM Hospital Cafeteria.  
Election of Officers

**April 19** Advocacy Day, Madison

**June 8** Annual Appreciation Luncheon,



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES  
COME AND WORK WITH US**

If interested, please contact Kathy Viergutz at  
715-356-8677 for more information.

**Thrift Store Volunteers**

**HELP Program Volunteers**

**Community Health and Education Chair**

**Public Policy and Education Chair**

**Out-Patient Surgery Volunteers**

**'Heartbeat' Newsletter Editor**

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