

SWD - MAHA

October 1, 2015

Dear Presidents,

Composing a monthly letter certainly lets me know how short our months have become. Since my last letter, I attended the MAHA quarterly committee meetings and Board meeting September 9-11 in Lansing and orchestrated the SWD Fall Legislative and General Meeting September 17 in Jackson.

There were 56 attendees at the fall meeting in Jackson. Unfortunately for me, I was not in good health that day and had great difficulty keeping on track. Nevertheless, our MAHA President, Nancy Viele and President Elect, Mary Lu Cramer, gave very good presentations. Stacy Dowdy, our MHA representative who is the manager of Health Pac and Grassroots Advocacy also presented an update of our state legislature activities of late.

Our first speaker, Beth Smith, RN, MSN, Chief Compliance Officer/Vice President Organizational Excellence from Allegiance Health spoke on "Compliance and Patient Privacy". She covered a good deal of material that was interesting.

Right after a very good lunch, even though a bit much, Nancy Viele met with the presidents of our district who were in attendance. She discussed with them the merger of two hospitals in our district, the importance of personal touch on the local and state level and that the MAHA board is asking that auxiliaries notify the board of events such as significant anniversaries, special volunteer recognition, etc. so a member of the MAHA board can correspond with them with congratulations.

Our afternoon speaker, Tim Bos, arrived a bit late, but did a good job helping us to understand how to determine an antique from a reproduction. A topic a bit removed from the usual volunteer repertoire, but exciting and nice for a change.

Marshall Oaklawn brought a lovely basket of personal hygiene products for the Harvest Gathering at the MAHA Fall Conference and Promedica Bixby donated a hooded sweatshirt, mug and pens which will be a very nice addition for the basket drawing at the end of the conference.

I will be leaving Sunday, October 11 for Crystal Mountain for the conference and will not return home until Wednesday evening, October 14. I will not be available by email, but will have my cell phone, 517-581-9432. I am looking forward to meeting the representative from Borgess Hospital in Kalamazoo. They just joined the district on September 11 before the MAHA board meeting so that she would be able to attend the Fall Conference. It has been a long time since Borgess was a part of the district. If you know any volunteers from Borgess, be sure to welcome them to the SWD.

Keep in mind that our board is still looking for someone to take on the position of President Elect. It is too bad that someone hasn't been willing to do so before now as they would have been able to attend the Fall Conference at the expense of the district. We still need one more person to be on the nominating committee. We now have someone from Lansing and someone from Hillsdale and we really need one more to make good representation of the district.

Also, kudos to our district presidents who were in attendance at the meeting. You were the first group who were willing to stay and hear what our MAHA President had to discuss! I congratulate each of you. I do realize that it probably had something to do with our speaker arriving late, but it must have been meant to be.

Sincerely,

Marlene Sebastian
President, SWD