



August 2015

Dear Presidents and Presidents-Elect,

It's hard to believe that fall is just around the corner! The leaves are already changing and the cool temperatures and dark cloudy skies of the past couple of weeks convince me that summer just may be over. And since the children start back to school next week I guess that makes it official!

The **ECD Fall Conference** is less than a month away, on Wednesday, September 23, 2015, at the Horizon Center in Saginaw. If you haven't as yet committed to attend, I would encourage you to do so. Our co-hosts, Covenant HealthCare of Saginaw, have a wonderful program planned. You'll enjoy a continental breakfast, networking opportunities, informative guest speakers and a lovely luncheon. Registrations will be accepted until September 13, 2015. For those of you attending, **please bring a basket from your hospital or group** for a giveaway. A 50/50 raffle will be also be held and you could be the lucky recipient!

**We are seeking a co-host for the spring 2016 ECD Conference.** If you would like to fill that role or are considering it and need additional information, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss it with you.

You'll be receiving a brief description of the *ECD Officer positions* in your conference folder. Every year we endeavor to "recruit" the best and brightest from our midst to lead the East Central District in the coming year and this year is no exception. The qualifications are really quite simple...an eagerness to contribute, the basic skills needed to fill the position, and a commitment of a small amount of your time. And there are "perks" that come with the job; the satisfaction of working toward improving healthcare at our facilities and in our communities and the pleasure of making new friends!

Our Volunteer Organizations/Auxiliaries are moving into full gear once again as we welcome back those who've been traveling, visiting relatives or just out and about enjoying all the activities that summertime brings. For most organizations, fundraising will begin again in earnest and new vendors with interesting products will be sought for future fundraisers. This year's MAHA Fall conference at Crystal Mountain can assist in that endeavor as they offer the opportunity to connect with vendors presenting their wares for your consideration.

Janet Barker, MAHA Vendor Coordinator, has assembled an interesting variety of products for your perusal. The conference is also an excellent time to meet with your peers and share new ideas, successes, challenges, and changes that are occurring at your hospitals. I would encourage your attendance. It's the perfect occasion to both check out the vendors and be updated on timely and important information that can assist your organization. There is still time to register. The deadline is September 11, 2015.

Many thanks to those who sent an article to Sheryl Russo to be included in the fall edition of the ECD Chronicle. She will be seeking articles for the spring 2016 edition shortly after the first of the year. Perhaps you could briefly record your activities in the months to come so that you can be ready to share your exciting projects and special events with us then. I know that Sheryl would be grateful. You all work hard and deserve to toot your own horn. The Chronicle is your chance to do so!

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in the coming days and weeks. Enjoy your Labor Day Weekend!

Sincerely,

*Carol Crane*

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<b>SEPTEMBER 23, 2015</b>	<b>ECD FALL MEETING</b>	<b>HORIZON CENTER, SAGINAW</b>
<b>OCTOBER 12-14, 2015</b>	<b>MAHA FALL CONFERENCE</b>	<b>CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN, THOMPSONVILLE</b>
<b>MAY 25, 2016</b>	<b>ECD SPRING MEETING</b>	<b>HORIZON CENTER, SAGINAW</b>
<b>JUNE 7-9, 2016</b>	<b>MAHA ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>GRAND HOTEL, MACKINAC ISLAND</b>