

HISTORY OF THE UPPER PENINSULA DISTRICT OF MAHA

APRIL, 2008

The records of the Upper Peninsula District of MAHA were destroyed in a car fire in 1983. Some of the auxiliaries joined MAHA as early as 1960. The District covers the entire Upper Peninsula; a six hour drive from Ironwood on the western end, to Sault Ste. Marie on the eastern end. With the winter weather, this distance makes getting the auxiliaries together quite difficult. We presently have 11 member auxiliaries. In the past we have ranged from 15 down to 9. All the hospitals are closely tied to Marquette General Health Systems. Marquette's medical staff has a presence in all the hospitals.

According to the annual report there are 1,637 auxiliaries/volunteers that donated a total of 97,281 hours to their hospitals in the U.P. We have raised \$249,318.00. Also other money was raised for scholarships, etc. amounting to \$53,340.00.

Our District has two meetings a year. The Fall meeting in September is legislative and the Spring meeting in May is our Annual meeting with installation. All of the auxiliaries take turns having the meetings with one each year centrally located to boost the attendance. An effort is made to bring in speakers who inform, educate and entertain the attendees. The evening prior to each meeting there is a pizza gathering at the host hospital, since many of the attendees arrive the night before. This is followed by an executive board meeting, to save on everyone's travel.

We follow the format of MAHA for our bylaws and procedures. The term of office for all elected officers, except the Treasurer, is one year and no member can hold the same office for more than two consecutive years. The term of office for the Treasurer is two years and that person can hold the office for two consecutive terms, for a total of four years. We have seven board members: President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Legislative Chair, and Counselor. The Executive Board consists of the President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and Counselor. The nominating committee is made up of the Counselor and two members from the District. The District is funded by dues (\$75 per year) and meeting attendance.

The purpose of the Upper Peninsula District is:

- To provide support to the Michigan Health and Hospital Association and the Michigan Association of Healthcare Advocates.
- To provide service to the Upper Peninsula District of the Michigan Association of Healthcare Advocates.
- To coordinate the activities of its member auxiliaries to the mutual benefit of all.
- To assist in the organization of new auxiliaries.
- To encourage the development of its member auxiliaries by training new leaders, communicating ideas and involving all members.
- To foster and develop programs of assistance to hospitals for the improvement of patient care.

We have two new hospitals in the U.P. One in Munising that should be open by mid-May 2008 and the other in Ishpeming and it should be open in the fall of 2008.

The member auxiliaries in our District are all unique. Most of them are busy fund raising to help purchase equipment for their hospitals. They are extremely proud of their facilities and active in their communities. The concerns are that the population is aging and youth are moving away to find jobs. We continue to grow and adapt in the UP.

Cynthia Hopper – U.P. District President 2007-2008