

June, 2016 SWD President's Letter

Dear Presidents,

I returned from the island 2 weeks ago. “Today's Vision; Tomorrow's Reality” was the theme of the MAHA Annual Meeting and Educational Institute. The theme was appropriate in every aspect. The SWD was represented by 19 members from 6 hospitals, Bronson Battle Creek, Eaton Rapids Medical Center, Henry Ford Allegiance Health, Sparrow Clinton, Sparrow Lansing and Spectrum Pennock. Our district is comprised of 18 hospitals, so the number was a little disappointing, however, it was good from the aspect of the total representation of 101 members statewide. An interesting item is that there were 21 first timers in attendance and 9 of those individuals were from the SWD! Our dwindling numbers each year has prompted the MAHA Board to plan the last annual meeting at Mackinac Island for 2017.

The board has had this action plan for the past year as the expense for members to come to the island has been overwhelming for hospitals and auxiliaries. MAHA needs attendance to be at 155 in order to break even with their expenses. MAHA lost \$13,000 for the June 2016 meeting. MAHA is hoping that the venue change will allow more hospital groups to attend. Since 2017 will be the last meeting on the island, it would be nice if your groups budgeted to allow at least two members to attend the annual meeting next June 13 – 15 at the Grand Hotel. Another noteworthy announcement is that MAHA is changing their name. It will be voted on at the fall conference in Frankenmuth. I believe it is Auxiliaries & Volunteers Serving Michigan Healthcare. AVSMH is the acronym..

It would be difficult to include in this letter all that was presented at the annual meeting, so I encourage you to go to the MAHA website to download each speakers material at; www.mahaonline.org. At the moment, I have found only the first speakers' handouts and the MHA speakers, Brian Peters, CEO, MHA and David Finkbeiner, Sr, Vice President, Advocacy. Each of these speakers provided good material that may be useful for your board or membership meetings.

As of today, I have only one article to use for the district and state newsletter. You need to get your articles in to me ASAP in order to be included. Remember, type in New Times Roman at 10. My email is msebastian@springcom.com and my home address is 11525 Pope Church Rd., Springport 49284.

Looking ahead for the SWD, our fall meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2016 at Schuler's in Marshall. I would appreciate hearing from any of you who know of a good speaker. We could use two in the morning and one in the afternoon. I need to get the speakers lined up during July so that a notice can be sent out by the beginning of August.

If any of you have new officers or changes of address for your board, please send them to Shelley Redman at shelleyredman54@gmail.com and to myself. Keeping all of you informed to the best of my ability is important.

Hope all of you have a wonderful summer, it is going fast in my “neck of the woods”.

Sincerely,

Marlene Sebastian
SWD President

