

December 3, 2015

Dear Presidents,

Amazingly the holidays are upon us. Hope each of you had a Happy Thanksgiving. Today, the SWD Board meeting took place at my home. Six of the eight of us were in attendance. The board meeting was followed by a light lunch. A great many topics were discussed, especially the need for board members. The Nominating Committee met on November 20 and are looking for candidates, so we were unable to approve of any except Connie Garlitz who decided to run for President Elect for the 2016 year which means yours truly is in for another year. Luckily none of my family was around.

My travels have continued as I visited the Spectrum Pennock Hospital Auxiliary Board on November 16. What a nice group of ladies and gentleman. I am keeping track of all of my miles and time for these visits and the number of volunteers I encounter. Currently I have reached out to 59 volunteers in the SWD. Our MAHA president, Nancy Viele, has a poster decorated with a thermometer that reaches to 500 encounters with Michigan volunteers who are part of the MAHA. My goal is to blow the top off that thermometer and put the SWD "on the map". Your president apparently has a hidden competitive component in her makeup. If any of your boards or groups are meeting this month, please give me a call. I may be able to work another visit into my schedule, but in any case let me know of any meetings in January that I might attend.

Be sure to check out the MAHA website this month at mahaonline.org to see the Hospital Spotlight. Bronson Battle Creek is featured and their Volunteer Coordinator, Marlene Pardoe, did a great portrayal of their hospital and the volunteer involvement. The "force" is surely with them.

The board is currently looking for a location to have our March 17, 2016 meeting. Cost is a major concern for all of us and nothing is getting cheaper. We are also hopeful of finding something centrally located. Our meetings need to be held where there is audio visual equipment for our speakers and where food can be served. You may be interested to know that in the past the morning coffee at cost \$59.95 per urn and the sticky buns were \$2 each and a \$3 charge per person was charged for table service at lunch. This seems to be a going rate for most restaurants. None of this was charged to the membership, so we are carefully looking for a non a la carte venue.

My wish for all of you is to have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in 2016!

Marlene Sebastian
SWD President