

# Communiqué

Fall/Winter 2018



## From the President

by Paul Dobbratz, President



As I write this fall's letter it's 9:00 PM and still 81 degrees! Hard to believe that fall may be just around the corner. Fall should bring the completion of the new look for the front of the hospital and the repaving of the parking lot.

I'd like to welcome Nettie Sosnoski and Bonnie Koelsch as new board members. Also, a huge thank you to Judy Ward and Vicki LaPorte who have completed their service on the board.

July saw another successful cookie sale. On August 6th, the volunteer team of Ann Wicklund, Meg Wissmueller, Gloria Setterman, and Judy Ward placed third in the

nine-hole event at the Aspirus Women's Golf Classic. In early October the board members will be going to the 2018 Partners of Wisconsin Hospital Association state conference in Steven Point.

Now for a bit of Aspirus Wausau Hospital news... Aspirus Wausau Hospital has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get with the Guidelines - Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award. This is a great accomplishment for our organization.

I was doing some reading and found this quote, "What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good." This was spoken by Greek philosopher, Aristotle, over 2300 years ago. This is one of the most ancient quotes about volunteering and offers proof that giving back to the community is hardly a new concept.~ Paul

## Donations Needed

Our closet is bare. We are in need of all types of knit and crochet items, particularly pocket prayer shawls. Please bring your donations to the volunteer desk near Entrance A.

## Emergency Code Reminder – Fire Alarm – “RACE”

**R**escue or remove anyone in danger

**A**larm – alert others (pull the alarm, dial “44” and report location & details)

**C**ontain – close doors to confine the fire

**E**xtinguish the fire if possible. Evacuate the smoke/fire zone.

Assigned staff will respond and provide you with any additional instructions. Make sure you know where the closest fire extinguisher and pull station are located in your volunteer area.

## Mission

The Aspirus Volunteers is an inclusive organization through which people individually, or as a group, volunteer time, talent, and resources to improve the spiritual and physical health and well-being of the residents of north and central Wisconsin, fostering the mission of Aspirus and its subsidiaries.





## Board of Directors Updates



left ~ Nettie Sosnoski      right ~ Bonnie Koelsch

A huge “Thank You” goes out to Judy Ward and Vicki LaPorte for their service to the Board. Judy served as Secretary/Treasurer and Vicki as Special Projects. Aspirus and the volunteer department appreciate their diligence and efforts to keep our programs running smoothly.

Bonnie Koelsch will step into the role of Secretary/Treasurer. She retired after 44 years in the insurance industry. She joined Aspirus Volunteers in 2013 helping in the gift shop and coffee shop. She enjoys reading, traveling and spending time with her grandkids. Bonnie is looking forward to getting more involved by joining the Board of Directors.

Nettie Sosnoski will assume the Special Projects role. She joined Aspirus Volunteers in 2014 after retiring from 35 years of teaching. She started her volunteer career with the Comfort Cart and now helps at the patient registration desk. According to Nettie, the best part of volunteering is knowing how much the patients and staff appreciate the services we provide. “I seldom get through my shift without hearing an expression of gratitude”. In her leisure time she enjoys walking, biking, swimming, reading, gardening, yoga and travel.

## Calendar of Events

**October 10** Annual Training

**October 15** Deadline to complete annual training

**November 11** Veterans Day

**November 15** Deadline to receive flu shot or complete declination documentation

**November 20-25** Festival of Trees, Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, Rothschild

**November 22 & 23** Thanksgiving – No volunteers scheduled

**December 14** Volunteer Holiday Celebration

## Special Thanks

*Chaplain Bob Polesnak received a note of thanks to be shared with the volunteers. A grateful patient wrote: “Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. My mother loved her prayer shawl. Keep up the good work!”*

## Mission, Vision & Values in Action

Do you have an example of the Aspirus values in action? We want to hear about it. Submit a short story of yourself or others talking about a time when any part of our new system Mission, Vision or Values was put into action. Please drop off your story in the volunteer office or email them to [volunteers@aspirus.org](mailto:volunteers@aspirus.org). Stories will be shared in future issues of the Communique.

## Public Policy Education



by Cindy Hermel

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued the 2019 proposed rule on physician reimbursement. Issues covered include:

- Physician fee schedule
- Proposes to update the physician fee schedule by 0.25% in 2019. This is consistent with

the Affordable Health Care guidelines.

- Site neutral payments - The proposal continues the 2018 PFS rule to continue to allow non-expected provider based departments to bill for non-expected services at 40% of the outpatient payment system amount.
- Telehealth - The rule proposes to expand access to telehealth services by paying clinicians for virtual check-ins, brief non-face-to-face appointments via communications technology, and expanding Medicare-covered telehealth services.
- In addition, efforts are proposed to make health care costs more transparent and understandable to everyday patients.

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) is actively advocating to protect the 340B Program which provides discounts to hospitals purchasing certain prescription drugs from recent proposals at the federal level that threaten the current program. The WHA has a vigorous and active history of defending the existing 340B Program provisions. It was one of the key issues members advocated for during the annual visit to Wisconsin Legislators on Capitol Hill in May. This is a crucial program for many Wisconsin hospitals. Look for future HEAT Alerts regarding 340B and contact your representatives to support this program.

## Gift Shop Coupon

30% off one regular-price item

Exclusions include: Cards, candy, balloons, flowers, doTerra, stamps and sale merchandise.

Expires: October 31, 2018

## Volunteer Opportunities / Help Wanted

**Teddy Bear Clinic** – Area kindergarten children are invited to come to Aspirus Wausau Hospital and bring a favorite “sick” stuffed animal along to become familiar with the Emergency Department. Volunteers are needed to act as doctors, x-ray technicians and pharmacists. Volunteers must have a good imagination, patience and love children. Classes are usually scheduled on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the school year.

**Hospice House Music** – Share your musical talent with patients and their families at Aspirus Hospice House. There is a piano in the great room, or bring your own instrument. Talk to Tasha for more details and scheduling (715.847.2705).

**Festival of Trees** – Volunteers are vital to the success of this annual event which has become a tradition in Central Wisconsin. Please join the special group of dedicated people who bring this festival to life. There are volunteer opportunities before, during and after the Festival of Trees. Sign up online at [wausaufestivaloftrees.org](http://wausaufestivaloftrees.org), or call or stop by the Volunteer office for a paper form. Jobs are assigned first come, first served. Note: Use online sign up to more quickly secure your preferred slot(s).



## Student Talent Art Review



The Aspirus Volunteers sponsor the Student Talent Art Review (STAR) program for area high school student art. Each fall, high school art teachers and students are invited to submit artwork. The Aspirus Aesthetics Committee judges the artwork in early May. Selected items are framed and on display in the hospital for one year with a plaque containing the artist's name and high school. The top three winners receive a cash prize. This year 13 pieces of artwork were selected from 3 different schools. Congratulations to all!

## Aspirus Wausau Hospital Awarded Primary Stroke Certification

Aspirus Wausau Hospital (AWH) has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get with the Guidelines – Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award. AWH earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period.

These measures included evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients.

## *In Memorium*

### **Dorothy Traeger**

*was a dedicated knitter for more than 28 years. She created countless baby blankets, baby hats and toe socks, logging more than 24,000 hours. She passed away June 16th.*

### **Laura Gau**

*was a loyal volunteer for 18 years. She served as a Pastoral Care Representative (PACAR), helped on the palliative care unit and various special projects as they came up. She gave over 1,120 hours of service to Aspirus. Laura passed away November 5th.*

### **Rev**

*was one of Aspirus' pet therapy volunteers and certified by Therapy Dogs International. He and his handler, Tom Gilbreath, enjoyed their visits with patients, visitors and staff members, providing love and comfort to those in need. Rev passed away August 15th.*





## Aspirus Women's Golf Classic



The Aspirus Women's Golf Classic was held on Monday, August 6th, at the Wausau Country Club. Over 250 golfers, caddies, and volunteers partnered with Aspirus and many businesses and community members for a great cause and fun day. Together, we raised \$80,000. This year's proceeds are used to help victims of sexual assault and abuse through the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program at Aspirus Wausau Hospital, and to help kids build healthy brains through the Reach Out and Read program at 13 of our Aspirus clinics.

*Pictured are members of the Aspirus Volunteers team - Judy Ward, Paul Dobbartz- caddy, Meg Wissmueller, Gloria Setterman, and Ann Wicklund. This year's team theme was Caddyshack.*

## Rainbow's End

Rainbow's End Day Camps for children with special needs were held July 16-20 and July 23-27. Campers enjoyed swimming, horseback riding, gaga ball, arts & crafts, and other activities. This year's theme was "All Ball" with activities involving sports, masquerade ball, and crafts using balls of different types and sizes. The week ended with a party and awards ceremony.



*Aspirus Coffee Shop*  
 50¢ off your purchase of \$3.00 or more  
 Expires: October 31, 2018

# Volunteers in Action - Volunteer Hours

**DON'T FORGET** - Please turn in your hours every month to keep your records up to date. **Thanks for all you do!**

**We recognize and thank these volunteers for reaching these service achievements!**

**100 Hours**

Shawn Anderson  
Nick Aschbrenner  
Cynthia Kleinstick  
Roger Kleinstick  
Monica Ley  
Ellen Lund  
Clarence Oertel  
Christine Riste  
Joyce Schoepke  
Jean Voigt-Zenner

**200 Hours**

Kacie Endres

**300 Hours**

Gail Baumann  
Emily Fecteau  
Jerry Fochs  
Delwin Hoffman  
Jeff Raasch  
Jean Richards  
Nettie Sosnoski  
Kathleen Vesely  
Ann Wicklund

**400 Hours**

Connie Dobbratz  
Paul Dobbratz  
Dawn Merriam  
Carly Moeller  
Sue Ricklefs

**500 Hours**

Sally Burgener  
Gale Gilge  
Brin Lawrence  
Maddie Peters

**600 Hours**

Samantha Debroux  
Steve Hessel  
Lois Jarosz  
Ruth Naef  
Joan Wahlquist

**800 Hours**

Janice Gresens  
Gene Nelson  
Karen Resch

**900 Hours**

Marlin Block  
Ann Koy

**1000 Hours**

Ann Goetsch  
Karen Schubert  
Ron Zahrt

**1,500 Hours**

Jane Stotmeister

**2,000 Hours**

David Hartman  
Martha Olafsson

**2,500 Hours**

Ann Brandt

**3,000 Hours**

Sylvia Erickson

**5,500 Hours**

Carol Ruether  
Bill Viertel

**8,500 Hours**

Patricia Rogalla

**Volunteers**

**50 Hours**

Paige Gavin  
Kristin Jablonski  
Megan Johnson  
Karlie Knoll  
Kara Krautkramer  
Chelsie Lambrecht  
Yangmee Yang

**100 Hours**

Jacob Berdal  
Tristin Brown  
William Clancy  
Sierra Delonay  
Gracie Gage  
Jacob Jakusz  
Cassie Lambrecht  
Quinn Lodholz

**150 Hours**

Natalie Brown



## Staff Update

Welcome Susan Prah, new assistant for Lifeline. Susan started her career at Aspirus working in the Coffee Shop. In June she made the switch to Lifeline focusing on the billing and subscriber database.

Aspirus Coffee Shop has two new faces behind the counter. Welcome to Jean Denfeld and Patty Sowinski. Jean worked in Aspirus purchasing department while Patty worked in Human Resources before transferring to the Coffee Shop. Patty and Jean are pictured along with Shao Thao.



*Shao Thao, Patty Sowinski, Jean Denfeld*



*Susan Prah*



## RISE UP Heal. Strengthen. Unify.

RISE UP was created by a diverse group of caring citizens who were looking for a different approach to heal, strengthen, and unify our community. Their medium? Art!

A non-profit group, the RISE UP team has been organizing since early 2017 planning, meeting, and connecting with diverse groups across the country to create a program tailored to Central Wisconsin.

Inspired by a similar project in Philadelphia called Porchlight, RISE UP members are from across Marathon County, all with the same vision — to improve health outcomes for individuals by building stronger alliances between service providers and communities while reducing the stigma around those in recovery to increase their participation in recovery services in Marathon County.

RISE UP aims to build a team of artists, service providers, program participants, and other community and city-wide stakeholders to collaborate on transformative public art projects. These connections are powerful forces in making our communities vibrant, healthy, and strong.

The program strives to:

- Catalyze positive changes in the community
- Improve the physical environment
- Create opportunities for social connectedness
- Develop skills to enhance resilience and recovery
- Promote community and social inclusion

RISE UP works closely with communities to uplift public art as an expression of community resilience and a vehicle of community and personal healing. The art project, once finished, will be permanently displayed at Aspirus Wausau Hospital cafeteria courtyard.



*President-elect, Ann Wicklund, painted while the mural was at Wausau's Chalkfest.*



*Aspirus Health Foundation and Volunteer staff help paint part of the mural at the Aspirus Farmer's Market.*



**ASPIRUS™**

Passion for excellence.  
Compassion for people.

333 Pine Ridge Boulevard  
Wausau, WI 54401

## *Communiqué*

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Aspirus Volunteers*

**715.847.2848**  
[aspirus.org/volunteers](http://aspirus.org/volunteers)

**Yolanda Voigt**  
Director, Volunteer Services

**Shirley Iczkowski**  
Coordinator, Volunteer Services

**Graphic Design & Print Shop**

## **Donations Needed**

The Comfort Cart is in need of magazines, such as hunting & fishing, sports, outdoors, etc. which are less than 6 months old. Please bring your donation to the volunteer desk near Entrance A or the volunteer lounge.

## **Annual Requirements Training**

Volunteer Annual Requirements Training will be held on October 10th. Speakers will present information on Infection Control, Confidentiality/HIPAA, Safety, Service Excellence, Standards of Conduct, and Harassment. Information on Fraud Prevention will also be shared. Volunteers will have the opportunity to receive their annual TB skin test (if necessary). Flu shots will also be available. This is a great chance to network with your peers. Please watch your mail for more details.

If you are unable to attend one of the onsite training sessions, the Annual Requirements quiz is also available in booklet form or online at [aspirus.org/volunteertraining](http://aspirus.org/volunteertraining).

The deadline for Annual Requirements is October 15th. Failure to complete the Annual Requirements may result in your inactivation from the volunteer program until the requirements are completed.