

Communique

A newsletter for Aspirus Volunteers



Winter 2018

From the President

by Paul Dobbratz, President



Ho, Ho, Ho! Look at the snow! Can you believe how fast the seasons go! As the days get longer and the sun shines brighter as it reflects off the snow, I can't help but reflect on how much brightness each of you brings through your volunteer roles. A big thank you for everything that you do!

Many things happened in 2017:

We had 463 active volunteers, with 47,789 hours, representing \$1,153,626 in contributed service!

Starbucks opened in its new location and has been very successful.

We had successful linen and cookie sales.

We had another successful student art contest – make sure you take the time to look at their artwork in the hallway next to the volunteer lounge.

Aspirus adopted new Vision, Mission, and Values statements.

I hope many of you accepted my challenge from last year and recruited some new volunteers. You are our best recruiters.

Once again, thank you for all of your time and efforts in 2017. Looking forward to continued successes in 2018.

“Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.” – James Matthew Barrie

Paul



Mission

The Aspirus Volunteers is an inclusive organization through which people individually, or as a group, volunteer time, talent, and resources to improve the spiritual and physical health and well-being of the residents of north and central Wisconsin, fostering the mission of Aspirus and its subsidiaries.



Public Policy Education

by Cindy Hermel



This past year Public Policy advocacy has been front and center. There were a number of HEAT Alerts covering a variety of issues including rural community quality care, critical access hospital support, the maintenance of Medicaid reimbursement levels, support for graduate medical education, and a licensure compact for nurses.

Your grassroots legislative contacts in response to the HEAT Alerts were instrumental in the Wisconsin Legislature's Joint Finance Committee approving a \$31 million increase in Medicaid funding which includes \$25 million for disproportionate share hospitals (DSH) and health systems.

On December 11, 2017, Governor Walker signed Senate Bill 417 or eNLC into law. This newly enacted law maintains Wisconsin's participation in the enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact and ensures unnecessary licensure barriers do not prevent nurses from serving patients in our state's communities. There were 1,000 HEAT emails sent to legislators urging co-authorship and support of this bill. This grassroots support contributed to the successful outcome for this issue.

Keep your eyes open for HEAT Alerts and information regarding the 340B program. As you know, 340B is a Drug Pricing Program implemented in 1992 that requires drug manufacturers to provide outpatient drugs to eligible health care organizations at significantly reduced prices. The intent of the program is to allow those eligible health organizations to stretch federal resources as far as possible reaching more eligible patients and providing more comprehensive services. In November, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services finalized the 2018 Outpatient Prospective Payment System rule that included significant cuts to certain 340B providers. This directive is in conflict with the majority of US Senate and US House of Representatives members position on the issue as well as the unified opposition of this payment cut from 340B providers.

Thank you for your continuing advocacy support on behalf of Aspirus Wausau Hospital. Your efforts accomplish positive results for all Wisconsin health care systems and the patients they serve. Mark your calendars ... Advocacy Day will be March 21, 2018. I look forward to seeing you there.

Festival of Trees

For the 21st year, thousands of guests attended the Festival of Trees event during the week of Thanksgiving. Guests viewed 130 holiday trees, wreaths, mantels, and specialty items at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center in Rothschild which were donated by people in our community for raffle and silent auction. \$214,000 was raised to support Aspirus Comfort Care and Hospice Services hospice program. Each year Aspirus Volunteers donate and decorate a display. Pictured is the beautiful doorway décor that was created this year.



Volunteers Holiday Tea

Snow and slick roads could not stop Aspirus volunteers from attending the annual holiday tea held in the Medallion Room Grand on December 13th. Santa joined the fun as well.



Annual Requirements Training

Volunteer Annual Requirements Training was held on October 2nd and 10th. Speakers presented information on Infection Control, Confidentiality/HIPPA, Safety, Service Excellence, Standards of Conduct, and Active Shooter training. Information on Opioid Abuse was also shared. Volunteers had the opportunity to receive their annual TB skin test and flu shot.

Aspirus Wausau Hospital Re-Certified as Level II Trauma Center

Aspirus Wausau Hospital (AWH) recently was re-certified as a Level II Trauma Center following a two-day on-site survey conducted by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). First verified as a Level II Trauma Center in 2009, this continued achievement recognizes the Aspirus Trauma Center's dedication to improving the standard of care for injured patients.

In order to be re-certified as a Level II Trauma Center, AWH was required to demonstrate the availability of specialized equipment and sub-specialties to care for critically injured patients who may have multiple injuries.

AWH's trauma care involves a multi-disciplinary system of care from the time a patient arrives through recovery. The experienced trauma center staff provides the highly specialized expertise needed to care for seriously injured patients including surgeons specializing in trauma, neurosurgery, orthopedics and other surgical specialties. A wide complement of physicians including emergency medicine, critical care, and rehab support the care of trauma patients.

30% OFF

**Aspirus Wausau Hospital
Volunteers Only**
One Apparel or Jewelry Item

Exclusions include: Cards, candy, balloons, flowers, doTerra, stamps and sale merchandise. Expires 4/30/2018.



Save the Date! Advocacy Day - March 21st

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, March 21st and plan to attend the Wisconsin Hospital Association's premier event, Advocacy Day, held at Monona Terrace in Madison, WI. Be one of the first 55 volunteers to sign up and join the Aspirus Volunteers for a free bus trip to Madison. The Lamers bus leaves at 6:00am from the Liberty Mutual Insurance east parking lot. We will return to Wausau about 6:30pm. (Bus has bathroom accommodations.)



Program Agenda:

8:00 – 9:00 am: Registration and Continental breakfast (provided)

9:00 am: Welcome

9:10 am: The Political Landscape: Today and Tomorrow,
Mara Liasson, National Political Correspondent, NPR

10:10 am: Break

10:30 am: State Legislative Panel
Moderated by Eric Borgerding, President/CEO, Wisconsin Hospital Association

11:45 am: Luncheon (provided)

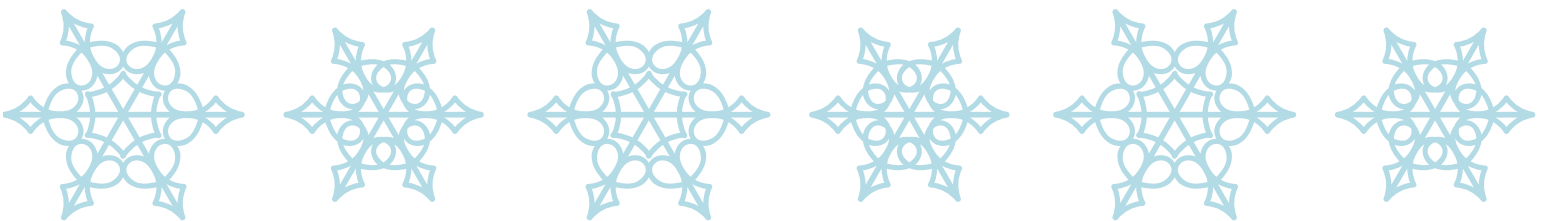
12:30 pm: Address by Governor Scott Walker (invited)
Presentation of Health Care Advocate Award & Advocacy All-Star Award

1:00 pm: 2018 State Legislative Issues Update
Kyle O'Brien, Senior Vice President, Government Relations, Wisconsin Hospital Association

1:45 pm: Adjourn

2:15 – 3:30 pm: Legislative visits at the Capitol

Registration is required. To register for the Advocacy Day bus trip, please call 715-847-2380 by March 14th. Registration information will be sent to you.



Mission, Vision & Values in Action

Do you have an example of the Aspirus values in action? We want to hear about it. Submit a short story of yourself or others talking about a time when any part of our new system Mission, Vision or Values was put into action. Please drop off your story in the volunteer office or email them to volunteers@aspirus.org. Stories will be shared in future issues of the Communiqué.

Volunteer Opportunities/Help Wanted

Lifeline Installer: Help seniors live safely in their homes. Install Philips Lifeline equipment in the subscriber's residence. Valid Wisconsin driver's license is required. Basic knowledge of electrical and telephone equipment is helpful.

Hospice House: Volunteers help staff members at Aspirus Hospice House by visiting with patients, making meals, gardening, cleaning, stocking cabinets, etc. More duties as assigned. Weekend volunteering is available.

MSICU Desk: Greet and assist visitors in MSICU. Provide help locating patient rooms, finding the restroom or cafeteria, answering the phone, and assisting with small clerical tasks. Help is needed from 8am – noon, 7 days a week.

In Memoriam

Lavon Gifford passed away on May 25th. She was an honorary volunteer ending more than 31 years of service in 2011. Lavon was a knitter, helped with the geranium sale and Lifeline program and volunteered in the Gift Shop.

Joyce Traeger was a dedicated knitter for more than 13 years. During that time she volunteered almost 7,000 hours and knit countless baby hats for the Aspirus Birthing Center. Joyce passed away on June 2nd. Her creativity and generosity will be missed.

George Million was a driver for Mobile Meals before logging more than 1,500 hours driving the EZ Rider Cart through the hospital. He was dedicated to the EZ Rider program often coming in on his days off to cover an open shift. He passed away on July 7th.

Frank "Les" Brenton was a loyal volunteer at Aspirus for more than 8 years. He served in the Cancer Center and Aspirus Clinics, but truly enjoyed helping others by installing Lifeline services. Les passed away on August 9th.

Longtime volunteer, Robert "Bob" Gifford passed away on October 7th. He was part of Aspirus Volunteers for 18 years, giving more than 3,700 hours of service helping with the geranium sale, EZ Rider and Lifeline program.

Mary Kay Kucirek volunteered at Aspirus for more than 27 years. During that time she logged over 2,400 hours, mainly in the gift shop but was always willing to help out wherever she was needed. Mary Kay passed away on February 2nd.

*Memories
last
a lifetime*

Volunteers in Action - Volunteer Hours

DON'T FORGET – Please turn in your hours every month to keep your records up to date. **Thanks for all you do!**

We recognize and thank these volunteers for reaching these service achievements!

100 Hours

Susan Aho
Ruth Dejarlais
Jerry Fochs
Linda Griesmer
Dennis Hess
Xavier Lechleitner
Clark Loeffel
Michael Mcaninch
Cynthia Nievinski
Margaret Ovel
Sandra Rekowski
Bill Shirer
Cynthia Soczka
Erika Wilde

200 Hours

Noah Briquette Miller
Jacob Brodhagen
Emily Fecteau
Larry Gorski
Rhonda Hallam
Rachel McLaughlin
Sierra Moeller
Danielle Pitterle
Jeff Raasch
Benjamin Rauen
Jean Rusch
Cullen Stangel
Kathleen Vesely
Hannah Zierer
Dani Zurakowski

300 Hours

James Beese
Connie Dobbratz
Dawn Merriam
Carly Moeller
Sue Ricklefs
Michelle Schaefer
Katherine Schneider
John Thomas

400 Hours

Barb Breese
Thomas Gilbreath
Gale Gilge
Brin Lawrence
Anita Norton-Heil
Maddie Peters
Gloria Setterman
Mary Ventzke

500 Hours

Steve Hessel
Lois Jarosz
Margaret (Peggy)
Klosinski
Ruth Naef

600 Hours

Casey Brodhagen
Sara Kohlhepp
Tom Rocheleau
Bernadette Tessmer

700 Hours

Sue Gantner
Janice Gresens
Michelle Groh
Alice Van Skike

800 Hours

Marlin Block
Luann Esko
Mary Rudahl
Donna Rule
Arline Stark

900 Hours

J Edward Bieno
Jean Dehn
Ann Goetsch
Mary Mcdonnell
Lynnae Schulz
Ron Zahrt

1000 Hours

Joanne Howard
John Schlueter

1,500 Hours

Sally Christoffersen
Becky Wendland

2,000 Hours

Sylvia Erickson
Mary Fochs
Karen Schroeder

3,000 Hours

Gay Baumann
Marlene Schnelle

3,500 Hours

Enid Krueger
Jan Molaska
Judy Ward
Gloria Woller

5,000 Hours

Carol Ruether
Bill Viertel

7,000 Hours

Nancy Zastrow

11,500 Hours

Sharon Seubert

13,500 Hours

Joan Mais

14,000 Hours

Cleo Tyskiewicz

15,500 Hours

Lee Borneman

29,500 Hours

Lee Borneman

Volunteers

50 Hours

Selena Alvarez
Zoe Anderson
Jacob Bernal
Jaxsen Birnbaum
Issac Briquette Miller
Sierra Delonay
Elizabeth Iribarren
Jacob Jakusz
Cassie Lambrecht
Mackenzie Lentz
Quinn Lodholz
Danyel Ma
Allison Majernik
Abigail Opatik
Justin Reimer

100 Hours

Vanessa Bradfish
Natalie Brown
Jenna Goethel
Kyra Handrick
Hannah Senanayake
Alexis Wright
Travis Wright

150 Hours

Madeline Rodemeier
Ann Seliger
Grace Stanke

Aspirus Volunteers – Building a Better Future

The Aspirus Volunteers Board of Directors attended the Wisconsin Hospital Association Partners conference October 4, 5 & 6 in Green Bay. There were 275 people at the conference with the theme, “Building a Better Future”. Attendees heard from speakers on topics including opioid abuse, palliative care vs. hospice care, and participated in networking sessions.



Direct From Yo!



It's been quite a year. I firmly believe in the saying, "take life as it comes, not as you order it."

My first volunteer experience was as a candy striper in a nursing home. If anyone had told me then that I would go on to be a Director of Volunteers at Aspirus, I would never have believed them.

But, I sure am happy to serve in this role. I think of all of you as an extended family and see the importance of you to Aspirus in helping us to fulfill our mission.

This time of year, we really get excited about being able to celebrate national volunteer week. Please mark your calendars for this year's celebration banquet on April 24th at the Holiday Inn at Cedar Creek.

In 2017, the Aspirus Volunteers had 461 active volunteers providing over 47,789 hours of service.

Here are just some of the areas our volunteers help in:

- Hospice homecare volunteers visited 92 patients / total 828 visits / 1,168 hours
- EZ Rider: 3,933 / 6,068 passengers
- Catholic Pastoral Care Reps: 6,560 visits to patients
- Women's Health Breast Milk Donation Program: 810.7 lbs. donated and 859.6 lbs. of milk shipped to "Mother's Mile Bank of the Western Great Lakes" for shipment to NICUs across the country
- Pet Therapy: 151 canine visits / 304.35 hours
- Lifeline: 13 volunteers / 530.03 hours / 900 subscribers
- Gift Shop: 29 volunteers
- Coffee Shop: 8 volunteers
- Patient Registration: 3,930 pieces of guest mail, email greetings, and flower orders delivered
- Personal Escorts: Assisted 1,024 people to reach their destination
- Teddy Bear Clinic: 13 volunteers / 412.04 hours / 1,082 students
- Pre-School Hands Program: 4 volunteers / 21 classes / 383 students in Wausau School District 4K classes

The American Hospital Association is sharing news about the TRIPLE AIM. This is the framework to maximize the performance of the health care system. This has helped us align volunteer services with the rest of the organization. It has helped us "Tell the Story" about how we show how our volunteers have a measurable impact on the patient experience and patient care.

SEE WHAT I MEAN! The Aspirus Volunteers consist of 461 talented individuals with a PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE and COMPASSION FOR PEOPLE. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE WAYS YOU HELP!



ASPIRUS™

Passion for excellence. Compassion for people.

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Communiqué

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Calendar of Events

February 27: Volunteers Board of Directors Meeting

March 21: WHA Advocacy Day – Madison

March 29: Cookie Sale

April 15-22: National Volunteer Week

April 24: Volunteers Annual Banquet

May 22: Volunteers Board of Directors Meeting & STAR Review

May 28: Memorial Day – No volunteers scheduled