

## UPD Valentines Update

Greetings!

I am fresh from a MAHA Board meeting in Lansing and really revved up! We all know of the massive changes in healthcare in the last 10 years or so -for profit hospitals, conglomerate health systems, insurance issues. It makes sense that our organization feels the need to change to best aid our home organizations. What was not only surprising but also very invigorating, was that the entire board was agreeing that change was necessary and everyone was very open to ideas. And ideas were flying! A fun time to be part of our organization. Change is not instantaneous and there are perhaps years involved before we can create what we envision but we are all working toward a great goal.

That being said, it is important that we all share our ideas so I am asking that any of you who have thoughts on change, share your ideas with me so I can share your ideas with the board. I am your voice but need you to whisper in my ear first!

I want to remind all of you that our Spring District Meeting is May 8-9 at Schoolcraft Hospital in Manistique. We will enjoy a great gathering and I look forward to seeing many, many of you. This is the time when we install new officers and we are in need of some quality people to step up and volunteer to serve. I will be making some phone calls but would really love to hear from you. We have been doing some very creative recycling of officers and have really been blessed with the talent offered but our organization will strengthen and grow with an influx of new individuals. Remember to gather your gently used jewelry for our District fundraiser. You will receive notices with all info from Manistique. This is also the time to support Healthpak. This is how we put some punch to our needs and ideas on the legislative front. NOW is the time to make sure our voices and needs are heard. If you do not make it to the District meeting to give funds in person, you can support Healthpak on-line. Every dollar helps.

This year our MAHA Annual Meeting will be June 4-6 at Crystal Mountain. The membership survey asked for a location other than The Grand and so we are going back to Crystal Mountain. Your survey also asked for speakers for the whole group versus breakout session workshops so we are trying that as well. Our Highlights newsletter will explain the difference in registration. At The Grand your room reservation included food with lodging. At Crystal Mountain food is included in the registration and lodging is separate. So as you compare make sure you are not comparing apples to oranges! The lodging offerings at Crystal Mountain are quite varied and should be lots of fun. There will be some great speakers and lots of opportunities to share and network. Plan on being there!

MAHA acknowledges the importance of communication and so we now have a Facebook page open to the public. In order to access it you need to write out Michigan Association of Healthcare Advocates (not just MAHA) and you will come to it. Please like us and use. Our Website is also updated and this is where you will find the Highlights newsletter and also lots of information. Check out the District news as well.

So thank you for getting through all of this, thank you for the support you have given your hospitals, District, state, and me!

I look forward to a great turn out at our next District and state meetings and send me ideas!!

Chris Ainslie, UP District President

