



SOUTHEAST DISTRICT—MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHCARE ADVOCATES  
(SED-MAHA)

FEBRUARY 2016

VOLUME 50

Issue 2

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT - PAT ESSELMAN



*Pat Esselman*

**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR**

**SED  
SPRING  
WORKSHOP**

**TUESDAY  
March 15,  
2016**

**GREATER  
GRACE  
TEMPLE  
DETROIT**

**REGISTRATION  
FORMS  
ARE  
DISTRIBUTED  
UNDER  
SEPARATE  
COVER**

What a joy it is to greet all of you again! The anxiety of the holidays have come to an end. We now look forward to a New Year; new beginnings, ideas and projects. This is definitely evident as I've reviewed each of your Highlights articles. I cannot express in words the excitement in my heart as I read each article and visualized the dedication you have for your respective hospitals, moreover your team efforts in accomplishing every task.

It was good to learn we will supposedly have an early spring. The thought of putting away winter outerwear is something I look forward to. I am sure without a doubt many of you feel the same. I'm looking forward to the renewal spring brings and the freshness of the air. Such thoughts brings SED's expectation of a great Spring Workshop on March 15, 2016 at Greater Grace Temple. Three great workshops are planned. Judy Ahn-Ewing is the keynote speaker. She will be speaking on the program/services in the Senior Assessment for Independent Living and related topics. Judy's background is in Neurophysiology. She is the Director of Neurosciences for the SJP system. Kathy Zaguroli, Director of Volunteers for Providence Southfield and Novi along with Kathy McGuffin, volunteer

will share and give background information for the program "NO ONE DIES ALONE." Returning by popular demand; Tina Strait, Volunteer Coordinator and Mary Desana, Manager of Women's/Child Health for Henry Ford Wyandotte will speak on the hospital's program "ROCK A BABY."

It is programs such as these that help to strengthen the volunteers as a whole while making us aware of the varied health care opportunities. Workshops and Conferences are planned throughout the year keeping each hospital volunteer in mind. Despite the fact, we as volunteers give very liberally to our respective hospitals in such areas as devotion, loyalty and financially via fund raising, we should take advantage of each opportunity to attend workshops and conferences not only for awareness thus allowing us to network with one another and take those learned experiences to our hospitals, friends and families. As always, should you have questions, comments both positive and constructively negative, please feel free to contact me.

**TOGETHER...WE CAN!**

*Pat Esselman*, SED President

## **NEWS FROM OUR SED PRESIDENT ELECT/LEGISLATIVE CHAIR - Connie Ulrich**

According to a 2015 survey conducted by the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention there was a 96 percent vaccination rate achieved by Michigan hospitals. This is up from 65 percent in 2013. These vaccinations help to protect not only their staff and their families; but their patients and visitors.

Behavioral healthcare is not included in primary care hospital bills, even though evidence shows that doing so leads to higher overall costs and poorer patient outcomes. With this limited access to psychiatrists and mental health services in rural areas, this causes many patients to land in emergency rooms; which is the most expensive and least effective place for these patients. Another driver of higher costs and poor patient outcomes is the lack of palliative care planning. Unless providers change this approach to advanced illness management they will not reduce readmissions and lengths of stay.

MHA is continuing to oppose the auto no-fault insurance Senate bill 288. This is because it will take benefits away from accident survivors in Detroit. The current Michigan legislatures should examine why auto insurance rates are so much higher in Detroit as opposed to other Michigan residents and work to reduce these rates.

The upcoming FY2017 budget recommendations will likely include additional funding to address long-term health and safety needs of the residents of Flint, as well as funding for Detroit Public Schools. The DPS could face bankruptcy before the end of the school year because of debt payments; unlike the City of Detroit, nearly all DPS debt is backed by the state of Michigan.

MHA and its staff will be making financial contributions to assist the people of Flint. Member hospitals that wish to make donations or have staff members who wish to volunteer their time should visit the state website that provides information on how to assist those affected by this crisis. The MHA will meet with the governor's administration to gauge how hospital and health systems statewide can best support these efforts.

The 2016 Healthcare Advocacy Day will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. The event will be held at the Radisson Hotel in downtown Lansing. Author JoAnn Contomo will discuss how hospital volunteer advocates make a difference in their own lives and the hospital's bottom-line.

MAHA members are encouraged to join MHA members by attending this event.



**MHA/MAHA 2016 HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY DAY  
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016 in LANSING 8AM - 1PM**



### **THE PROPOSED SLATE OF SED OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017**

*The following slate of officers for 2016-2017 is  
presented by the SED Nominating Committee:*

<i>President:</i>	<i>Connie Ulrich</i>	<i>Henry Ford Macomb</i>
<i>President elect:</i>	<i>Elaine Pastor</i>	<i>St. Joseph-Chelsea</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Carol Ann Towne</i>	<i>St. John River District</i>
<i>Recording Sec'y:</i>	<i>Nancy Lepia</i>	<i>Lake Huron Medical Center</i>
<i>Corr./Financial Sec'y:</i>	<i>Lavenia Dean Billings</i>	<i>McLaren Port Huron</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Sue Gallas</i>	<i>McLaren Macomb</i>
<i>Counselor:</i>	<i>Pat Esselman</i>	<i>Providence Park Hosp. &amp; Med. Center</i>

*An additional nomination for each office may be made in writing by any seven (7) members of two (2) auxiliaries/volunteer organizations. The nominee previously must have served on the SED Board of Directors one year (at any time). Such nominations must cite the qualifications of the nominee and be accompanied by a written statement that the nominee understands the job description and will accept the nomination, if tendered.*

*Such additional nominations must be received by the president not later than May 1, 2016. The membership shall be informed of such nominations at least two (2) weeks before the Annual Meeting. Nominations may not be made from the floor.*

*Committee members: Marilyn Beverley, Chair  
Connie Ulrich, Marilyn Moss, Jean Backlund and Beverly Hartman*



# What's Happening Around the District..

*Did we hear from your Hospital?*

**DMC Huron Valley Sinai Hospital** is re-activating their volunteer group. The new leader, Jessica Mathiak, Director of Service Excellence, is working to involve more volunteers in different activities. A new award—Volunteer of the Month—honored Barbara Brennan.

**Henry Ford Macomb Hospital** is looking forward to celebrating National Volunteer week by enjoying a bus trip to the Fox Theatre to see Frankie Valli. The Coffee Bar now serves pizza on Fridays at lunchtime.

**Henry Ford Wyandotte Auxiliary** is having a fundraising event at the Brownstown Health Care Facility in March. Their Gift Shop is now selling postage stamps. It is a great convenience for employees and patients and it helps get people into the gift shop to see the wonderful items for sale. They are enhancing their mentoring program for new volunteers and look forward to attending Advocacy Day in March.

**McLaren Port Huron Auxiliary** announces the new Karmanos Cancer Center plans to open in June. Their future fund raising events includes a Logo Sale and on March 17 & 18 a Books R Fun Sale. The 10th Annual Betty Kearns Little Black Dress Event is March 4th at the Blue Water Convention Center in Port Huron. The proceeds will be divided between McLaren Port Huron Auxiliary and the Lake Huron Medical Center Auxiliary to benefit their respective breast cancer departments.

**Our Lady of Providence League (OLPL), Southfield** continues to do good work at the hospital. Notably, they will again bring Books Are Fun to the hospital for a win-win sale that brings unique products and convenience to our staff and associates and is a good fund raiser for OLPL. They are also looking forward to their 2nd annual Volunteer Fellowship Gathering Service Project. They will be assembling tray favors for their patients. Additionally, they will have Elena Weissman, Manager, Healing Arts Center, as a guest speaker.

**Pro Medica Monroe Regional Hospital** volunteers are looking forward to their Annual Volunteer Awards Banquet on April 14th.. It is being held for the first time at LeRoy's Hall. They will award three \$1,000 scholarships to their young volunteers. They must have been accepted to a college, plan to pursue some sort of medical career and have volunteered at least 50 hours of service to the hospital.

**Providence Park League—Novi** will have four Fellowship gatherings during 2016. At the first gathering they made “no-sew” fleece blankets for babies in need. Carol Fuller, Director, West Region, Women and Children Services spoke about Providence-Providence Park Hospital’s recent “Baby Friendly” designation.

**St. John Macomb-Oakland, Warren Center Auxiliary** and the Madison Heights Campus (Oakland) have merged into one Auxiliary. It’s an exciting time for the two groups to know each other and work to build an even stronger single volunteer workforce. Another big change for 2016 is to suspend the practice of paying dues to be a member of the Auxiliary. Instead of a set amount of dues, we are requesting a voluntary donation of any amount to support the activities of the Auxiliary. Our spring fund raising activities includes a Valentine Goodies candy sale and a St. Patrick’s Day Shamrock sale. The Coffee Shop sales have been enhanced with their purchase of a “state of the art” coffee machine that makes all the latest and greatest coffee drinks.

**St. John River District Hospital Auxiliary** has another right-brain painting fundraiser scheduled for February. On March 2 & 3 they will host a Books R Fun event. The Auxiliary continues to increase their number of volunteers and will concentrate their efforts to further recruit during the year. They have scholarship applications available online for second year college students in the medical field who reside in St. Clair County. They continue to finalize their fundraising calendar for the year.

**St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Pontiac** announces updates for the Get Well Network education that is offered to patients. More than 300 videos have been added to PowerChart to be used as a teaching tool. Volunteers assist patients to navigate this great GetWell Network System. Volunteer Services will celebrate National Volunteer Week by having a goodies table and thank you cards brought in everyday to their office by staff. The hospital is unveiling a new state-of-the-art, hybrid operating room for cardiac patients.

**Please share your activities with the other organizations in our District. Submissions should be 100 words or less**

**We hope to hear from you in the next issue!!!!**

IF UNDELIVERABLE, RETURN TO:  
Beverly Hartman  
SED Communications Chair  
35638 Kensington Ave.  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312-3739

VISIT [mahaonline.org](http://mahaonline.org)  
for more MAHA state news and district news from all of the  
Six Michigan Districts.

## HELP US KEEP YOU CONNECTED TO SED AND MAHA...

PLEASE BE SURE TO INFORM THE  
SED MEMBERSHIP CHAIR  
OF ANY CHANGES TO YOUR OFFICERS  
DURING THE YEAR.

Please notify: **CAROL ANN TOWNE** at  
[caroltowne44@gmail.com](mailto:caroltowne44@gmail.com)

IT WOULD ALSO HELP WITH  
COMMUNICATIONS IF THE DISTRICT HAD  
AT LEAST ONE E-MAIL ADDRESS  
FROM EVERY VOLUNTEER GROUP.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOUR VOLUNTEERS  
ARE DOING IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE  
SOUTHEAST DISTRICT DIGEST....

The next SED Digest deadline  
is FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2016

Please email your information  
(100 words or less)  
to: [bhartma1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bhartma1@sbcglobal.net)

Or mail to:

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