



The ACHA

Communicator

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INSIDE

ACHA Chair	1
Chair-Elect	1
District 1	2-3
District 2	4
District 3	5-7
District 4	8

COMMUNICATOR

DEADLINES

March 8, 2023

June 8, 2023

September 8, 2023

December 8, 2023

WATCH THIS SPACE!

For information

about the

Fall Conference

Guntersville State Park

October 2023

From the Chair:

When we receive this issue of our Communicator all the hustle and bustle of the holidays of 2022 will be over.

Now we look forward to the new year 2023. May we live to learn well and learn to live well. May we always be grateful for the past, find joy in the present and remain excited for the future.

As we read our Communicator we will notice changes throughout Alabama with the volunteer programs in our hospitals. It is exciting to read about the fund-raisers and volunteer participation in each hospital.

We are looking forward to meeting our new Executive Assistant, Sandra Young at our next board meeting this month. Hopefully the gathering will be in person. It will be great to see everyone again.

As always in closing BE SAFE!

Bonnie Molett



From the Chair-Elect:



I am honored yet humbled to have been elected Chair-Elect! However, because of the pandemic, I have not served in this capacity, but have enjoyed supporting Bonnie Molett as she has continued at the helm. I will shadow this fine woman, because leadership is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions.

Former U.S. Rep. David Bly once said, "Striving for success without hard work is like trying to harvest where you have not been planted." We will plant and the harvest will be shared with our fellow auxiliaries! 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.

As we remember this Sacred Season, let us not forget no fact in history is as well attested as is the birth, life and death of Jesus Christ. The Encyclopedia Britannica devotes more words to Jesus Christ than to Aristotle, Cicero, Julius Caesar or Napoleon. No life has been so carefully examined, so carefully noted. No life has reached down so many centuries with so great an impact on so many millions of people. Christ was born in the first century, yet He belongs to all centuries. He was born a Jew, yet He belongs to all races. He was born in Bethlehem, yet He belongs to all countries.

Johnnie Knott

District I

Highlands Medical Center:

Recruiting our hearts out! We have been able to set up booths at our local County Fair and at the Senior Expo at our local Senior Center! We had so much fun talking to everyone and answering questions about what we do and how much volunteers are needed. We handed out quite a few applications!!



Busy time of year!

Yes, we were in full swing for the holidays. We've had a Collective Goods Sale, a \$5 Sale, a Bake Sale, and we can't forget our Annual Training Class.

Go, Team Highlands! We also can't forget the Tailgate Party for all employees!

Yep, our volunteers are up for anything to do with helping our hospital. So much fun!!



Highlands volunteers attract possible new members at a booth set up at a local Senior Center.

Highlands employees enjoyed the Tailgate Party hosted by the Auxiliary.

Betty Gallagher, President

Marshall Medical Center North and South:

Marshall Medical Centers' two Auxiliaries raised money and made significant purchases to benefit both hospitals in 2022. Marshall North Auxiliary, in Guntersville, fulfilled a request from the cafeteria to replace four large, bulky food tray carts with smaller stainless steel units that make it easier to transport patient meals and keep food hotter. The carts represent an investment of almost \$12,800 by Auxiliary members.

"The Food Services department appreciates the Auxiliary making this purchase," said Executive Chef Joseph Vance, who oversees both hospital cafeterias. "These carts help us do our jobs much more efficiently."

Marshall South Auxiliary in Boaz helped to replace aging, heavy tables and chairs in a large classroom that gets frequent use. Volunteers purchased 40 tables on wheels that are much easier to move and flip up for storage. The tables represented an investment of \$8,256.

Continued on page 3



District I

Marshall Medical Centers continued:



“Our volunteers are an integral part of our healthcare system and help provide needed items for all areas of the hospital,” said Tami Howard, education director at Marshall South. “I am so grateful that the volunteers chose to meet the need in the education department on the South campus by replacing our old tables.”



Volunteers raised money through two \$5 Sales in each hospital and gift-wrapping fundraisers during Christmas. Gift shops in Marshall North and South had great revenue this year, thanks to hard-working managers and staff who donate a lot of their time to order,

stock, display and assist customers.

Marshall Medical Centers celebrated Christmas with volunteers at three different December luncheons. At Marshall South, volunteers enjoyed a prime rib lunch catered by the cafeteria. Door prizes were poinsettia centerpieces created by crafter and volunteer Sherry Gilley. North volunteers enjoyed a roast beef lunch, an ornament exchange and received poinsettias for door prizes. The Marshall Cancer Center volunteers were treated to a luncheon catered by culinary students from Albertville High School. Gifts were provided by employees. All approximately 100 volunteers received a one-pound bag of pecans as a thank you from Marshall Medical.

We are looking forward to another great year in 2023.

Rose Myers, DVS

Top left, Chef Joseph Vance poses with the new stainless steel food carts purchased by the Marshall North Auxiliary. Above, Diane Butler, Linda Balducci and Betty Hendrix enjoyed the party at Marshall North. Below are Marshall North officers Margaret McLeod, Judy Graves, Dorothy Daily, DVS Rose Myers and President Kelly Stenson. Previous page is the photo of a poinsettia centerpiece presented to Marshall South volunteers.



District II

Brookwood Medical Center:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

A friend recently commented that her favorite place to purchase Christmas surprises is a well-stocked hospital gift shop, and the Brookwood volunteers agree! Shelby Jacobs, our Volunteer Coordinator, manages the Brookwood Gift Shop, and our volunteers enjoy helping her keep things running smoothly.

Fran Gilroy and Linda Zander regularly volunteer, but others step in to help out when things get busy also. It is a favorite spot to work. Volunteers help Shelby receive and price items for sale, and they create interesting ways to merchandise each product. They restock items such as candy, cards, gifts, and more. They straighten shelves as needed. Balloons are tied with ribbons so that they are ready on a moment's notice. These volunteers beautifully assemble gift bags.

Often the gift shop is so busy that volunteers help ring up purchases so that customers don't have to wait. Volunteers even take materials home to prepare them for sale. We are proud of Shelby's dedication to creating a beautiful, classy gift shop, and it is a pleasure to help her. Whether one needs a baby gift, a Christmas gift, or maybe just a candy bar to get through the day, the Brookwood gift shop is the place to be. We even held a Bundt cake sale there in November, which was a win-win: the auxiliary earned money, and shoppers bought gifts while picking up their cakes.



Fran Gilroy displays a Christmas sweatshirt that was hit in the Brookwood Gift Shop.

Princeton Baptist Medical Center:



Hello Everyone! We certainly hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving! The Auxiliary again made the hospital and campus look festive for Christmas. Along with our lobby and campus, we've also had our Surgery area and our Doctor's Lounge decorated for the season.

The Auxiliary hosted our \$5 Show on December 8 and 9. We anticipated a great sale! We had a busy month preparing Christmas bags for our employee's children that are in need. We call this our "Project Christmas Morning". We have 55 children that have been adopted by employees.

We at Princeton hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Linda Gray, President

From the District Chair:

Hello from District III, hoping all had a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As we enter a brand new year, it is my prayer that we all are getting back to our new normal, and all Auxiliaries are now going full force. I am looking forward to hearing from each and everyone in the new year about the plans that are ready to be put in place and what we each will accomplish. It can be an exciting time for all of us.

Happy New Year.

Fay Burns, District III Chair

East Alabama Health Authority:

EAHA has finished the year getting back into the swing of things. We have not had the opportunity to participate in any outside activities and our Teenage Volunteer program is in the process of being revised with more information to follow.

Fay Burns, President

Greene County Hospital:

Comedienne and actress Amy Poehler once said, "Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life forever."

This group has made many positive changes for the future endeavors of the auxiliary. We have not returned to active duty, but who knows what the future holds, because He holds the future in His hands.

As we reflect on this past Holiday Season, please remember, "No one else holds or has held the place in the heart of the world which Jesus holds. Other gods have been as devoutly worshiped; no other man has been so devoutly loved."

Jesus is the reason for the SEASON! Merry Christmas/Happy New Year!

Geraldine Walton, President



District III

Russell Medical Center:



Hello! Hope everyone had a great fall season enjoying football and all things pumpkin spice. Our volunteers stayed busy as we approached the Christmas season and started a New Year!

We held our \$5 Show with great success. We also helped our Russell Medical Education Department with the JAHCO "House of Horrors"; it was a "boo-tiful" success, also.

Then onto Trunk or Treat at Hillabee Towers, giving out candy and visiting with residents.

Last, but not least, we helped the Russell Medical Foundation with its Annual Golf Invitational. We had great weather and a fabulous time.

We hope everyone had a great holiday season filled with family and friends! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

"Autumn is the hush before Winter." - French Proverb

Barry Ingram, President

Russell volunteers helped at one of the local senior living facilities, top left; at the recent \$5 Show, left, and with education department to present a skit on HIPAA compliance do's and don'ts, top right.



Whitfield Regional Hospital:

A **WOW** (Wonder Of Wonderland) Moment in Demopolis.

W is the Wonder of admiration caused by the overwhelming of community support as "The Whit" kicked off the annual Christmas on the River celebration with the Christmas Tree Lighting and the recognition of the Special Child ceremony Wednesday, November 30.

O is the optimism that the community shared.

W is the Wonderland of the Whitfield Regional Hospital campus.

Everything was bright and vivid!

Continued on Page 7

Special Child for Christmas on the River, Ellie Grace Luker, flipped the switch to light the tree in front of the hospital, kicking off the four-day COTR.



Whitfield Regional continued:

Saturday's day parade on December 4 was the largest in the 51-year history of celebrating COTR. Auxilians joined in the fun by riding one of the floats and tossing beads, candy and ornaments to the crowds along the parade route. Even a few rain showers didn't dampen the excitement and enthusiasm.

As the auxiliary continues to work, five things have become a part of our "Memory Bank": 1. The value of time. 2. The success of perseverance. 3. The pleasure of working together. 4. The power of kindness, and 5. The obligation of duty.



Performing these duties has created the best year for fundraising efforts. Our Corporate Wreath and Love Lights sales far exceeded expectations.

Christmas always waves its magic wand over the City of Demopolis, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful, but never forget that he who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.

Johnnie Knott, President

Above, Sandra Booen prepares to toss throws to spectators along the COTR Day Parade route. At left, Love Lights chair Betty Bozeman adds another ornament to the tree .



EVERY DAY IS A FRESH BEGINNING,
EVERY MORN IS THE WORLD MADE ANEW.

SUSAN COOLIDGE

American Children's Author

District IV

Springhill Memorial Hospital:

Well, here we are, another year has come and gone, and we are on the threshold of 2023. It is our hope that 2022 has been a good year for everyone and that the holidays were happy and blessed for each of you and your families. It has been a busy fall for us here at Springhill Memorial Hospital. We have hosted two fund raisers, Collective Goods in October and \$5 Sale in November. Each was successful, and we gratefully appreciate everyone's participation and support and look forward to even greater events in the upcoming year.



Springhill volunteers decorated the lobby tree to the accompaniment of Mary Lawson on her harp.

As I am sure recruiting new volunteers continues to be a concern for most, if not all, of our auxiliaries, our Director of Volunteer Services, Leigh Martin, has found a new and fun-filled way to reach out to prospective volunteers. We have hosted two bingo events at one of our Senior Community Centers to get acquainted with the neighborhood seniors who frequent the center. With the assistance of one of our volunteers, John Maddox, who does the calling and tells an occasional joke or two, we have reached out to acquaint the people with our Auxiliary and the opportunities it provides for new volunteers. In today's world of technology, it is often difficult to have face-to-face contact with people but this is a great way to get to know each other and have a good time as well. BINGO!

We had a very special event this year in decorating the Christmas tree in the front lobby of the hospital. We decorate every year, but this year one of our volunteers, Mary Lawson, brought her harp and played beautiful music for everyone who worked as well as watched. Refreshments were provided, and everyone enjoyed the fellowship as the Christmas season began. We were also treated to a delicious lunch of prime rib or roast pork with specially prepared sides and dessert, served by the hospital to all of the employees and volunteers. The Spirit of Christmas certainly got off to a great start, and we appreciate everyone who helped to make it so special.

Our volunteer Christmas luncheon was, as always, another delightful event, held at a local restaurant and attended and enjoyed by everyone. As we do every year at this time, we have the opportunity to give to others in the spirit of Christmas by each volunteer bringing an inexpensive gift to be distributed to a local shelter for battered women. Often these women and sometimes their children find themselves separated from family and friends with little hope for a Merry Christmas, and it is our honor to do what we can to show our love and care for them. Additionally, we also provide gifts from a "Wishmas List" to senior residents at our Senior Residence. We so appreciate Leigh and her assistant, Cindy McFadden, for their tireless efforts to make sure we have these wonderful opportunities to be together and share with others, especially at this special time of year.

In closing, may we, here at Springhill Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, wish you all a Happy New Year, and may 2023 be a happy, productive and blessed year for everyone. God Bless You and God Bless America.

Brenda Kirkland, Auxiliary President