President’s Message

Our 67th MAHA Fall Conference is now just a memory. Hopefully, those who attended felt when they left the conference that they are, as our theme for this conference stated, Volunteers … a Gift to the Community. Through our speakers and workshop presenters we carried out this theme. Our VP of Education has provided a more in-depth overview of this conference and can be found in this newsletter. Pictures taken by our UPD member, Chris Ainslie, demonstrate the beauty of the fall season at Crystal Mountain. Take a look at the pictures in this newsletter and those on the MAHA Website (mahaonline.org) – you may find yourself at one of the functions.

During this year we have encouraged our membership to ask questions, and I will take this opportunity to answer some questions that are of general concern to all members:

Are the conferences only open for officers of auxiliaries and volunteer groups? The answer to this is absolutely “no.” Our conferences are specifically designed to provide education and experiences for all members regardless of their roles within their individual hospitals.

Would it be better to have one conference rather than two conferences? The MAHA Board has discussed having only one conference, but we have not yet definitely committed to only one conference. At the present time, the majority of our membership still favors two conferences. We will continue to look at the pros and cons of this issue. However, that being said, as an organization MAHA cannot continue to present conferences and have such a low attendance where the organization loses money. If we do not have the attendance, we will not be able to continue Fall or Annual meetings where we present quality speakers and workshop speakers. If you want to continue to have conferences, it is up to you, the membership, to support us by increasing our conference membership.

Why does MAHA continue to have its Annual Meeting at the Grand Hotel since it is too expensive? Since this is a question that is asked frequently at all conferences and at swing arounds, I have prepared a comparison of costs for one person to attend each conference. Overall, the basic difference between the two conferences is $50.

Will we be returning to Crystal Mountain for the Fall 2016 Conference? We have recently signed a contract with the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth to have our Fall Conference there October 10-12, 2016. It is a fun locale and you may wish to add a day either before or after the conference since there is so much to see and do in Frankenmuth’s Little Bavaria.

Changing courses the MAHA Board has begun a monthly MAHA News to Know bulletin that we distribute via our gmail. It contains snippets of information about our membership and our hospitals to keep everyone informed in between issues of our Highlights. You are all welcome to send me information concerning your hospital and/or district to include in the bulletin.

Please mark your calendars for April 19, 2016 for the Healthcare Advocacy Day program to be held in Lansing. As we are advocates for favorable healthcare legislation for our hospitals, it is vitally important that we attend especially since this is an election year.

Please continue to contact us with your questions, ideas and suggestions. You are important, and what you have to say is very relevant. Also, I am asking for your feed back from this President’s Message. I really would like to know who is reading it, what are your thoughts concerning its content, etc. I would like to start a dialogue with all of you who are reading the MAHA Highlights.

Nancy Viele, MAHA President
Shown here is Lucille Grenzke (MAHA President in 1974/1975) receiving the “Distinguished Past Michigan Association of Healthcare Advocates President Service Award.” Nancy Viele, MAHA President, visited with Lucille and presented her the award while also recognizing her for her past accomplishments. In the 1970’s Lucille helped shape the future of the MAHA by increasing the membership awareness of the American Hospital Association, and establishing advocacy as a vital role for all volunteers with increased emphasis on educating MAHA members to step into leadership roles on the district and state level.

In 1976 she received the “Key Award for Meritorious Service” from the Michigan Hospital Association. This award is presented annually by the Michigan Hospital Association Board of Trustees as the highest achievement award in recognition for an outstanding contribution of service to either hospitals or to the health needs of the people of the State of Michigan.
MAHA Looking Ahead, 2016-2021

The following dates are for your calendar — Information current as of November 1, 2015

NOTE: Changes are indicated in highlighted yellow

January 12-13, 2016
MAHA Committee Meetings
Quality Inn Suites, Lansing

January 14, 2016
MAHA Board Meeting
Quality Inn Suites, Lansing

February 10, 2016*
MHA Board of Trustees Meeting
Okemos

February 15, 2016
MAHA Executive Committee
Conference Call
3:00 p.m. est

March 15, 2016
SED Spring Workshop
Detroit

April 6, 2016*
MHA Board of Trustees Meeting
Okemos

April 6-7, 2016
MAHA Committee Meetings
Quality Inn Suites, Lansing

April 8, 2016
MAHA Board Meeting
Okemos, Michigan

April 19, 2016
Healthcare Advocacy Day
Lansing

April 24-26, 2016
SHVL Conference
Jacksonville, Florida

May 9, 2016*
NCD Spring Meeting/Installation
West Branch

May 10-11, 2016*
UPD Annual Meeting
Escanaba

May 17, 2016*
SED Annual Meeting
Farmington Hills

May 25, 2016*
ECD Spring Meeting/Installation
Horizon Center, Saginaw

May, 2016
WCD Spring Meeting/Installation
Carson City

June 7-9, 2016
MAHA Annual Meeting & Educational Institute
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

July 12-14, 2016
MAHA Committee and Board Retreat Meeting
DeWitt

September 14-15, 2016*
UPD Fall Meeting
Sault Ste. Marie

September 20, 2016*
SED Fall Meeting
Sterling Heights

September 22, 2016*
SWD Fall Meeting
TBA

September 27, 2016*
NCD Fall Meeting
Charlevoix Area Hospital

September 28, 2016*
ECD Fall Meeting
Horizon Center, Saginaw

October 9-11th, 2016
MAHA Fall Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth

May, 2017*
NCD Installation Meeting
Munson- Traverse City

May 10-11, 2017*
UPD Spring Meeting/Installation
TBA

May 16, 2017
SED Spring Meeting/Installation
TBA

May 24, 2017*
ECD Spring Meeting/Installation
Horizon Center, Saginaw

June 13-15, 2017
MAHA Annual Meeting & Educational Institute
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

July 11-13, 2017
MAHA Committee and Board Retreat Meeting
DeWitt

September 6-7, 2017*
UPD Fall Meeting
TBA

September 12, 2017
SED Fall Meeting
TBA

September, 2017*
NCD Fall Meeting
Mercy–Cadillac

September 27, 2017*
ECD Fall Meeting
Horizon Center–Saginaw

May, 2018*
NCD Installation Meeting
West Shore–Manistee

May 15, 2018
SED Spring Meeting/Installation
TBA

June 12-14, 2018
MAHA Annual Meeting & Educational Institute
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

September, 2018*
NCD Fall Meeting
Mercy–Grayling

May, 2019*
NCD Installation Meeting
Otsego-Gaylord

June 11-13, 2019
MAHA Annual Meeting & Educational Institute
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

September, 2019*
NCD Fall Meeting
Alpena

May, 2020*
NCD Installation Meeting
Cheboygan

June 9-11, 2020
MAHA Annual Meeting & Educational Institute
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island

September, 2021*
NCD Fall Meeting
Frankfort

* Attended by MAHA President
** Attended by MAHA President and MAHA President Elect (and/or VP Ed)
*** Attended by MAHA President, MAHA President Elect and MAHA Vice President of Education

Prepared by: Mary Lu Cramer, President Elect (248) 714-5774 or mcramer2@comcast.net

Please notify the MAHA President & President Elect as soon as you know of a new meeting date or meeting change so we can keep the calendar accurate and up to date. Thank You!
On October 12-14, 2015 MAHA held its 67th Annual Fall Conference at Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa in Thompsonville, Michigan with all its beautiful fall colors! All Districts sent many representatives and to that end, multiple hospitals were present. Volunteers – A Gift to the Community was an excellent statement to represent this year’s conference.

Monday night, our opening speaker was Lila Lazarus, well known Michigander motivational speaker who leads her life at a pace that is breathtaking, invigorating and fulfilling! The title of her presentation was “Adventure, Service & Living Life to its Fullest.” The audience was invigorated and Lila received a standing ovation.
On Tuesday, **Paige Fults**, Director of Advocacy from MHA, talked about the upcoming legislation pertinent to Michigan hospitals and how it will affect them now and in the future. She spoke about candidates and issues pertaining to the upcoming state and presidential elections.

Our next speaker for the morning was **Kathleen Zagurola, Cheryl Thrushman & “Parker.”** Kathleen is Manager of Volunteer Services for St. John Providence hospital systems, Cheryl Thrushman is the Lead Consultant for Multi-Media Services for St. John Providence hospital systems and the champion behind initiating the Facility/Therapy Dog program at St. John Providence hospitals. “Parker” is one of the SJP facility/therapy dogs for the 7-hospital system. This was an interesting presentation and you could hear comments from the audience saying “we should do that!”

In the afternoon our workshops included: **Joy Spahn** who spoke on “The Basics of Alzheimer.” Joy is the West Michigan Regional Director of the Alzheimer’s Assoc., Greater Michigan Chapter for nine years and has over 35 years’ experience in geriatric care management. Her presentation was garnered “needed more time, very informative, have back again.” **Cheryl Karpen** spoke on “The Five Must Haves for Retail Success in 2016.” She spoke of her dream to have a gift shop dedicated to celebrating and inspiring women. Her successes are many from not one, but two stores to author with her book collection *Eat Your Peas*. Her inspiration was contagious.

The third workshop presentation was given by **Sarah Knochel** who spoke on “Utilizing Technology to enhance your Volunteer Programs.” Sarah’s responsibilities at Covenant Health Care include education and training of volunteers and creating high impact volunteer positions that meet the demands of the medical center. She currently works with approximately 425 individuals ranging in age from 16 to 96! It was an excellent and well received presentation. We had three dynamic workshop presenters and we repeated these workshops again in the afternoon. All in all the workshops were given high marks in all the surveys.

Late afternoon two networking sessions were presented, one entitled “Issues for Small Hospital Volunteer Programs,” the other “The Changing Role of the Volunteer.” These were moderated by **Jeanette Havel** and **Mary Lu Cramer**. Our members had an opportunity to talk about these topics and brainstorm with other MAHA members.

The entertainment for our banquet dinner – back by popular demand – was the **Benzie Choral Group** directed by **Mrs. Christy Case**. The group consists of young people from the Benzie Central High School comprised of 9th – 12th grade students. Students are selected for this ensemble based on their excellence in music theory, vocal technique and character. They were a delight to hear and were enjoyed by all.

After dinner a white elephant giveaway was held. Looked like there was some trading going on after all gifts were distributed. Just had to make sure that you did not trade and get your own white elephant back!

Wednesday morning was the last day of the conference and the closing speaker was **Mary Kay Slowikowski** and what a little bundle of dynamite! Her presentation title was “The Glimmer Principle” and she sure did sparkle. Her personality was so upbeat and her story enlightening.

All of the speaker presentations and workshop presentations are available on the MAHA website.

The closing of the fall conference with was ended with the wonderful basket giveaway. We received basket donations from, and want to say a BIG thank you to: Blodget/Spectrum, Grand Rapids, WCD; McLaren, Flint, ECD; Westshore Medical, Manistee, NCD; Aspirus Grand View, Ironwood, UPD; Genesis, Grand Blanc, ECD; St. Joseph Mercy, Chelsea, SED; Promedica Monroe Regional, Monroe, SED; H. F. Macomb, SED; Mid-Michigan Medical Ctr, Midland, ECD; W.B. Regional Medical Ctr., West Branch, NCD; Munson Medical Center, Traverse City, NCD; Henry Ford, Wyandotte, SED; War Memorial, Sault Ste. Marie, UPD; Allegiance Health, Jackson, SWD, Branch County, Coldwater, SWD; Memorial Healthcare, Owasso, ECD; Bronson Battle Creek, SWD; Caro Community Hospital, ECD; Hurley Medical Center, ECD; Otsego Memorial, Gaylord, NCD; St. John Oakland, Macomb, SED; Sparrow Carson, WDC, Spectrum/Pennock, SWD, Lake Huron Medical, SED; McLaren, Port Huron, North Ottawa, Grand Haven; Manistique OSF, Escanaba (2 baskets) UPD; Marlette Regional, Marlette, ECD; Charlevoix Area, Charlevoix, NCD; Holland Hospital, Holland, WCD.
MAHA 67th Fall Conference
Did you know you are allowed 30 hours for attending the Fall Conference and MAHA Annual Meeting? Just report back to your hospital after you attended the meetings and have your total hours served as a volunteer updated. These meetings are held for your benefit as a volunteer. The information presented is intended to help you become better at the things you do for your hospital. Claim the hours and boost your total volunteer hours.
Vendor Report

The Vendor Show, held during the 67th Annual Fall Conference, was a success. There were 36 tables of merchandise and gift shop ideas and displays. Five of the vendors were new to MAHA, giving more fundraising opportunities to our MAHA Hospitals. Attendees went to each vendor to have their “Passports” marked and the marked cards were deposited for the vendor drawing. Coffee, tea and ice water were available in the area so attendees could relax at tables, show their purchases to their friends, network with new friends or go back to a favorite vendor to book a sale. It was a fun time and a great way to plan sales for our hospitals.

Participating Vendors

The Michigan Association of Healthcare Advocates greatly appreciates the support that it receives from all of its vendors.

YOUR MAHA VENDOR COORDINATOR
Janet Barker

AWI FIXTURES & INTERIORS
Contact: Mike Wescott
40 Lurgan Avenue
Shippensburg, PA 17257
(717) 729-2992
Mike@awifixtures.com
Gift shop design, display manufacturing, store layout, fixture solutions

BAUBLES & BAGS
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400 Inverness
Highland, MI 48357
(248)330-3155
jeaniemather@msn.com
Sassy and affordable fashion jewelry, handbags, wallets and other ladies’ accessories

GENEA DISTRIBUTING
Contact: Amanda K. Smith
16340 S. US 27
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 0575-5511
Geneva.distributing@gmail.com
Geneva Distributing is a family business operating for over 30 years. We sell ultra comfort linens, sheets, pillows, blankets, throws & baby blankets.

GUND
Contact: Cathy Taylor
110 Wicklow Road
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
(517) 231-2895
cathy@gund.com
Quality Plush – Baby & Kids 1-100! For Smiles, Hugs & Cuddles – You’ve Gotta Getta Gund!

MADGE & GERT
Contact: Heidi Seman
8461 Belle Bluff Drive
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
(248)240-2918
gert@madgeandgert.com
Soy candles, essential oils, foot loofahs, lipbalm, bath bombs, lotion bars, clamshell tarts

MASQUERADE FUNDRAISING
Contact: Jim Tripp
1496 Callaway Court
Howell, MI 48843
(517)648-1931
jtripp1951@yahoo.com
$5.00 jewelry and accessories
MICHE
Contact: Nancy Hanks
11378 190th Avenue
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231)250-5767
dawnhanks@charter.net

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Contact: Alec Overly
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Plymouth, MI 48170
(734) 453-9200
Aleco@RandallData.com

“Volunteer-friendly” point of sale solutions designed specifically for hospital gift shops. Easy to learn and easy to use. For a FREE information packet call us at (734) 453-9200. Randall Data Systems – point of sale solutions for “happy volunteers!”

SCRUBS & BEYOND LLC
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12969 Manchester Road
St. Louis, MO 63131
(314)856-9129
dtittel@scrubsandbeyond.com

We pride ourselves on providing an enjoyable shopping experience, value, exceptional service, quality and selection to the medical professionals that we serve.

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P.O. Box 252552
West Bloomfield, MI 48325
(248)207-3501
Silvique1@yahoo.com

Silvique carries an extensive line of sterling silver jewelry, including many pieces with semi-precious stones, lab-created opals and CZ’s. Silvique has an expanded line of men’s jewelry, including tungsten and stainless steel, as well as a Kid’s Korner with sterling silver jewelry for your little ones. Jewelry is sold at 50% off retail prices at on-site sales.

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studio217squared@gmail.com

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PO Box 701752
Plymouth, MI 48170
(313) 350-8785
TheresaLyson@hotmail.com

We carry an AMAZING selection of $5.00 merchandise. Our merchandise changes with the season. Sundresses and scarves to leg warmers and pasminas, plus so much more! Quality, STYLE and selection, we have it all!

Please feel free to contact our vendors for all your fundraising and gift shop needs.
Healthcare is one of the most regulated industries in the world. State and federal laws determine when and where hospitals are built, what services are offered, who may perform certain medical procedures, what services can be performed, the cost of services and even how much information can be shared and with whom. In fact, our elected leaders make decisions every day that affect Michigan hospitals and patients.

Thus, it is important that the hospital community have a voice in public policy discussions and work together to ensure that these policies are in the best interest of Michigan hospitals. The Michigan Health & Hospital Association Health Political Action Committee (Health PAC) is the political voice for Michigan hospitals, health systems and their employees.

Please plan to contribute to the Health PAC campaign and assist MHA in keeping our issues and concerns on the political radar screen in Lansing and Washington. It is an extremely important tool that has contributed to the success of the MHA’s statewide advocacy efforts throughout the years. Help us continue this strong tradition.

Since Michigan has term limits, it costs a significant amount of money to be elected. When we elect a legislator who supports our cause, the PAC dollars you give can help decide the issues he will support and get passed. Your contributions buy yard signs, host meetings to meet constituents, and support discussion forums.

An interesting fact is that if you put aside just ten cents a day starting in January, you will be able to contribute $10 to Health PAC at your district meeting this spring! Think what an impact MAHA would have on your healthcare legislation with support of this magnitude. Please set a goal for yourself and make a pledge to support Health PAC when the cards are distributed at your district meetings.

Stacy Dowdy, Director, Health PAC & Grassroots Advocacy, MHA

Healthcare Advocacy Day

Tuesday, April 19, 2016 | Lansing Radisson Hotel | Downtown Lansing

SAVE THE DATE! Registration brochures were mailed in January concerning Healthcare Advocacy Day to be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at the Lansing Radisson Hotel in Downtown Lansing from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. It is very important that we start planning now to send representatives to this event.

We need to make sure that our need for healthcare coverage for all and to improve the state’s healthcare delivery system is understood. You can do this by attending Healthcare Advocacy Day and speak personally with your legislator during lunch.

Please send back your registration form immediately and recruit other auxiliary members and/or volunteers from your hospital and/or facility to attend this very worthwhile informative event. We look forward to your attendance!

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

- **Nancy Viele**  
  President  
  Home: (810) 655-6419  
  Cell: (810) 479-6015

- **Mary Lu Cramer** President Elect  
  Home: (248) 714-5774  
  Cell: (219) 384-0461

- **Lansing Quality Suites** (517) 886-0600

- **Grand Hotel**  
  (906) 847-3331

- **MHA Headquarters**  
  (517) 323-3443

- **Bavarian Inn Lodge**  
  (866) 842-0906
MAHA Around the State

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Caro Community Hospital hosted a very successful Auxiliary Raffle featuring excellent prizes including a 50” flat screen TV! We will be the sponsor of the CCH Holiday Bazaar which showcases 20+ crafters from Caro & the surrounding area.

Genesys Regional Medical Center, Grand Blanc, will be hosting an elegant Christmas Luncheon for our volunteers, featuring a very special musical performance by the Mt. Echoes Dulcimer Ensemble.

Hills and Dales General Hospital was able to purchase an overhead heater and air conditioning unit for our front lobby, thanks to our successful fundraisers.

The Well Wishers gift shop at Huron Medical Center, Bad Axe, continues to be an important fund-raising source for us. We’re having a Christmas Open House in November and a Christmas Basket Sale in December.

The McKenzie Health System Auxiliary is continuing our service in the gift shop and raising funds to purchase equipment for the hospital. The members of our Auxiliary donate their time and talents visiting with patients and helping them with simple daily tasks while they are here. Our members are also very active within our community and participate in many other service and charitable organizations and activities throughout the county.

The McLaren Flint Auxiliary Volunteers have hosted several very successful vendor sales including linens, shoes, uniforms, candy, nuts and a new vendor with electronic gadgets. We welcomed 51 new members to our ranks in fiscal year 2014-2015. Nine members of the Board of Directors attended the ECD Fall Conference in Saginaw, and four members of the Board attended the MAHA Fall Conference at Crystal Mountain. We think it was one of the best conferences we’ve ever attended, with dynamic speakers and very interesting workshops. The closing speaker, Mary Kay Slowikowski, was hilarious and her presentation a great way to close the conference.

Memorial Healthcare, Owosso, hosted a wonderful Fashion Show in October. Our gift shop continues to contribute a great deal to our fundraising efforts.

MidMichigan Medical Center, Gladwin Volunteers attention now is focused on the Gift Closet Holiday Sale and Bake Sale to be followed closely by the annual Love Light Tree fundraising efforts. Several new pieces of equipment have been purchased for the hospital. From all the Gladwin volunteers, a wish to all for a Happy and Healthy 2016!

MidMichigan Medical Center, Gratiot/Alma – We are keeping our “Stitch and Stuff” group very busy making comfort pillows, sewing blankets and making tray favors. Our gift shop continues to do well.

MidMichigan Medical Center, Clare enjoyed our Volunteer Fall Luncheon in September. We hosted the 4 Sisters meeting in October and celebrated the arrival of our hospital liaison’s baby girl! To end the year we will have our annual Volunteer Christmas Luncheon, which is being provided by one of our doctors!

St. Mary’s of Michigan, Saginaw, has undergone a makeover to our gift shop and we are enjoying robust sales. Our thrift shop, open 3 days per week, continues to flourish as well.

The volunteers of St. Joseph Health System in Tawas City have purchased a popcorn popper and we are now offering this delicious treat every Thursday. A perfect way to raise spirits and funds!

Carol Crane, ECD President

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Munson Healthcare Charlevoix Hospital

As of November 1, 2015 our hospital has integrated with the Munson Healthcare system. This is a new and exciting time for our hospital.

We have had three different fund raisers this fall. A very successful "Power of the Purse” fundraiser in August. We raised $12,300. The proceeds will be used to purchase equipment for surgery, laboratory, therapy and other departments.

We are starting our “Tree of Lights” in November. In December we will have a “Christmas Shopping Spree”

McLaren Cheboygan Campus

We had a very successful “Power of the Purse” fundraiser in August. We raised $12,300. The proceeds will be used to purchase equipment for surgery, laboratory, therapy and other departments.

We are heading into our busy time of the year with the $5.99 Jewelry Sale, Carmel Apple Sale and Gift Shop Uniform Sale. We are heading into our busy time of the year with the $5.99 Jewelry Sale, Carmel Apple Sale and Gift Shop plans for the Holiday Season.

One event people look forward to is the Holiday Tables, which is an evening to share with family and friends. The winner of our China Raffle is announced at this event. We are working with our hospital staff to provide guest speakers for our general membership meetings. WE feel this will help us become more aware of the services our hospital provides.

Otsego Memorial Hospital Gaylord

Our main focus this year is to increase our membership to our Auxiliary. We continue to have our fundraisers. We have been successful with Rose Day Sale, Bakeless Bake Sale, and Uniform Sale. We are heading into our busy time of the year with the $5.99 Jewelry Sale, Carmel Apple Sale and Gift Shop plans for the Holiday Season.

As of November 1, 2015 our hospital has integrated with the Munson Healthcare system. This is a new and exciting time for our hospital.

We have had three different fund raisers this fall. A very successful "Power of the Purse” fundraiser in August. We raised $12,300. The proceeds will be used to purchase equipment for surgery, laboratory, therapy and other departments.

We are starting our “Tree of Lights” in November. In December we will have a “Christmas Shopping Spree”

Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital Frankfort

The month of September found our auxiliary hosting the Fall NCD Meeting at the Frankfort Hotel. Our speaker, Dr. Recchia did a fantastic job of informing us of the facts and fiction of heart disease. Everyone enjoyed his talk and the lovely luncheon that followed.

In October we held a fundraiser at crystal Mountain Resort that featured a silent auction, dinner and entertainment by Three Men and a Tenor. It is always a fun evening for those that attend.

The winter months will find us preparing for our fundraisers that will begin in May with our 21st Annual Golf Benefit. We will be featuring two new fundraisers next year along with our Golf Benefit and Tour of Interesting Places. It should be a fun, exciting and profitable year for our Hospital.
MAHA District Presidents

Please send a copy of your District newsletter to the MAHA President, Vice President, Resource Chairperson, and Communications Director. Also, remember to send a copy to each of the other District Presidents.

West Branch Medical Center

We had a busy season at WBRMC! WE has several fundraisers which included the Victorian Art Fair, ice cream Sundae sale, Five dollar jewelry sale, popcorn sale and a book sale.

We presented the hospital a check for $18,532.41 at the annual appreciation luncheon given by the hospital for the volunteers.

A few of us attended the NCD Meeting and the MAHA conference. As always the speakers were wonderful and the food good. We always enjoy getting new ideas and suggestions from fellow volunteers

Vivian Mettler, NCD President.

Henry Ford Macomb Hospital

We are now adding Talking Books for our patients whose physical limitations render them unable to read or watch TV from bed. This idea was presented by one of our auxiliary board members as a result of a hospitalized friend with limitations. My research uncovered that the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a division of the Library of Congress, loans digital talking book players, book cartridges, and headphones free of charge to schools, hospitals, and individuals. The players are designed for visually impaired individuals with large buttons and simple design. We are using disposable sanitary earphone covers and the hard plastic construction of the readers and cassettes allows us to easily sanitize them between patients.

We are also advocating for our patients by providing them with the necessary forms so they can order this equipment for their own personal use at home. This is information worth sharing with your hospital and anyone you know who would benefit from this wonderful service. If you would like more information about this best kept secret you can visit www.loc.gov/nls or contact me and I will help you in any way I can.

Cindy Jones, Auxiliary President

ProMedica Monroe Regional Hospital

In September our auxiliary members and volunteers changed their look to kelly green smocks and polo shirts. ProMedica’s colors are several shades of green so it was an appropriate choice. And they have been well received.

Our gift shop is helping the hospital’s charity, Angels of Mercy, again this holiday season. Our manager has ordered winter coats for men, women, and children. These coats will be available to be purchased for the needy for $25 each and left at the gift shop. They will then be given to the coordinator of the charity to distribute as needed. This is called Coats for a Cause. The departments in the hospital will be challenged to outdo each other! Our auxiliary got a head start on everyone by learning about it at the September membership meeting and buying three that day!

Beth Grna, Auxiliary President
Bazaar with hand crafted items on November 6. Our popular Coughlin Jewelry Sale is on 11/17th &18th and the Tree of Peace decorating day on Nov.30th with the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Dec.3rd, which is in conjunction with the sale of our beautiful new ornaments on Dec.30th – January 4, 2016.

Our new 1st time vendor is the Nut Sale which makes beautiful Christmas gifts. We have a tentative date for that right now. The construction of our new cancer center is moving along and is interesting to watch rise from the ground up! Thanksgiving greetings to you all. Remember, you are a gift and we appreciate all you do whether near or far.

Sue Barbe, Auxiliary President

St. John Macomb-Oakland Hospital

Our Chrysanthemum sale was a huge success. We sold 100 plants in less than 2 hours for a fundraiser sell-out. We also had good luck with our Silvique and Masquerade fundraisers this October. People are beginning to think about Christmas gifts and we enjoy giving them easy access to good ideas. We are preparing to sell our hanging tree angels for Christmas and will also participate in the hospital initiative to sponsor gifts for families in need. Our six representatives who attended the conference at Crystal Mountain came back energized and ready to take on new challenges.

Marilyn Kay, Auxiliary President

St. Joseph Mercy Chelsea

The Chelsea Volunteer Auxiliary has been busy gearing up for the Holiday Season in several ways. The annual Tree of Love fund-raising activity is underway to allow everyone to honor, or remember, family members and friends. Lovely handmade angels, bearing the person’s name, grace the tree.

This year, our annual fall bazaar will be combined with the hospital Nurses Scholarship fund-raiser. Vendors will be located in the main entrance areas and Conference Rooms.

Each year, we eagerly look forward to the beautiful Christmas Dinner the hospital provides. Through this event we are able to visit, and connect, with volunteers we may not normally see because of their work site.

Because our Gift Shop is doing wonderfully well, we will again be able to present a check for $20,000 to our Cancer Center.

Lois Gibson, Auxiliary President

St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital

“Delight the world with Compassion, Kindness and Grace”

Mercy volunteers completed our annual retraining which provided education such as infection prevention: hand hygiene, slip and fall prevention for seniors, hazards of texting while driving. Also, SJMO offers “Active Shooter” training class for staff and volunteers. A.L.I.C.E. (alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evaluate) will educate us as to how to react in a violent situation. This class is extremely educational that may help you at the hospital, home, malls, etc. I highly recommend everyone to attend.

We are excited to host our “Book Sale” December 7,8 and 9, 2015. This gives staff and guests the opportunity to shop for Christmas goodies. Payroll deduction is eligible for staff.

Mercy Volunteers will celebrate our annual Christmas Luncheon at the beautiful Iroquois Club in Bloomfield, Hills MI on December 16, 2015.

Michele Dunaj, President SJMO Mercy Volunteers

St. John River District Hospital

St. John River District Hospital Auxiliary continues to celebrate the Hospital’s and Auxiliary’s golden anniversary. On September 15, the Hospital hosted an anniversary rededication with numerous speakers and dignitaries in attendance. The Auxiliary presented a check for $24,000 to the Hospital for the purchase of a new stress test system in commemoration of their 50 years of service to the community. The Auxiliary also hosted a craft show on October 10 which was held in conjunction with the Hospital’s annual Health-O-Rama. The Health-O-Rama offers numerous health tests and examinations at no cost to our community. There are many more events planned throughout the remainder of the year as we move into our 51st year of faith-based service to our community.

Carol Ann Towne, Auxiliary President

Pat Esselman, SED President

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Allegiance Health, Jackson

Our volunteers held their 79th annual Pink Ball themed A Modern Twist on “A Knight’s Tale”. Guests arrived in period costume, viewed silent auction items in the Merchants Gallery, purchased Crime cards in the Moneychangers Booth and sent friends to the Dungeon. $106,000 was raised which will be donated to the renovation of our Special Care Nursery.

Volunteer week was celebrated by a luncheon, entertainment by Kevin Nichol, a photo booth by Mid-Michigan DJs and several great door prizes.

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MAHA Highlights

Deadlines for future issues:

February 1, 2016 – April 2016 Issue

July 1, 2016 – September 2016 Issue

I wish to thank everyone who sent articles for the January, 2016 issue in a timely manner. I look forward to receiving more articles for the April, 2016 and the September issues. Please send your articles to the address listed below:

Patricia (Patt) Luomala
90 Park Avenue #308
Manistee, MI 49660
pluomala42@charter.net

Remember:

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION
IS PREFERABLE AND IS ENCOURAGED.

If you do not have a computer, your DVS or someone at the hospital may let you use theirs. Remember to send your hospital articles to your District President so they may make a synopsis of your District’s news.
Our annual miniature golf outing was the following week followed by pizza and more prizes.

We have 67 teens enrolled in our Summer Youth Intern Program.

Cheryl Simonetti, Volunteer President

Bronson Battle Creek, Battle Creek

Thanks to Joy Webster and her Committee’s fundraising efforts, Bronson Battle Creek can purchase a Cardiac 3-D Echo Imaging System. Our Emergency Department has completed a renovation and open house, it will enable more efficiency for our patients and our staff. We are dedicated in creating a compassionate experience for our patients and their families.

Annette Zalner, Volunteer President

Community Health of Coldwater

Seven of our members attended Health Advocacy Day, the Governor’s Aid came and talked to our group about our Tele-Health Clinics we have in three schools in our area. The hospital was able to obtain a grant from the State to help with funding of these clinics.

Several fundraisers include, in May we had a Baubles and Bags, HEP Open House, Ice Cream Social and in June Used Book Sale and Gift Shop Sale. There will be a garage sale in August.

We are delighted we are able to commit to a $5,000 a year, for five years, toward a new MRI equipment.

And lastly, we congratulate Sandi Miller for being appointed, Volunteer of the Year for the Child’s Advocacy Program.

Barb Moran, Auxiliary Secretary

Eaton Rapids Medical Center, Eaton Rapids

Our third annual Purse Bingo was a big success, we netted almost $5,000.

Tim Johnson, CEO spoke at our May auxiliary dinner, and gave a presentation on possible changes coming to the Medical Center.

Summer items selling well at the Owl’s Perch Gift Shop, we have a wide variety of items available ranging from jewelry to garden stones.

Our annual Gala will be held at the English Inn, on October 23. There will be a dinner, followed by music and a silent auction.

Patti Oliver, Auxiliary President

Herrick Medical Center

Our Auxiliary has been very busy with fundraisers. Many thanks to our volunteers whose effort has made our Candy & Nut sales, Book Fairs, Plant Sale, Uniform Sales, Linen Sale and Jewelry sale all a success. We held our annual Employee Appreciation day on Halloween, hot and cold cider, donuts, candy and pretzels were served to 63 employees. November was our Harvest Gathering, big success, food will be donated to the Tecumseh Service Club. Looking forward to 2016.

Shelly Phillips, Publicist

Lakeland Community Hospital, Watervliet

Our Auxiliary has had a very busy spring. In May we had a Swiss steak dinner, and book sale. We were able to hold our spring plant sale outdoors in the new pavilion. In June we sponsored a Victorian tea and fashion show, several ladies showed their creativity and set beautiful tables. As a result of all of everyone’s hard work we were able to make our last pledge to hospital for the building campaign.

Diane Camfferman, Auxiliary President

Oaklawn Hospital, Marshall

We started off with our Membership Drive and have added 15 new volunteers. We gave 7 deserving High School Seniors/Oaklawn Hospital employees, scholarships. Our Spring Student Art Show was a success with 265 pieces.

Our fundraising events were Bakeless Bake Sale, BC Sweets, Gift Shop Valentine Day Sale, and Bunco. Our first “Outside the Box Shoe Sale” was a success.

Our 2nd Purse Bingo will be in July and first time “Books are Fun” in September, Bunco in the fall and annual Bazaar and Tree of Memories. Our popcorn Guild serves popcorn every Wednesday.

Our Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held in April, we were able to give a monetary gift to Oaklawn Hospital in the amount of $28,000.

Cheryl McAuliffe, Auxiliary President

Sparrow Clinton Hospital, St. Johns

Our fundraising events this spring have been, Annual Spring Flower Sale, Max & Erma’s fundraising event, Wine & Beer Tasting evening at a local garden center and our Gift Shop discount shopping events. All of these events have put us closer to reaching our pledge of $100,000 over a five-year period for the new wing of the Sparrow Clinton Hospital Emergency Center.

This fall/winter fundraisers will be Family Pasta Dinner, Fall Flower Sale and Poinsettia sale, Purse Bingo and our Chicago Shopping Bus trip.

We would like to acknowledge two deserving Auxiliary Members: Shelley Gunther, 2015 Volunteer of the Year, and Gay Baker, 2015 Sparrow Clinton Hospital Volunteer of the Year, we sincerely appreciate them for their willingness to serve.

Tammy McNamara Zuker, Auxiliary Member

Sparrow Hospital, Lansing

Our 119th Annual meeting and Awards Luncheon was held on May 19, 2015, at the Eagle Eye Banquet Center, East Lansing. We had a wonderful luncheon for 400 volunteers, followed by Annual Business meeting and Awards Program, chaired by President Jean Paull. CEO of Sparrow, Dennis Swann, helped distribute the awards and floral tributes, along with Alicia Armstrong, Cindy Harrington and Gina Spencer.

The 75th Anniversary was celebrated by Division IV, 55th Anniversary celebrated by The Mercy League, 35th Anniversary was celebrated by Sparrow Escorts, 15th Anniversary was celebrated by The Hello Hospital, 10th...
Anniversary celebrated by Sparrow Specialty Hospital, and 5th Anniversary was celebrated by Patient Concierge.

Our five longest serving volunteers honored were Margorie Clemetsen, Delores Lenz, Janice Ruppert all who have 45 years of service and Martha Freeman with 55 years of service. We presented the newest volunteer at each table with the fresh flower topiary centerpiece.

Dottie Spousa, WBM Chair of Special Events

Spectrum Health Pennock, Hasting
On May 1, 2015 Pennock Health in Hastings became Spectrum Health Pennock. A decision will be made on a new hospital later this year.

Kendra Harthun our volunteer coordinator is busy scheduling high school juniors and seniors for the summer months.

Our newly elected leadership will assume their responsibilities at the September meeting, we thank them all for serving on the board.

July we will have an “Outside the Box” shoe sale, last year’s sale was a huge success.

Judy Kidder, Past President

Three Rivers Health, Three Rivers
Our Auxiliary has had several fundraising events this year. One of them is, departments throughout the hospital put together a theme basket. They load them with goodies that represent their theme. They are then displayed in the hospital lobby, and a silent auction ensues. The last auction brought in $1134 towards our Scholarship Fund.

Laurel Cordes, Auxiliary Newsletter

Barb Moran, SWD Counselor

UPPER PENINSULA DISTRICT

The news from the UPD is full of change and excitement. We are learning the new names given to our hospitals that have entered into new partnerships. These partnerships have changed the way some of our volunteer groups volunteer. Some of these new partnerships have only changed the name of the hospital.

Following is the news from the UPD:

Aspirus Keweenaw Hospital Auxiliary
Calumet/Laurium shares the following;

We had a successful UPD Fall Conference on Sept. 2 & 3, 2015. We had a tour of our new wing of our hospital on Wednesday evening along with the pizza party. Thursday, we had a doctor of chiropractic and an orthopedic surgeon give very informative presentations. It was so nice to see old friends and meet new ones, too.

We continue our fund raising with Books Are Fun, Uniform Sale, One Day Gift Basket Drawing, and our Gift Shop. November brings our annual Nut Sale. In December we will have our Tree of Love ceremony which is always very moving. Again in March we will have our Used Books, Etc. Sale.

Beth Maki

OSF Escanaba
First, I would like to tell you that the U.P. District meeting was well worth attending. Ideas were flying around my car on the way back home. We found the break out groups were very informative.

On Wednesday before heading to Calumet we held our first meeting since June. It was well attended and we all had the opportunity to meet our new “leader,” Kacie Hanchek. Kacie was named manager of OSF St. Francis Community Relations and Development in July and began shortly thereafter. It has
MAHA Around the State (continued)

been a whirlwind for her but tells us she is enjoying her new position.

During the meeting we decided to have another Koeze Nut sale, received our new Calendar raffle tickets for 2015-16 (our main fund-raiser) and learned of a new doctor coming on board in October. Dr. Harris, Urologist will begin seeing patients starting October 5th. We also have a uniform sale, Books are Fun sale and a plant sale (from our Serenity Garden) coming up. Busy, busy, busy.

Nan Smith

Schoolcraft Memorial

Three members attended the fall UPD meeting at Aspirus Keweenaw in Calumet. Our $5.99 Jewelry Sale was a success and will be repeated. We continue to have Books Are Fun sales three times a year. Our Love Lite Tree project occupies our members during the holiday season. The Hospice team shared a “Life Story,” demonstrating the camera equipment we purchased for them.

We have been asked to assist in planning and building a Healing Garden on the hospital grounds.

Phyliss Burge

Up Health Bell

The Bell Hospital Auxiliary was voted: “Organization of the Year” by the Greater Ishpeming-Negaunee Chamber of Commerce.

The auxiliary worked very hard this past year and we were very honored. A dinner was held at the Red Rocks Banquet Center and a trophy was presented to us by James Steward, the lawyer who helped us form our 501C3 corporation. The theme that evening was sports night. Everyone who had a favorite team was asked to wear their favorite team jerseys. Here is a picture of our auxiliary board receiving the award. From left to right are James Steward, Kaye Frederickson, Julie Solkia, Debbie Bussone, Bonnie Kimball, June Peterson, Clare Champion, and Mary Mitchell.

Aspirus Iron River Hospital & Clinics may not sound familiar yet to MAHA and Michigan hospitals, and that’s because it’s the newly adopted name of the health system formerly known as NORTHSTAR Health System in Iron River.

NORTHSTAR Health System was acquired by Aspirus, Inc., a community-directed health system based in Wausau, WI in July 2014, and officially completed the rebranding by renaming the entity as Aspirus Iron River Hospital & Clinics in September 2015.

Despite the busy season with rebranding and the recent implementation of a new electronic medical records system, “Epic,” volunteers at Aspirus Iron River Hospital & Clinics have still been hard at work and eager to embrace the new identity. The hospital Gift Shop is still a successful facet of Volunteer Services. We’ve had new employees join in working in the Gift Shop who have been adding new marketing strategies and more hours to the shop.

The aforementioned new electronic medical record system, Epic, was implemented at all facilities at Aspirus Iron River Hospital & Clinics in August 2015. This world-renown record comes as a great benefit to being aligned with Aspirus proper. Volunteers helped in customer service during the “go-live” period of implementation. They answered questions any patients had about the new record, and even aided patients into signing up for the new online patient portal called “My Aspirus.”

Volunteers also helped at the Annual Community Health Fair & Flu Clinic held on October 6 in Iron River. Setting up at the event, registering participants, and monitoring the event were just a few of the activities with which they assisted. Volunteers look forward to a new season of service in the hospital under the new name of Aspirus Iron River Hospital & Clinics.

Abby Miller

Deborah Northrop, UPD President

WEST CENTRAL DISTRICT

Holland Hospital. The hospital’s Wound and Ostomy Care Program has settled into their new home on 3-West floor. Formerly sharing space in Ambulatory Treatment Unit (ATU), this move comes as a response to increased patient volumes and expanded services.

“We reached our capacity in our former location. We expanded from four Wound and Ostomy Care treatment areas in the ATU to eight in our new space on the third floor,” says Natalie Hirdes, ATU Nursing Manager. “The larger treatment areas also better meet the needs of Wound and Ostomy patients in our community.”

Holland Hospital and Spectrum Health have announced plans to collaborate on the construction of a medical care center in
Grand Haven. The Boards of Directors from both organizations have voted in favor of proceeding with the project.

Mark Pawlak, Senior Vice President, Quality, IS & Hospital Operations says, “Health Points will bring the strengths of Holland Hospital and spectrum Health together to provide a new model of care for patients in northern Ottawa County. We’re excited about this innovative approach to coordinating and integrating care for the patients of this community.”

A final review of the plans by the Grand Haven Charter Township is expected in November. Health Points medical care center is slated to open in 2017.

The Volunteer Auxiliary’s Lights of Love campaign got under way in November with the goal of purchasing a synchronized clock system for the Boven Birth Center. The lights of Love bus used for transporting patients and staff from the far corners of the parking lots will be in the Holland Christmas Parade in December.

Mercy Health Muskegon reports that the Second Annual Koeze Nut Sale sponsored by the Volunteer Board is underway with sales expected to surpass that of 2014. Orders placed will arrive in time for Christmas gift giving.

South Haven Health System is wrapping up the Michigan Harvest Gathering. Both the cash and food donations will exceed last year’s totals.

The hospital has held five very successful Michigan Blood drives throughout the year and have six scheduled for 2016. We host three Books are Fun drives – one at Easter, one for back to school, and one for the Christmas holidays. The book fairs are a major fund-raiser for the auxiliary.

We have assisted with the community Heart to Heart health fair in February and helped coordinate the South Haven Health System Health Fair and Run during National Blueberry Festive in August.

In June 2015, the auxiliary awarded three local graduates pursuing health field degrees with $1,000 scholarships and donated $15,000 to the hospital for the purchase of defibrillators.

Our coffee/gift shop continues to provide our customers with a warm, friendly place to meet friends, have a cup of coffee or a sandwich, and purchase affordable gift items.
Our volunteers continue to provide great customer service for the hospital and the community. Their commitment to this place really reflects our value statement of excellence in everything we do.

**Sparrow Carson Hospital** Auxiliary had four members in attendance at the Fall Conference at Crystal Mountain. The fall colors as we traveled were beautiful. Activities are in full swing and by the end of the year we will have had a $5 jewelry sale, book sale and Light of Love. We will be hosting the Spring District Meeting and installation of officers. Planning is currently underway to make it a great success.

**Sparrow Iona Hospital** Advocates have had a very active last few months since the dedication and opening the new facility in June.

The WCD Fall Meeting was hosted by the Advocates and newly elected co-presidents, Marlene Denny and Mike Procurier. Attendees were entertained by Ionia’s Mayor Dan Balice’s humorous remarks and his introduction of Lt. Governor Brian Calley who shared the state’s medical legislative update. The meeting concluded with a tour of the new hospital.

Reports of other activities are as follows: the Lafayette Guild, members of which are hospital employees, organized and manned a very successful First Aid Station during the 10-day Ionia Free Fair and were generously reimbursed by the fair board which in turn was donated to benefit the new hospital.

The Cart’n Lobby Guild has been engaged in moving, reorganizing, restocking and re-staffing the new Gift Shop. Public exposure has increased and so have sales.

The Yellow Rose Guild continues to create colorful tray favors which brighten patient’s days. Two additional successful endeavors were a community-wide “Treasurer’s Recycled” sale and a Brown Bag Bus Tour to the businesses of Shipshewana. The bus was filled to capacity and so were the brown bags. Reaction was “Let’s do it aging!”

**Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital** has 175 active members in seven guilds that sponsor and volunteer for fund raising events that benefit the hospital. These women volunteers at the Window Shop Gift Shop and the Garden View Café, among other activities are jewelry, book sales and a bridge marathon. New this year will be a “Made in Michigan” foods and crafts and a Holiday sale with gifts created by local artisans.

Support continues for the Renucci Hospitality House that provides guest accommodations for out-of-town family of patients. The guilds purchase “Wish List” items for the hospital. They have supported NMTCR (Neuroblastoma and Medulloblastoma Translational Research). In total, the volunteers generated over $87,000 in donations to Spectrum Blodgett Hospital in the fiscal year ending June 2015.

Spectrum Health Foundation sponsored an All Guild Appreciation Luncheon in October. This was attended by 220 volunteers both active and inactive.

**Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital’s** All Guild Meeting was held in October at Thousand Oaks Country Club with more than 200 attending. Speaker was Tina Freese Decker, president of Spectrum Health Hospital Group, which includes 12 hospitals in West Michigan. Tina reported that spectrum Health is a top 15 health system in the U.S. Tina mentioned three key priorities for the Spectrum Health Hospital Group including: heal the whole person; better access for patients; owning the cost of care.

The nine current Butterworth Auxiliary guilds are working on an inventory of their historical records that will, within a year, be organized and maintained either in the Butterworth Hospital Guild Room, or in the new Spectrum Health Archival Department at Blodgett Hospital.

**Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital** held its annual volunteer recognition banquet at Lincoln Hills Golf Club in October. A total of 35 volunteers were honored for reaching various milestones throughout their careers. The top honorees were Judy Thiel and Doris Lundberg who each reached 15,000 hours of service. Judy services on the volunteer board and volunteers in the gift shop. Doris knits baby hats and previously volunteered in ambulatory surgery. The Hospital’s 114 volunteers contributed 20,036 hours of service to the hospital over the past year.

A new pledge was approved by the Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital volunteer service board. After paying off their previous pledge of $125,00 two years ahead of schedule they unanimously pledged $150,000 over five years to support The Family Birthing Center.

Ludington also saw a change in volunteer leadership. In October volunteer services moved from the marketing department to the foundation. Kaley Peterson has taken on the role of Director of Volunteer Services and Foundation, while Rose Jensen takes over as the Foundation and Volunteer Coordinator.

**Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital.** The Service League will sponsor a series of job shadow events for high school students for 2015-2016 school year. The first event was held in October and hosted 45 students from 11 area schools in the Ottawa County District. These events will give the students the opportunity to experience all aspects of the hospital setting. The students gave rave reviews how friendly and informative the staff at SHZCH was.

The 2015 Spectrum Health United Way Campaign kick-off was “packed” with excitement! Spectrum Health gathered a total of 3317 new backpacks. On September 11, the backpacks were placed end to end on the sidewalk surrounding the SH building on the “Medical Mile.”

Spectrum Health Zeeland Community Hospital collected 95 new backpacks which helped to contribute to this incredible feat to beat the Guinness World Record for the longest line of backpacks.

The gathering event was held in October with over 400 pounds of non perishable food items, household toiletries and cleaning supplies collected. All items were given to His Harvest Stand in Zeeland, which gives assistance to low income and hurting families.

**Barb Tenpas, WCD President**
**Spotlighted Hospitals**

**Have You Read About our Spotlighted Hospitals?**

In April of this year, we announced in *Highlights* we would be selecting member Hospitals at random to highlight their volunteer program. To date it has been our pleasure to spotlight eight hospitals – West Shore Medical Manistee, Sparrow Carson Hospital, Allegiance Health Jackson, St John Macomb, Munson Medical Center-Traverse City, Mid Michigan Clare, War Memorial Sault Ste Marie, and Bronson Healthcare System Battle Creek. If you would like to read about these wonderful volunteer program, please see “The Spotlighted Hospital” section on www.mahaonline.org.

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**Ode to a Volunteer**

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgement nears
That there’s a special place in heaven
Set aside for volunteers

Furnished with large recliners
Comfortable sofas and foot stools
Where there’s no committee chairman
No group leaders or carpools.

No eager team that needs a coach
No bazaar or bake sale
Not a thing will be stapled
Not a thing to stuff and mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed
And a snap of the finger will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet meals
And treats befitting a king.

You ask: Who’ll serve these privileged few
And work for all they’re worth?
Why all those who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on earth.

*Author Unknown*

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810-444-4514
Different Organizational Models for Auxiliaries

On the first of my visits to SWD auxiliaries, I encountered an entirely different organizational model than I had seen before. The Sturgis Hospital Auxiliary board is comprised of eight different guilds. The presidents of each of the guilds are members of the auxiliary board. Those presidents were present at the meeting I attended on October 5, 2015. The board meeting was well organized and efficient. At the encouragement of MAHA President, Nancy Viele, I contacted Sue Furr, President of the Sturgis Auxiliary and asked her to write an article for the Highlights. Her article which follows will inform you of their particular auxiliary model.

Marlene Sebastian, SWD President

Sturgis Hospital

The Sturgis Hospital Auxiliary, organized in 1948, currently has 101 members, with twenty-one “life members,” working together to make a difference in our community through their commitment of time and collaboration with the hospital administration. Each guild meets once a month and has a representative on the auxiliary board, which also meets once a month.

Our auxiliary consists of eight service guilds:

**Emergency Service Guild** – assists staff on duty by filing out forms, running errands, providing comfort to the families of emergency room patients, serving coffee, changing linens, watching restless patients and whatever else is needed.

**Gift Service Guild** – maintain and staff the gift shop where visitors and staff may purchase a wide variety of gifts, cards, candy, and personal items.

**Grobhiser Family Service Guild** – assist surgical patients’ families by providing comfort, assistance, coffee and tea while families wait for a loved one who is in surgery.

**Loan Service Guild** – purchase and lend equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers to patients and homecare patients.

**Magazine Service Guild** – buy and distribute magazines throughout the hospital to have available to patients and visitors for their reading pleasure.

**Medical Scholarship Guild** – accept, review and award scholarships to area students entering college and pursuing a career in the nursing field. Funds are acquired through donations by memorial gifts and dues.

**Popcorn Service Guild** – pop corn and make caramel corn for sale to visitors and employees every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Tray Service Guild** – make tray favors that are put on patients’ noon meal trays once a week throughout the year. They also make tray favors for all other special calendar days of the year.

Through gift shop sales, popcorn sales and various fundraising efforts, this year we have been able to purchase two Stryker stretchers and one Bariatric stretcher for the Emergency Department, a Vital Signs Monitor and CareScape for the Specialty Clinic, and several pair of compression stockings for the Wound Clinic.

Our next big fundraiser coming up is the Tree of Love, which will be held on December 6th. Each donation made will be represented by a symbolic light on the “Tree of Love” at the hospital entrance. Each honoree and donor will be listed in the “Tree of Love” book displayed in the hospital rotunda during the holiday season. Donations from this event will be used to purchase a Pediatric Glidescope. The Glidescope will be used for pre-term neonates and toddlers, allowing airway rescue by physicians in the operating room, emergency department and the nursery.
Holiday Message

From Patt Luomala, Communications Director

The other day I was at Kmart talking to one of the employees when another employee came up all excited. She said that a gentleman bought a Gift Card. He then told the employee to give the Gift Card to a lady in the red. Later I was sitting on a bench waiting for Dial A Ride. The lady sitting next to me was all excited. She told me that someone gave her a Gift Card in the amount of $100. She told me she didn’t know who to thank, but she was so thankful. It did my heart good to see someone in need was given such a gift.

May all of you have a most Fantastic Holiday Season and a very Happy, Prosperous New Year!! And may Peace reign over our Great Nation!!

MAHA Board Members