

UPD August Update 2017

Yes, I know it is September but I wanted to wait until after our District meeting so I could share the information to those who just could not join us.

First of all, before I forget or you stop reading, our state Fall meeting is at Frankenmuth again. It is a great venue and an excellent conference. Oct 18-20 so fall color is well worth the drive. If you need a registration form go to the MAHA website and download one there although check with your Auxiliary board first as they were mailed out. The cutoff for room reservations is Sept 18 and they will not have rooms guaranteed for us after that date as they sell out. One question we got was why is the starting date a Monday instead of the Tuesday as in the past? This way the Bavarian Inn can accommodate 2 conferences a week instead of one that takes the middle of the week and leaves open days at both ends of the week. We hope to have a great UP presence. Again, if you will not have anyone attending please contact your closest District member and arrange for a Give Away Basket pick up.

Secondly, I am hoping for a Highlight article from each and every hospital. These are due to me by Oct 26. Please give input on some of the successful or unique things you do. As you share your information please include a contact name and e-mail so those who are interested in more information know how to get the ball rolling.

Now for some District Meeting Highlights.

-The trend for smaller numbers of attendees continues. We had 31 present with only 60% of our hospitals having representation. I realize that I am prejudiced since this meeting was in Ironwood but I know that there has been an Ironwood (and I believe War as well, the two with the greatest distances to travel) presence at every meeting in the last 10 years. We have traveled everywhere, and were hoping for a better turnout. All hosts do. 60% is a D. Hmmmmm. The Executive Board had a long discussion on what these trends say and how we can change to make improvements. We then took this to the members present and continued the discussion. Some thoughts were: only centrally located meetings (ie. At Ishpeming, Munising,??), working out a way to have Executive meeting and regular meeting all on one day, more electronic meetings, making sure the Auxiliary picks up the cost of attendees, boosting local member numbers to have more interested in attending. Lots of pros and cons discussed. We ask you to talk about this at your local meetings and we will continue the discussion. I am not trying to guilt anyone, just trying to get us all together. We had several very good discussions and would have been even better with more ideas from more people.

-We had a very good legislative report from Carol Kocsis and the discussion that revolved around No Fault Insurance and the fact that the vast majority of us do not look beyond the premium and are not aware of all of the benefits we have because we have this type of insurance. Please look into this issue on your own, why we have it, what it actually covers, and how the costs would be passed on to us if we did not have it and let your representatives know your views.

-We have a By Laws Committee looking into the District By Laws and hope to have revisions ready for a vote for the Spring Meeting.

-The Executive Board is revising the 'Hosting UP District Meetings' guidelines and will have them ready to be in place for the 2018 Spring meeting.

-The UPD rotation of District meetings sites and dates was handed out.

-In looking at our Budget, we have been planning on 55 attendees at each meeting and so have budgeted and income of \$110 coming in a year from each meeting. This has not happened and makes for an unbalanced budget. We had a very good discussion on ways to correct this and some of the suggestions were: an increase in the dues, an increase in the amount each host paid to the District for each attendee, a separate District Fund Raiser. Again, there are pros and cons to each. Please discuss on the local level. We do have a Savings account and can carry on for a while but need to be aware that expensed will only go up and income has gone down.

-At our last meeting we decided to gather gently used jewelry to sell on a donation basis, as we had done for cookbooks, to raise money to send a legislative person to Advocacy Day. Many people brought donations and we had a great selection. Over \$170 was raised at this time and we will continue at our next meeting. So, hit your jewelry boxes talk to your friends, and keep an eye out at sales and bring more to Manistique.

-Cathy Crimmins is our new District Membership chair and she is asking that you send her the names of your members (NOT just the board) AND all of their e-mails. Cathy's e-mail is: crcrimmins@charter.net.

-Our next meeting is at Schoolcraft Hospital in Manistique on May 9 and 10 so this is your first Save the Date!

I head out to Lansing for the next State Board meeting and will give you an update on what was discussed and accomplished there. Looking forward to seeing many of you at Frankenmuth and getting your Highlights information.

Thank you,

Chris Ainslie, UPD President

9-9-17