



Spring 2016

As I am writing this, I am waiting for Spring. We have had a couple of teaser days. We could smell the skunk waking a few weeks ago, the seagulls are in the K-mart parking lot and two days ago, I finally saw a robin. Last week, at the State meetings in Lansing, I saw a robin. I needed to see one here, at home, to have the hope of Spring renewed.

This time of year is hopeful. We see change all around us. Our flowers are starting to show up to delight us and brighten our days. The sun will be staying around longer giving us our much needed Vitamin D, which helps us stay energized to do our necessary tasks. As changes occur we must keep an open mind. If we do keep an open mind, amazing things can happen.

Over the last few weeks, I have contacted each volunteer group in our UPD. Some groups may be auxiliaries, some guilds or some volunteer groups. The one thing that makes us each part of the UPD family is that we volunteer for our local healthcare facilities. We give of our time and talents for a common cause. I'd like to thank you!

I'd also like to say thank you to all the local leaders who took the time to talk with me when I contacted you. Your district board is in the process of finding new members to join our leadership team for the UPD. We still need to fill two vital positions. If you are unable to volunteer on the UPD board at this time you might be thinking, "How can I help?" Perhaps you can think of someone we can contact. You know your group better than we do. We are hopeful you can help us.

Next week, the UPD will have several members attend Healthcare Advocacy Day in Lansing. It will be very informative and worthwhile to meet our law makers and get updates on what is happening in the Legislature. I will send you a report about the event.

I am looking forward to seeing you each at our District meeting in Escanaba on May 10 and 11th. I know our friends there are working diligently to create a great

Spring conference experience for you. At the meeting we will be installing our Board members. Our MAHA President and President-Elect, Nancy Viele and MaryLu Cramer, will be assisting with our ceremony. It is a privilege to have them attend and assist. Be sure to take a few moments to introduce yourself and get to know your MAHA leaders.

Presidents, please plan to meet prior to our evening event. It is important that we spend some time together. If you cannot meet with me, call me or email me and let me know.

The Highlights has been sent out and it is beautiful. Thank you for all your articles and photos. The Highlights announced the call to the MAHA Annual meeting. I hope to see you there. The necessary forms are on the website at mahaonline.org It is shaping up to be a dynamic event. I look forward to attending and representing the UPD.

Just today, I have received the information via email regarding our MAHA annual meeting. If you did not receive these forms, please let me know and I will assist you in acquiring them. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Deborah Northrop

UPD President