

# PARTNERS

*of Wisconsin Hospital Association, Inc.*

## Northwestern District Newsletter Spring 2022

### NORTHWEST DISTRICT CHAIR REPORT

Hello everyone and Happy Spring!! Just as Mother Nature is waking up, we as volunteers are hoping and looking forward to returning in some form to our Hospitals to continue to serve them. It has been a long and difficult two years for all of us. We have really missed being together in person, and sadly, I need to report that two of our groups have decided to make a change in their volunteering mission. As of January 31st, Hayward has pivoted to only serving as volunteers in their local Hospital and Long Term care facility. Ashland, as we know, has an Advisory Board as well and are going to be operating locally as well within their community. We certainly wish them all the best but will miss having them in Partners.

Things have really changed since the onset of the Pandemic. Our whole way of volunteering has been upended, but we are resilient and will adjust with the new normal. At the Spring Tour we will have lots to discuss, and we encourage input from our remaining groups. Before you know it Summer will be here and that means more outdoor activities and maybe getting together in person to laugh and share stories. Until then, there are the two upcoming events to remind you about. Of course, Spring Tour hosted by Ladysmith on April 20th. It is virtual and Bev has been sending out the invitations along with the agenda and what else is needed prior to the meeting. I hope that some of you will be able to attend. The other event is a Gift Shop and Fund Raising Symposium being held in Madison on May3-5th. I sent out the info to the local presidents, and it will be virtual as well as in person.

That is all for now. Bev and I are really hoping that we will all be able to be in a better place for the Fall Convention. Until then continue to stay safe and well!.

Respectfully submitted on March 30th. 2022

Bev Lazar and Beth Burnham

Co-chairs Northwestern District

# Partners of MMC, Ashland

# Volunteer Partners of Spooner Health President Report

Submitted by Allison Posso

We had a very successful Love Light fundraiser. We raised more this year than last year. We had a very big beautifully lit tree in front of the hospital, and the program was very up-lifting. I hope you had a chance during December to check it out on the website. This fundraiser supports scholarships.

We have put out the announcement for applying for scholarships for those students going into a health related field.

The Gift Shop re-opened on 3/21. We had some volunteers go away for the winter, but most of them are back now. The staff was very excited for the shop to open. We are not open to the public. Employees, patients and visitors already in the facility come into the shop. The shop has spring, Easter, stuff for Mom's, new purses and jewelry. We are open Monday-Friday from 11:00am-2:00pm.

We will be having a No Bake - Bake Sale in April. This is also for the scholarship fund.

We are doing what we can with the new normal for us with volunteering. Looking forward to Spring!

*"The heart of a volunteer is never measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others." (DeAnn HollisFuture)*

## Marshfield Medical Center- Ladysmith Campus Beginning to Take Shape

The Marshfield Clinic Health System’s Ladysmith campus project is starting to come to life. Precast panels now surround the future two-story medical campus enclosing the structure to allow for crews to work on the interior during the colder winter months. The precast panels going up moves the project one step closer toward serving patients at a new location.

Beyond the progress being made on the construction, the managerial team at Ladysmith are already hard at work preparing for the change.

“In the design phase of the process, cross-departmental efficiencies were evaluated. In addition it was taken into consideration that the campus will be going from a primarily one story campus to a two-story,” said Jeff Euclide, Chief Administrative Officer for Ladysmith and Park Falls regions. “As a result, many departments will be located in proximity to different departments in the new facility compared to their current location. In an effort to be prepared for such changes, managers in the Ladysmith region are currently working through workflow documents that will serve as a handbook for teams to work together in departments and cross-functional.”

The new Marshfield Medical Center-Ladysmith will include approximately 75,000 square feet of departmental space and, with circulation and support areas, span almost 100,000 square feet overall. This contemporary, high-tech and patient-focused facility will include space for the Critical Access Hospital, medical offices, local physicians and for visiting clinicians. The new campus will be located on an almost 11-acre parcel of land on the Flambeau River. Everyone who enters the facility will enjoy a welcoming, natural setting and beautiful views. The campus is expected to be complete in the first quarter of 2023.



## Partners of Marshfield Medical Center -Ladysmith

Our world just like everyone else's is being governed by Covid. I am glad to say that the Partners have stayed together, helping each other with problems from the Covid situation. Our activities at the hospital are very limited. We will be back! We are planning our year, estimating what we can do for our activities. It's always fun to plan and then get our volunteers involved.

The planning and watching the build of the new hospital is very positive. Take a drive down past the hospital and take a look. Very impressive, even if it only has some walls at this time.

We will have a Kringle sale. That is a given. Kringle's are always good. This will be on line only. Watch for advertisements on this. There are other sales being looked into also. It's hard not to have them at the hospital, but we are working around it.

2021 was a challenge for everyone. Taking precautions, wearing a mask, sitting with only family, these are some of the things that we can do as an individual to help stop the spread of Covid. We have lost so many family and friends to this terrible disease. Please please be careful. If you know someone that has been diagnosed with Covid, you will not be able to go see them in person. You can make a phone call, deliver groceries, bake some cookies and leave them on the doorstep. A little kindness goes a long way. Take care.

If you would like to join the Partners, please contact Beverly Lazar, 715-492-6572, or leave me a note at the hospital. We would love to have you.

Stay warm.

Beverly Lazar,  
President of Partners of MMC-Ladysmith

## Marshfield Medical Center-Park Falls Auxiliary Report

\$20 million is a lot of money! That's how much our hospital received from the Healthcare Infrastructure Capital Investment Grant Program and announced in Park Falls on Wednesday, March 9th by Governor Tony Evers. Four of us auxiliary members were invited to the event held in the newly built Forward Bank in Park Falls. It was so exciting for our hospital! During the ceremony, a second grant of \$5.67 million was awarded to the city of Park Falls to pave the way for a YMCA of the Northwoods facility. Both the hospital updates and the YMCA will be great assets to the city of Park Falls and surrounding area!

Now to auxiliary news: At our October Board meeting Co-President Amy Hulbert resigned. The Nominating Committee met immediately after the meeting to add position to their agenda of finding candidates for the elections which would be held at the December Board meeting. I was elected President and former Co-President Marilee Lealos was elected Vice President. Amy Hulbert and Rhea Lucht were elected to the Board for a 3-year term. The hospital CAO and the Senior Director who is our liaison to the Thrift Store attended our December Board meeting. It was wonderful to finally meet the CAO, who gave us an overview of the very tentative plans for renovating the hospital over the next three years. We asked him for a Wish List of what is needed now.

Our Annual Meeting was held on February 8, 2022, and was the first auxiliary meeting in more than two years that we were able to have in the Board Room of the hospital! CAO Jeff Euclide gave us an overview of how our hospital fits into the Marshfield family and how our auxiliary fits in with the hospital. Director of Finance & Accounting Brandon Bay explained the financial aspects of the relationship between the auxiliary and hospital. Though the hospital financials are now part of the overall Marshfield system, the Auxiliary's account was able to stay with Forward Bank in Park Falls. The bank building is about a block from our Thrift Store, making depositing each day's earnings easy. All supplies for the Thrift Store will be purchased through him on our general ledger account. Senior Director Bob Pflanz will continue as our liaison, and Senior Communication Specialist Seth Carlson will help with newsletters and newspaper articles.

After that, everyone went down to the hospital lobby, where our picture was taken with the Auxiliary's ceremonial check. The \$28,460 covered everything requested: a Vital Signs Monitor for the Ambulance Service, a Lucas Chest Compression System for the Inpatient Unit, Parallel Bars and a Staircase for Rehabilitation Services, and a Staircase for Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehabilitation. (I'm happy we gave the donation and got the story into the newspaper before the \$20 million grant was announced! It makes ours seem tiny, but our donation was earned in 25-cent to a few dollars increments at our Thrift Store, and I couldn't be more proud of the service the Thrift Store is to the people in our area and of what we give to the hospital!) The six auxiliary members returned to the Board Room and continued the meeting, including working out a system to comply with the hospital's wish to receive our requisition lists on a regular monthly basis.

## PARK FALLS REPORT (Continued)

We have gone to quarterly meetings which have been scheduled for the Board Room on the second Tuesday of April, September, and December 2022. Previously, Board meetings were on the second Monday of every month except July and August. We didn't need that many meetings, and Tuesday is one of the weekdays Mr. Euclide is in Park Falls. Our biggest challenge now is recruiting workers for our Thrift Store, which is open Tuesdays 10:00-3:00, Wednesdays 10:00-1:00, Thursdays 11:00-3:00, and Saturdays 10:00-1:00. Pre-COVID, the Thrift Store was open six days each week, but days and hours had to be cut because of the current, smaller number of volunteers. If you're in the Park Falls area when it's open, I hope you'll stop and shop. The address is 219 Division Street in downtown Park Falls.

Ginny Bosse

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## Essential Health St. Mary's Hospital of Superior Auxiliary

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Hello friends!

Looks like we are getting closer to spring, however; we are under a winter weather advisory for the next two days!! Oh well, it will be here sooner than later.

To start this report Becky Kirk, our Vice President, recently resigned along with her volunteer duties. We will miss her. Becky had been volunteering for many years and had been an officer in the past as well.

We also are down CHE and PPE.

After checking with Jane Cheever, we are losing volunteers in all spots at the hospital and there are no new applications coming in. Maybe nicer weather could change that.

A bit of good news is we can once again meet together in the hospital for in-person meetings as well as virtual meetings. Masks must still be worn.

Also the hospital is allowing two adult visitors per patient per day.

We are currently working on a memorial for a beloved volunteer who passed away in January. Bev Schafer, who was a past officer and volunteer for many years, had moved to the St Cloud area prior to her passing.

As we know, things can change from day to day but we are hopeful that we will be able to get back to fundraising and volunteer duties as they were prior to COVID.

Patti Francisco

# COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT

(Submitted by Beth Burnham, State CHE Chair)

## Northwestern District Community Health Report

March 30th. 2022

Spring is finally here and I feel like we are starting to breathe a bit easier about Covid. In our district the numbers have been trending downward, but still we remain vigilant going forward. Hospitals continue to follow protocols according to recommendations from the CDC, but we are certainly in a better place now than this time last year.

The latest news concerns the announcement about a second booster shot being approved by Pfizer and Moderna for those over 50 or those that are immunocompromised. We will have to see how that plays out.

I would like to say a few words about the keynote speaker at Advocacy Day, Dr. Scott Gottlieb former head of the FDA and someone who has been a presence on TV shows through this pandemic. He shared some great insights concerning how things were handled at the onset, what worked and what could have been done better. His message felt very hopeful as we continue to navigate through these changing times.

That is all for now.

## Public Policy Update March 2022

This is an addendum to the Public Policy Report since Advocacy Day was held. It was as usual well attended despite having to be virtual. The Bipartisan Panel was very good and a lot of sharing of information on topics such as work force recruitment due to the extreme shortage of RNs and other staff before and since the Pandemic. One of the other issues discussed was the problem with boarding in hospitals when there was no other place to discharge patients to who did not require hospital care.

We did learn that two bills got signed by the Governor that day. One would make it a felony to threaten or otherwise cause harm to Health Care workers. Ginny Bosse and I attended the legislative visits where we shared concerns with the staff of Sen. Bewley and Rep. Milroy, as well as two other legislators. They listened and asked questions, and it was a good exchange of ideas.

Beth Burnham, Co-Chair NW District



