

UPD President July 2017 Update

Greetings to all of our UPD members. I have just returned from a retreat with all of your state board members and am really excited by the feeling of unity and sense of purpose that permeated the entire 3 days. It was very motivating!

I would say that the foundation of the plan for the future is communication and that communication starts on the District level. We are the roots of the organization and as such we need to strengthen each of our home groups. Not news, we all know we need to reach out more and grow our numbers but not just for each of us but for our entire organization.

I will improve my computer skills and get the new logo on my letter head, the tag line of 'volunteers serving Michigan hospitals' helps clarify our purpose.

As a District I hope you are all gearing up for a road trip and planning on attending our District Fall meeting in Ironwood on Sept 6-7. We will start with a meal at Aspirus Ironwood Hospital and then a tour of the new ER and clinic. Many changes since last we met there. Day 2 will meet at Sharon's Coffee in Hurley. Breakfast and lunch will be provided there as well as a day of education and idea sharing. Please make every effort to send people to represent your hospital and provide us with all of your great ideas and energy. A full packet of information is coming your way. In the past the UPD has gathered nonperishable food items for our own Fall Gathering and we are going to pick that up again this year. So please bring your donations to the meeting.

After a very successful Fall Conference at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, MI, last year, it was decided to return for the Fall Conference this year, Oct 18-20. Soon you will get the conference registration forms and don't wait to register because it is on a first come basis. There is much to see in the town of Frankenmuth so plan on getting there early to explore. The theme is 'Prisms of Possibilities' so think sparkling ideas!! Don't forget the basket from your hospital for the last morning Give Away.

Marilyn Koski, our membership chair, has sent out forms for officer and hospital information. PLEASE get this back to her as soon as possible as she has to then get this information on to the state. This is the bedrock of our COMMUNICATION. We need all of the current information in order for everyone else to do their jobs. Also, please make an effort to get the e-mails of your entire membership. As we add those to the state's data base we increase our ability to get the word out.

I am creating a committee to review the By Laws of the District. These are in need of streamlining and I would hazard a guess that the By Laws of your group could use a look as well. It is important that the By Laws are a general framework and that the specifics are in your Policies and Procedures. Please consider giving these a look and possible revision this year. One of the things we will look at are the descriptions of officer duties. I am hoping that by making it crystal clear what is expected we will have more interest in supporting the District by serving on the board. It is imperative that we encourage new people to step into the positions. That is how we grow and thrive. That being said, it is also necessary that each hospital will pick up the expenses of any of their members who will take on a District office. If the hospitals do not pick up the expenses we are only represented by those who can or choose to go out of pocket and that creates a situation where we are excluding the input of a large part of our membership.

On a similar note, as you are looking at your By Laws and Policies and Procedures keep in mind that the conferences, both District and State, are a major way that we communicate as an organization and if you are not represented then you are out of the loop. Consider having your organization and/or hospital commit to sending representation to all conferences and meetings. THEN make sure those attending share the information with your membership. Again, communication. We have found that, when asked, the hospitals are generally open to helping with sending representatives to these functions.

A reminder to check out the MAHA website for news. District Presidents are going to do interviews with hospitals and these “Spotlights” will show up on the web as well.

Calendar:

Sept 6-7 UP District meeting, Ironwood

Sept 12-14 MAHA Board meeting, Lansing

Oct 3 Advocacy Day, Lansing

Oct 18-20 MAHA Fall Conference, Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth

Please contact me if there is any information you want me to add to these updates in the future. Chris Ainslie, UPD President. greenkneesdesign@gmail.com