

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.

A Message from the Partners of WHA President

Virtual Meetings Versus In-Person



Peg Larson

Spring is coming slowly this year, but there are signs of promise. After two years of changes, Partners is starting to move to a combination of the pre-pandemic operations while incorporating some of the techniques that have allowed participation for the last two years. I am very grateful for the return to some in-person meeting opportunities. Meeting virtually allows us to do business efficiently without

investing the time and financial commitment required to travel to a common location. It does not provide the same opportunities for conversation in small groups to consider issues or just get to know each other. Our spring board meeting was a welcome opportunity to gather in a relatively safe way with about half of the board members in person and half virtually. There was a lot of laughter and a lot of good communication. I am looking forward to all the district meetings and the Gift Shop and Fundraising Symposium.

One of the challenges of the virtual environment is the inability to connect individually. It is hard to find and develop leaders when you are in virtual meetings of 20 or 30 people. At in-person meetings, there are opportunities to mentor new attendees during the meeting or breaks. The current leaders can be sure that those who are less familiar with the organization get questions answered promptly. The person speaking has an opportunity to assess understanding by watching faces and body language. While video helps, it is not the same as in person. As we continue to do some meetings virtually, please be sure to speak up if things are confusing. Someone else probably has the same question. Reach out to your local members and encourage them to participate in any activities. Most of us started because someone invited us. Partners needs good leaders at all levels. If you know someone (or are someone!) with dedication and willingness to get things done, please reach out to me, Sharon, or your district chair. Partners wants you!

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A Message from the President-Elect

Embracing Optimism

HAPPY SPRING!!

Always an anomaly greeting for we hardy Wisconsinites—Mother Nature challenges us to believe that the “roller coaster” weather is a natural transition needed to awaken our fallow land



Sharon Scott

for the plantings awaiting, so I intend to be positive believing this is a “fun” time of year as we look ahead to all the possibilities that await during this cycle of seasonal change.

I must admit to a bit of candor in preparation of my article—what is the “theme” of my message, the most effective way to express my thoughts, and will you, my fellow volunteers, appreciate, find it relative, and take heed of the message? There it is, “right in front of me”—cycle of change, spring, and “re-planting” of our inactiveness/dormant possibilities for Partners of WHA.

The inactiveness of many local organizations is most concerning—each of us understands the past two years has presented a dormancy that was out of our control. But alas, 2022 is presenting a cycle of positive changes—two in-person spring meetings are scheduled, a planned May Gift Shop and Fundraising Symposium (both in person and virtual), moving forward with plans for our annual convention to be in person, and most

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importantly local organizations receiving the “green light” to return to their activities. All may seem like “baby steps” however so relative to invigorating and returning to the normalcy so needed for our organizations.

Additionally, the spring Partners of WHA Board of Directors meeting was filled with outstanding fellowship (both in person and virtually), addressing issues of major concerns, sharing many positives/possibilities, and concluding with a resolve for the continuation of moving Partners of WHA forward in a manner that is in the best interest of all members. During Spring Tour District meetings, the state traveling team will share many of the outcomes from this meeting.

Concluding my message, I am sharing a quote from the late Vince Lombardi: “The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.” This quote is a reminder we all have a “voice” in affecting change, reacting to positive possibilities, and lending our leadership skills through actionable actions whether at the local, district or state level. Thus, a cycle of change is ours to define, spring is a time to look ahead, and re-planting of our fallow time with renewed optimism and endless possibilities.

I am excited for Spring Tour to begin to hear your questions/concerns and seeing you either in person or virtually.

Sharon Scott

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Much to be Grateful for...Much to Look Forward To



Leigh Ann Larson

2022 is in full swing and I, for one, am excited about what we have already accomplished as well as what is yet to come. First of all, a big THANK YOU for your attendance and participation in this year’s Advocacy Day and legislative visits. Once again, you stepped up to the plate and made your voices heard! These events were hugely successful with 925 people attending Advocacy Day and 353 legislative visits. We literally could not achieve this success without you. While the virtual platform was easy to use and professional looking, I think I speak for all of us at WHA when I say that we are looking forward to getting back in person in 2023. Save the date—next year’s Advocacy Day is Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

With Advocacy Day 2022 in the rear-view mirror now, we look forward to the remainder of the year. My thoughts go to the [2022 WAVE](#) (Wisconsin Award for Volunteer Excellence) and [2022 BOB](#) (Best of the Best) awards. Please visit these webpages to learn more about this year’s awards, including accessing the nomination forms. The deadline for nomination submissions for both awards is Friday, June 3. As always, the award winners will be announced at the October Partners of WHA convention. The annual convention is also something that I look forward to. The last in-person convention, in 2019, was one of the very first events I attended as a new employee of the Wisconsin Hospital Association. At WHA, I wear many hats, but one of my favorite roles is being your liaison.

Thank you for the work that you have done and for the work I know you will continue to do to serve our state hospitals and the communities they serve.

Leigh Ann S. Larson

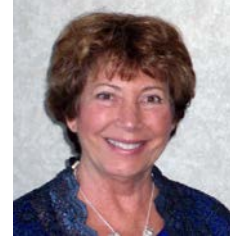
WHA Vice President of Education and Marketing; Executive Director of the WHA Foundation;

Partners of WHA Liaison

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Strategic Planning Committee Report - Spring 2022

The Strategic Planning Committee met during the Partners February Board meeting. Five committee members attended in person and two attended virtually. Members continue to work on goals set for 2021-2022.



Sherry Jelic

Goal #1 is to improve communication among volunteers at all levels throughout the state.

- Peg Larson has completed a process ensuring that volunteers holding positions on local, district, or state boards receive the *Reaching Out* newsletter. If a volunteer should be receiving it and is not, contact [Peg Larson](#) or [Patricia Franks](#).
- A volunteer interest questionnaire was developed by Sue Schuelke and Judy Jaggard. The interest form is posted on the [forms page](#) of the Partner's website. Copies are available at local/district/state meetings and included in new volunteer orientation packets (local). Since most in-person meetings were not held in 2021, evaluation will continue through 2022.
- Pages were added to the Partner's website [for each district](#) where information pertinent to that group can be added, improving communication between district leaders and local organizations. Examples include dates and hosts for spring and fall district meetings, summaries of district meetings, district officers' information, bylaws, nominating committee, or convention basket rotation of local organizations. Check out your district's news.
- To enhance communication at the local level, a new [volunteer orientation form](#) with information about Partners was created by Julie Steiner and John Tully. Those who are involved in new volunteer orientation will be informed.

Goal #2 was developed to communicate the value of membership in Partners.

- A virtual "table" was set up on the Advocacy Day Leader Pass platform in 2022. This included text and a video explaining the benefits/value of belonging to Partners of WHA.

Goal #3 established further development and implementation of the leadership tool kit, specifically assigning mentors for leadership development, implementing revisions, and collection of data for evaluation.

- The mentor list was reviewed, a personal phone contact was completed to each person on the list with meaningful comments received. A letter summarizing the purpose and procedure for matching mentor/mentee was emailed to each new district chair and to each mentor, along with a Contact Summary Form to track mentor/mentee contacts. There has not been much feedback from mentors possibly due to COVID situations.

The question was posed as to who will review all forms to keep information current. This will be added to the job description of the immediate past president.

Members of the committee discussed considerations for future Partners gatherings (applying to the May event).

- Options to improve the safety and comfort of participants attending meetings or other gatherings were considered, including individual comfort and organization restrictions. Protocols will be followed according to the local guidelines in place at the time of the event, or the current CDC recommendations. Individuals should take responsibility and be considerate of others—if feeling unwell do not attend an event.
- Convention—going forward will we continue to have both virtual and in-person opportunities? What will the cost difference be to attend meetings in-person vs virtual? (Virtual presentation is costly.) This can be a better choice for volunteers who are unable to attend in-person, or have difficulty with transportation or costs of lodging. When registering for a virtual meeting, the cost is assessed for each person (not one paid registration for a room of participants) How do we handle last minute cancellations?

As we go forward as an organization, we will likely be addressing many new questions.

[Sherry Jelic](#), Chair of Strategic Planning Committee/Partners of WHA

WAVE Applications Due by June 3, 2022

It is that time of year when we start thinking about our annual convention in October. With that, we start thinking about the annual WAVE (Wisconsin Awards for Volunteer Excellence) awards. These awards were established by Partners of WHA, Inc. to recognize outstanding contributions of organized volunteer programs, and is patterned after the AHA HAVE Awards program.

This year's brochure and nomination form has been sent to all hospitals. It includes the eligibility criteria along with the appropriate procedures to submit applications. As with last year, there are five award categories. They are:

- Community Service
- Fundraising
- In-Service
- Community Outreach and/or Collaboration
- Public Policy and Advocacy

You may also access an electronic copy of the form at www.partnersofwha.org. Applications must be postmarked by June 3, 2022. Please send your completed application materials to:

Wisconsin Hospital Association
Attn: Partners of WHA WAVE Award
P.O. Box 259038
Madison, WI 53725-9038

The award winners will be honored and presented with their respective WAVE award at the Partners of WHA, Inc. Convention in Madison on October 12, 2022, with their local Partners present. This is an opportunity for your organization to celebrate the impactful work that is being done by its volunteers.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at rhornischer5@frontier.com.

Ramona Hornischer, 2022 WAVE Committee Chair

In Loving Memory

Diane Postler-Slattery
March 30th, 1959 – March 8, 2022

2010 Partners Best of The Best Award Winner Dies in Plane Crash



Diane Postler-Slattery

On March 8, 2022, Diane Postler-Slattery and her husband, Donald Slattery were killed in a plane crash near Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport.

Diane began her career at Aspirus Wausau Hospital as an intensive care nurse. She was promoted to chief operating officer at Aspirus Wausau Hospital in 2002 and named president in 2005. Diane spent 24 years at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. She was a consummate supporter of the Aspirus Wausau Hospital Volunteers both as a member of the volunteers and in her administrative role. Diane attended volunteer board meetings and participated in fundraising projects. She cheerfully participated in the "dunk tank" fundraiser dressed as Super Woman and was the gift shop's BEST customer. Diane encouraged and supported volunteers to participate at local, district and state levels. She gave of her time generously, attending and speaking at various functions across the state. Diane was the 2010 Partners of WHA Best of the Best Award Winner. She was outgoing, caring,

dedicated and will truly be missed.

Diane and Don are survived by three children and five grandchildren.

Community Health Education Report



Sue Schuelke

Spring is a time for renewal! How fitting is it to enter this spring season and experience a sense of “newness”—an uplifting feeling in our daily lives as we begin to put the COVID-19 pandemic behind us. Although the worst of the pandemic seems to be over, it will take time to fully recover.

This year’s WHA Advocacy Day presentations and discussions focused quite a bit on COVID-19. And rightly so, as it had (and still has) a major impact on health care in Wisconsin and across the country. We are all aware of the burden it has placed on hospitals and hospital staff (volunteers included).

The keynote speaker at WHA Advocacy Day, Dr. Scott Gottlieb, shared several key points related to the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Data Collection:** the CDC had a difficult time collecting data as the current system does not look at real-time data. Instead, they created a model estimate from data received from China, Italy, and the UK. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services created their own system to collect reliable data directly from hospitals nationwide.
- **High Demands:** the need for more frontline health care staff, more surveillance, and more testing was challenging.
- **Collaboration:** more sharing and messaging of complex information needed to occur to reduce confusion and maintain/increase credibility.
- **Future Plans:** learn from the mistakes made and invest in preparedness for the next health care crisis.

Series 4 of CHE articles on Infectious Disease will be published in May. The topics will include hepatitis and salmonella. This information can be found on the Partners of WHA website under the Health Education tab.

I look forward to seeing many of you in person or virtually during Spring Tour in April and May.

Wishing you good health!

Sue Schuelke, CHE Chair

414-630-1183; Email: sschuelk@charter.net

Applications for Partners Officers Needed!

The cutoff date to submit applications for 2023 -2024 president-elect, secretary, and treasurer was March 15. As of this writing, the Nominating Committee has received **only one** application for the position of treasurer. Without officers, the Partners organization cannot function.



Any organization is only as good as the members make it. To remain the effective organization that we have become, we need innovative members to step up into leadership positions and provide the guidance necessary to manage the ever-changing demands of the volunteer organizations. Please consider what your commitment to Partners of WHA would mean. If you have served on the Board for at least one year, you meet the requirements for serving as an officer of Partners.

[Applications](#) will still be accepted and can be found on the website: Partnersofwha.org/new-forms. Submit your completed Questionnaire for Potential Officer Candidates to:

Jan Molaska, Nominating Committee Chair
216 N. 36th Ave.
Wausau, WI. 54401
jmolaska@gmail.com

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact me at 715-581-9304 or jmolaska@gmail.com.

2022 Convention - Save the Date

The 2022 Partners of WHA Convention will be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The Western district is hosting the convention and the dates will be **October 11-13**. The theme of the convention is “Helping Hands, Touching Hearts.”

Mark your calendars now!

Patsy Pippin, Convention Co-Chair,
608-485-2129 or 608-375-2473
Email: pat8apippin@gmail.com
Iva Mulhurn, Convention Co-Chair,
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Email: ijmulhurn@mchsi.com

Around the State

Oconomowoc Memorial Auxiliary Services, Oconomowoc:

The Tele-Care program is a service that is available to anyone who might gain comfort from daily telephone contact. It is not limited to any specific age group or location. There is more info available by contacting the Volunteer/Auxiliary Services Department at 262-569-0293.

HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire:

The Volunteer Partners have taken on the fun project of having crafters in their area make swaddle blankets for newborns in the Women and Infants Center. In its most basic form, swaddling involves wrapping baby securely in a blanket so that the baby's head is peeking out. The rest of the body is comfortably snug inside the blanket. Studies have been done which shows that the startle reflex is decreased, which in turn keeps the baby from being "startled" awake.

Froedtert & The Medical College of Wisconsin, West Bend

During the holiday season, the gift shop people kept their doors open and it paid off! It made it possible to transfer \$38,000 to Volunteer Services to help fund the Partner Wish List and support scholarships to local youth pursuing health careers. Great work!

Kay Lyndahl, Editor

Email: kaylyndahl@gmail.com

(Send me your Partners newsletters either by email or hard copy – I'd like to hear what you are doing that I can share with others.)



Aspirus Wausau volunteers cleaned out their Gift Shop by making baskets for new merchandise coming in. Various themes were displayed in each basket and made the sale fun!

Reaching Out Deadlines

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
August 2022	Fri., July 15, 2022
November 2022	Wed., Oct. 12, 2022
February 2023	Fri., Jan. 13, 2023

Partners *Reaching Out* is published four times a year by Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc. Visit the Partners website at www.partnersofwha.org. Direct questions or comments to:

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