



The ACHA

Communicator

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COMMUNICATOR

DEADLINES

June 8, 2023

September 8, 2023

December 8, 2023

March 8, 2024

Send to:

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ACHA

Fall Conference

Guntersville State Park

October 8-10, 2023

From the Chair:

GREETINGS EVERYONE!

As March fades away, spring flowers start to bloom, days are longer, and winter's chill is fading. We were so excited to have an in-person meeting in Montgomery on January 11. We also held the meeting by virtual call.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO VOLUNTEER AT A HOSPITAL? Volunteers reduce the stress of a hospital stay by providing a friendly face, answering questions, and giving directions.

WHY IS VOLUNTEERING IMPORTANT? It can provide a healthy boost to your self-esteem, self-confidence, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others. It gives you a sense of pride identity.

We are planning to have our Fall Conference at Guntersville State Park October 8-10. You will be getting information soon. The board voted that the hospital auxiliaries not pay dues for THIS year since hospitals are struggling.

Thank you for all you do for your hospitals. As always in closing, BE SAFE.



Bonnie Molett

From the Chair-Elect:



Nathan C. Schaeffer, clergyman and educator, once said, "At the close of life, the question will not be how much have you got, but how much have you given. Not how much have you won, but how much have you done. Not how much have you saved, but how much have you sacrificed. Not how much were you honored, but how much have you served."

I, too, feel like Mr. Schaeffer, as I'm about to be sworn to the helm of ACHA. I look forward with great anticipation to have the opportunity to serve, and I am especially happy in this work. Maybe, because it is service! Great things are in store for the next year, because when you live for a strong purpose, then hard work isn't an option; it's a necessity.

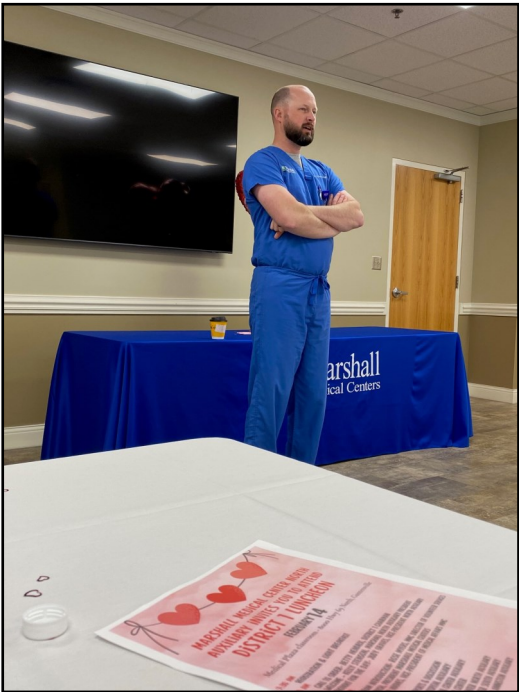
I speak as Thomas Jefferson when he was U.S. Minister to France. The French Premier said to him, "I see that you have come to replace Benjamin Franklin." "I have come to succeed him," corrected Jefferson. "No one can replace him." I can never replace Bonnie Molett. I come to succeed her; never can I replace her.

As we prepare to attend the 2023 ACHA Fall Conference, let us come with goals of beneficial permanence that will fulfill the group's real needs.

Johnnie Knott

District I

Marshall Medical Center North and South:



For the first time in three years, Auxiliaries from all over North Alabama came together for a District 1 meeting. The theme for the Valentine’s Day get-together was Volunteering is a Work of Heart. We hope this meeting will kick off a return to quarterly meetings across District 1.

Marshall Medical Center North hosted volunteers from Helen Keller Hospital in Sheffield, Highlands Hospital in Scottsboro, Regional Medical Centers in Anniston and Marshall South in Boaz. Betty Hendrix of Arab, District 1 chair, welcomed Auxiliary members who had not seen each other since 2020.

Each Auxiliary president talked about the toll the pandemic took on volunteer programs. Many have a fraction of the volunteers they had before, and several have dissolved altogether.

Anniston’s Regional Medical Center brought five volunteers and DVS Vickie Simmons. They talked about their Cuddler program for NAS babies where volunteers hold and comfort the infants. They described several fundraisers that have been successful for the Auxiliary.

Paulette Johnson from Helen Keller Hospital described the struggle to keep the Auxiliary going with few volunteers and little support from the hospital. They are committed to serving patients like they have done for years.

“We’re not giving up,” she said.

A similar sentiment was shared by Highlands Medical Center in Scottsboro. President Betty Gallagher is working several volunteer positions herself while trying to recruit new people to the Auxiliary.

Marshall South President Edna Southerland shared her excitement for a new gift shop opening at the Boaz hospital in June, along with a 64-bed tower. The new section will create a new main entrance with a new cafeteria, coffee shop and outpatient registration.

Marshall North Auxiliary President Kelly Stenson described some of the many ways volunteers make a hospital stay just a little more pleasant.

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Above, Dr. Tyler Hughes speaks at the District I meeting. At right, Margaret McLeod shares a bit of Valentine spirit.



District I

Marshall Medical Centers continued:

“Everywhere we look around the hospital, we find volunteers illustrating a ‘Work of Heart.’ Our volunteers crochet patient tray favors, baby caps and blankets for new mothers and others. Volunteers are pushing patients in wheelchairs from building to building, always with a smile and positive attitude. Some are providing free items to patients from our Wellness Wagon.”

Marshall Medical’s volunteer program managed to survive COVID and is growing strong. Currently, 93 volunteers are working on three campuses. They run gift shops, hold fundraisers and help out in ERs in an effort to offset the staff shortage.

The meeting’s highlight was a presentation by Dr. Tyler Hughes, an emergency physician at Marshall North and vice president of medical affairs over the MMC health system. He began by thanking the volunteers, which is how he started at the hospital as an Arab High School student. He acknowledged Mrs. Hendrix, who was his third grade teacher, and Vice President Judy Graves, with whom he attends church.

“We have a lot in common,” he said. “You have a heart for service like me. This is home. I want to give back.”

Rose Myers, MMC DVS

District II

It is so good to see the pandemic in our rearview mirrors as we move steadily away from it! Do we have an Amen?

The Brookwood Medical Auxiliary is seeing its financial engine begin to turn again with income becoming steady, and ideas are flowing about how we can show our hospital staff how much we appreciate them. Our volunteers show appreciation by showing up at their posts and working faithfully, of course, but we wanted to add a little zing to the day, so we have begun randomly selecting offices/units and taking trays of goodies to them. The gift is small, but it says, “We see you. We notice you. And we appreciate you.”

All auxiliaries have a tradition of doing this sort of thing, and before 2020 we never thought we couldn’t. But the pandemic disrupted our regular giving, and lack of sales took its toll as well, so we are just now able to reach out with such gifts. Before 2020 none of us ever expected to hear the term “social distancing,” never thought we would have to appreciate people from afar – and we are so glad those days are over. Each plate of goodies delivered to a department is a mini-celebration of this new day.

At right, Fran Gilroy and Joanna Holmes delivered goodies to the Rehab Unit. The cookies were well received and likely did not last long!

Janis Cole, President



District III

From the District Chair:

As I look out my windows this morning, I am seeing birds, new green leaves on my trees and spring flowers blooming. It makes me think of all the new ideas and opportunities we as volunteers are facing in the new year.

I look forward to the possibility of getting together for a District III meeting at a central location in the near future so we can visit and discuss what we are all doing and how we are facing our new normal. I also am looking forward to reading your articles in the Communicator. Hope to see you soon.

Fay Burns, District III Chairman

Greene County:

Daylight saving time, also referred to as daylight time or summer time, is the practice of advancing clocks during warmer months so that darkness falls at a later clock time. Some people like to credit Benjamin Franklin as the inventor of daylight saving time when he wrote in a 1784 essay about saving candles and saying, "Early to bed, early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." But that was meant more as satire than a serious consideration.

Just as we waited with expectations for daylight saving time, this auxiliary is patiently awaiting the return to the hospital, Nursing Home and Physician Clinic. The membership is still intact, gathering together for our falling members or social functions, etc. However, we are subject to policies and procedures. Just as we looked forward to the time change, we also look forward for our return.

Geraldine Walton, President

Russell Medical:

Hello! Hope everyone had a great fall and winter and enjoyed family during the holiday season. We are approaching spring with flowers in bloom.

In December, we held our holiday tree of lights fundraiser. The fundraiser gives members of our community a chance to honor and memorialize family and friends during the holiday season. We also held our education meeting in which we reviewed compliance policies and procedures of the hospital along with covering

HIPPA privacy law. Our education department holds this meeting every year.

In February we held our Valentines Social and Reese's Gram sale. Our staff enjoyed sending each other thoughtful cards and candy.

At the Valentine Social, we ate great food and had fun playing BINGO with many prize winners.

Cheers to spring and longer days of sunlight. Until we chat again!

"A kind WORD is like a spring day."- Russian Proverb



Barry Ingram, President

Whitfield Regional:

With the beginning of the New Year 2023, “The Whit” and its Auxiliary hit the ground running! What a prosperous year this has been. New technology, new doctors specializing in robotic surgery, Vein Specialist, renovation of the hospital, and more have been instituted. WOW!

The auxiliary had a banner 2022 Year with the Corporate Wreath sale. Wreath’s patron support filtered over into this year, adding a total of \$7,300 to the fundraising efforts, with Carolyn Bell serving as Chairperson.

Springtime brings transformation and change; from darkness to light, from cold to warmth, from grey to bursts of color. As the transformation begins, the Auxiliary fundraising efforts have started once again. Another \$5 Sale proved successful with the Auxiliary realizing \$1,220. Britches & Bows is coming April 4-5. Our Service Ministry — LifeSouth Blood Drive — is returning in April as well.

The membership voted to try a new vendor later this year and will be working to schedule Flying Footwear. They are hoping for a long and profitable partnership.



WRH Auxilian Kathy Patterson looks over the display of earrings at the \$5 Sale.



Carlos wears his familiar grin as he waits for another customer to check out.

These days the Auxiliary is practicing sustainability in all areas of the membership. Auxilians are eagerly brainstorming ways to recruit more members. Four new members have been added. Membership Chairperson Jan McDonald and her committee have scheduled a reception April 25 for inviting new members. WOW!

The Whit Auxiliary is celebrating with the rest of the hospital and with all of the city at the announcement that the newest state magnet school will be located in Demopolis. Once the Alabama Legislature approves Gov. Kay Ivey’s proposal for the fourth magnet school in the state, the new Alabama School for Health Sciences will prove to be a boon for the state, the city, the hospital and, of course, the WRH Auxiliary.

WOW!

Johnnie Knott, President

District IV

Springhill Memorial:

Greetings to everyone from Springhill Memorial Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary.

Here we are in a new year with new plans and hopes. The azaleas are in full bloom here in Mobile as we welcome the official arrival of spring and the return of its wonderful days and nights.

It has been a relatively quiet beginning so far this year for our auxiliary, with the first fundraiser, Uniforms2U, coming this month. We are hoping to have a great turnout and begin our new year with a successful and lucrative sale.

On February 8, some of our volunteers participated in the hospital sponsored Love Your Heart event where various booths were set up to provide information on heart health. Cholesterol screening was offered at no charge. We set up a table during the event to acquaint attendees with our auxiliary and its work and recruit new volunteers. In conjunction with the Love Your Heart event, an open house was held to showcase our recently remodeled inpatient rehab center with two of our members handing out refreshments to guests.

As we do each spring, we have recently distributed information on applying for our annual scholarships to deserving students in their senior year in health care career studies. We hope to receive several applications from deserving young people that will allow us to assist them in the furthering of their education and perhaps go on to join our Springhill Memorial Hospital staff upon graduation.

Additionally, we are looking forward to our General Membership meeting and luncheon this month. It is always a pleasure to spend time in a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere since, with our busy volunteer schedules, we often don't have the opportunity to see each other and catch up on all that has been happening in our lives. Plus, a delicious catered lunch is always appreciated.

In closing, may we take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy springtime and great success in the efforts of your respective volunteer auxiliaries. God Bless You and God Bless America.

Brenda Kirkland, Auxiliary President

From the Gift Shop Chair:

It's time to clean out old items in gift shops and replace with new spring items, including items for Easter and Mother's Day. Keep shop looking bright and colorful. Always have a turnover of items. Make your shop look inviting to visit.

Be very welcoming when someone enters. You never know what they are feeling on any particular day and may just need a smile or friendly face.

I hope everyone has a great Easter. Always remember Jesus loves you.

Bill Nickles, Gift Shop Chairman

Love only grows by sharing.

You can only have more for yourself

by giving it away to **others**.