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COMMUNICATOR

DEADLINES

September 8, 2023

December 8, 2023

March 8, 2024

June 8, 2024

ACHA

Fall Conference

Guntersville State Park

October 8-10, 2023

The ACHA

Communicator

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From the Chair:

I was thinking the new volunteers at our different member hospitals might appreciate some information about the ALABAMA COUNCIL of HOSPITALS AUXILIARIES (ACHA) to which they now belong.

ACHA is a statewide organization to support volunteers at hospitals, nursing homes and other health care organizations. Membership is available to any Alabama Hospital volunteer program upon payment of dues and approval of hospital chief executive officer.

Our board consists of 16 members at present. This is to maintain good communication between the local auxiliaries and the board. We have four districts. Each district is represented by volunteers in that district. A manual contains the state bylaws and information to help structure and organize a local volunteer group.

Hope you enjoyed the information on ACHA. I wish everyone a happy and safe summer.

Bonnie Molett



From the Chair-Elect

As we are nearing the 2023 ACHA Fall Conference, a feeling of great enthusiasm and eagerness enters my spirit. The excitement comes, because we will be together for the first time since 2019. When you experience sudden very high spirits, possibly even a feeling of lightness, you are feeling great elation. Elation is more than mere happiness—it is extreme, exhilarating joy. The idea of meeting, greeting, and learning are enough to celebrate!

I encourage each of you to look forward, with great anticipation, to coming together Sunday through Tuesday, October 8–10, at Lake Guntersville State Park with the theme **VOLUNTEER... KINDNESS BEGINS WITH US.**

Anyone who feels life is not worth living or is too terrible to face should volunteer for a cause. A selfless act moves your focus away from you.

Spiritual teacher and writing coach Elizabeth Andrew once said, "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

Volunteering increases self-confidence. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. The pandemic took a toll on the services we render to our hospitals. Let us come together to motivate, inspire, and encourage others to come back. "Service" is what life is all about.

A nugget to remember, "As we serve others we are working on ourselves; every act, every word, every gesture of genuine compassion naturally nourishes our own hearts, as well.

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayer shall be for others.

Yes, others, Lord, yes, others,
Let this my motto be;
Help me to live for others,
That I may live like Thee.

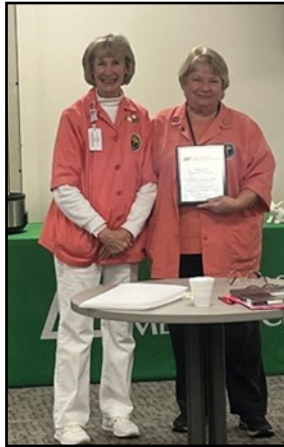
Johnnie Knott



District I

Highlands Medical Center:

Recruiting our hearts out, the Highlands Auxiliary passed out 23 volunteer applications at the Senior Health Fair at Goose Pond Civic Center and had a ball talking with so many wonderful men



and women. Our Gift Shop made a huge basket to give away with many self-care items.

The first Uniform Sale this year also included medical equipment, compression socks and shoes!



The Gift Shop at Highlands Medical Center put together a large gift basket during the auxiliary's recruiting event at Senior Health Fair.

Mary Porter, shown at right in the top left photo, and Shirley Blevins, at right in the top right photo, shared Volunteer of the Year honors, the first time in the auxiliary's history that the vote was a tie. Below, members are shown with the new Post Partum Hemorrhaging cart.



We had a very exciting Spring! When April showers were keeping everyone indoors, our Auxiliary was anxiously awaiting our Award Luncheon. The month before was the month the Auxiliary would vote for a Volunteer of the year, but few members knew at the time that there was something exciting going on. When the votes were gathered, there was a dilemma, something that had never happened before! We counted and counted again, but votes don't lie. We had a tie! For the first time ever, we have two Volunteers of the Year!

Mary Porter was recognized for outstanding volunteer work at the Information Desk. She filled in every time someone was unable to fill the position, no matter what day or time. Shirley Blevins received the honor for working at all our volunteer functions, including our push to recruit new volunteers.

We also had the privilege of purchasing a Post Partum Hemorrhaging (PPH) cart for the Maternity Center. The cart was a much-needed item and replaced the previous cart that was hard to maneuver and out of date.

Betty Gallagher, President

District I (continued)

Marshall Medical Center North and South:

Volunteers and employees at Marshall Medical Center South are excited about finally moving into a large expansion of the hospital that includes a new bed tower, gift shop and cafeteria. A grand opening for the \$61.3 million project was held June 22.

The 64-room bed tower replaces all current patient rooms built in the 1970s-80s. A large glass atrium serves as the new main entrance for Marshall South, giving it a modern, updated appearance.



Volunteers were eager to move from the tiny gift shop at the old entrance to a spacious one with custom built-in shelving and a large storage room. Glass walls provide a view of the concourse and through the atrium to the campus outside. Gift Shop Manager Joyce Slaton and Buyer Brenda Smith have been



planning all year how to move and display items and have been purchasing additional stock to fill the space. All hands were on deck for the move.

Marshall North Volunteers celebrated graduation with interns from the Project SEARCH program, which takes high school graduates with a disability and takes them through on-the-job training in several departments throughout both hospitals. The goal was to have each employed by May. Following the graduation ceremony, Marshall North Auxiliary President Kelly Stenson and Vice-president Judy Graves presented a \$1,000 check to the program's job coaches.

Interns from Project SEARCH stand proudly at their graduation. The program provides on-the-job training for high school students with special needs in the hopes they will be employed at the end of their high school career.

A Facebook page has been created for Marshall Medical volunteer services. Pictures have been shared from the April Volunteer Appreciation luncheon, swearing-in of officers, members helping at Senior Health & Fitness Day and brand-new volunteers.

Both hospitals had successful \$5 Sales this year. We're looking forward to more sales in the fall. Happy summer!

Rose Myers, DVS

District II

Brookwood Medical Center:

Ideas continue to flow about how we can show our hospital staff how much we appreciate them. Performing our duties well, with professionalism and friendliness, goes a long way, of course. But we wanted to add a little unexpected sparkle to each day, so a few volunteers worked with our Volunteer Coordinator, Shelby Jacobs, to come up with a novel idea.

We purchased “100 Grand” candy bars and attached a tag saying “Thanks for all you do! We wouldn’t trade you for 100 GRAND. With love and appreciation from your Brookwood Volunteers.” We keep these stashed near the main information desk, and volunteers watch for staff being especially helpful to patients, visitors, and other staff – and then out comes the candy bar! These are received gratefully (and sometimes with blushing cheeks), which of course just makes us want to do this sort of thing more and more. It’s a simple win-win for staff and volunteers alike.

The attached photographs show the candy bar and our own Martha Hester, who works at the information desk on Thursdays and especially enjoys her candy giveaways. Special thanks to Shelby and Joanna Holmes for designing this gift, and to Fran Gilroy for assembling them for gifting.

The appreciation goes both ways also – during Volunteer Appreciation Week, Brookwood treated our volunteers to a delightful lunch at the Bright Star. Now that’s teamwork we can all enjoy!

Janis Cole, President



Brookwood volunteer Martha Hester watches for a hospital staff member who deserves 100 GRAND.

Grandview Medical Center:

There are not enough words to adequately acknowledge the dedication and effort of the Grandview Medical Center Auxiliary. We may be smaller in numbers than in the past, but we are big of heart and generous of spirit.

2023 will be a busy year with an emphasis on fundraising events. The first of five, held in February, was a huge success due to the wonderful support of the Grandview employees, 2nd Vice President Judi Cooley's leadership, and the dedicated volunteers who worked the two-day sale.

In April, Grandview Medical Center recognized volunteers at a luncheon held at The Club. We were thoroughly entertained by James Spann, our favorite local TV weather-person. He spoke of his gratitude for the Volunteers giving of their time and graciously presented them their



Grandview volunteers received service hours pins at the April luncheon.

pins for service hours earned. A delicious meal and door prizes were greatly appreciated by all.

The May General Membership meeting included the installation ceremony of the 2023-2025 Auxiliary Officers hosted by Linda Young, Grandview's Volunteer Services Coordinator. The guest speaker was Dr. Jeremy Rogers of Jesus Harvesters Ministries, a charity that the Auxiliary has held near and dear for many years. His brilliant presentation of the medical missionary trip to West Pokot, Kenya, demonstrated why the Auxiliary continues to donate to this worthy cause. We are honored to be a supporter of this great humanitarian endeavor.

Karen Roberts, President



Dr. Jeremy Rogers is shown with some of the children during one of his missionary trips to Kenya.

District II (continued)

Princeton Baptist:

Hello to all! I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather!

The volunteers sure enjoyed National Volunteer Week with a nice luncheon on April 18.



Princeton hosted its first \$5 Show for the year on May 8. As always, the employees and visitors enjoyed the sale.

Princeton employees and volunteers are accepting donations of cereal for the annual Healthy Over Hungry Drive. Princeton is proud to be a part of this summertime initiative which provides a nutritious breakfast for those struggling with hunger in our community, many of whom are children who can no longer rely on their schools for meals during the summer. Everyone enjoys seeing how much we can provide for all those kids in need.

The Auxiliary was proud to purchase a Cuddle Cot for the NICU. This cot will give the parents and family members time to grieve and bond with the deceased baby by creating an environment at the correct temperature for the baby.

All of us at Princeton hope you all have a great summer!

Linda Gray, President

Jeremy Clark, CEO, and Ginny Elam (right) with over 26 years of service and Connie Moorer (left) with 27 years of volunteering at Princeton. We appreciate all your years of service!

Shelby Baptist:

In the month of April, Shelby Baptist Medical Center honored the volunteers with an appreciation luncheon. Volunteers were also treated to brunch, snacks, and other goodies throughout the week from different departments in the hospital. Fox 6 News interviewed four of our volunteers and provided a story during the news hour on "What the Volunteers mean to Shelby Baptist Medical Center."

In May, we had two new volunteers to join our volunteer program. We are so happy, and thankful to have them. Our volunteer numbers have been down since the pandemic, but we are starting to slowly build our numbers and seeing more interest in volunteering at Shelby, again.

In June, we got ready to sponsor a shoe sale with Outdoor Outfitters. They have On Cloud, Hoka, and other great shoes. The employees are really looking forward to it. We have also continued to offer Nothing Bundt Cake and other bakery vendors each month, as a fundraiser for our Auxiliary.

During the months of March, April, and May, we had 31 Volunteers to volunteer 2,110 hours.

Lisa Driver, Gift Shop / Volunteer Manager

From the Chairman:

It is my hope and prayer that everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather and all the flowers springing up around everywhere. I know that each of your Auxiliaries are back and completing fund raising to help your hospitals and communities.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Fall Conference October 8-10 at Guntersville State Park. If you have never attended a State Conference, this is the year to make the effort. Guntersville State Park is a beautiful park with Bald Eagles everywhere. Your ACHA board members have planned lots of interesting programs. It is a wonderful time of fellowship and brainstorming with fellow Auxilians.

Fay Burns, District III Chair

East Alabama Health Authority:

East Alabama Health Authority would like to report that we were able to have our Spring Luncheon this April. Our last luncheon was back in 2019, and everyone was excited to return to some sort of normal. We were able to eat together, hear some words of appreciation from our CEO Laura Grill and have special music from Opelika High School chorus. We also honored several individuals with 5, 10, and 20 year service pins.

We held our first \$5 Show since 2019 and raised enough money to give scholarships to three Opelika High Schools seniors. Our Auxiliary is thankful to be able to give back to our community and support students who are going into healthcare.



Betty Bonniol and Alabama Health CEO Laura Gill share a moment during the EAH Spring Luncheon.



Above, Diane Hensley bags items at the first \$5 Sale since 2019. At right, the three scholarship recipients are shown with DVS Nicole Roberts and Recording Secretary Patty May.

We look forward to growing our Auxiliary and open even more service areas over the next year.

Nicole Roberts, DVS



District III (continued)

East Alabama Hospital — Lanier:

EAMC-Lanier Auxiliary volunteers helped during National Hospital Week. The group donated items from the gift shop as door prizes for the special event we hosted for all employees on May 12. The auxiliary also donated the funds to provide 300 hamburger lunches that were prepared by our local Sheriff and his staff for all hospital employees.

Ashley Beck, DVS



From left, Martha Scott, Macy Whorton, and Ashley Beck are shown preparing the lunch boxes for staff.

Greene County:



We are anxiously waiting to return to our respective places! However, our volunteer spirit has not been hindered, because most of our members have found other nonprofit organizations or other community services.

While we were waiting, our Chaplin, Catherine Means, transitioned to be with the Lord on May 6, four days before her 100th birthday. Bereavement is the grief and mourning experienced following the death of someone important to you. In short, the more significant the person was in your life and the more feelings you had for them—regardless of their relationship to you—the greater the impact their loss is likely to have. Yes we must admit, her life really had an impact on the auxiliary.

Geraldine Walton, President

Russell Medical:

Hello! Hope everyone is having a great spring with summer quickly approaching. We hope you're enjoying longer days of sunlight and the smell of fresh cut grass.

In April, we held our volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. We were entertained by Tyler Dennis, compliance and risk management officer at Russell Medical. The food was catered by 1220 Cafe and was delicious. We presented the volunteers with an insulated cooler with our 100th year logo in honor of Russell Medical turning 100 years old.

Then onto our \$5 show, also held in April. The fundraiser gives members of our community a chance to shop and visit with the volunteers.



Kenny Brewer gets into the spirit at the Appreciation Luncheon.

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District III (continued)

Page 9

Russell Medical (continued):



Callie Abel, above, shops at the \$5 Sale. At right, Auxilians and guests enjoy the April Appreciation Luncheon.

Money raised from the sale goes to our scholarship program. We had great participation by our volunteers. The sales were excellent!

In May we held our officer installation meeting. This is the first officer installation meeting held as a group since Covid. Our new officers for 2023-24 are President, Becki Hilyer; 1st VP, June Parker; 2nd VP, Brenda Collett; Secretary, Judy Smith, and Treasurer, Nancy Stephens. Also in May we helped the Education Department with N95 fit testing and nurse's lingo- bingo during Nurse's Week. The volunteers always enjoy helping with projects in and around the hospital.

Cheers to spring and longer days of sunlight.

"I love how summer just wraps its arms around you like a warm blanket.": Author Kellie Elmore
Until we chat again!



Becki Hilyer, President

Vaughan Medical:

The Vaughan Regional Medical Center Auxiliary has had a successful and busy year so far. We held our general meeting in February with 23 active members. We have since recruited six new members! We are working to increase that number in the following months.

Unfortunately, two of our members had very bad damage



in the January 12 tornado that came through Selma. Rosie Dunklin and Al Gaston have both been displaced and hope to get reestablished soon. Our Auxiliary was able to step in and help them.

Our Appreciation Luncheon was held in April. We celebrated and honored our long-term members. Four of our volunteers have more than 20 years of service: Billie Rogers, 40 years - YES! 40 years; Mamie Thomas, 26 years; Doris Usrey, 22 years, and Wilma Thomas, 20 years. We thank them so much for their loyalty and dedication. In total our volunteers have more than 265 years of service.

We also honored our Volunteer of the year, Rosie Dunklin, a member since 2004, who has been the chairman of our Jewelry sale since 2009.

Rosie Dunklin, center, is the 2023 Volunteer of the Year.



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District III (continued)

Vaughan Medical continued:

A lot of people really do not know what the auxiliary does in the hospital. We put up a display in the lobby showcasing what the auxiliary has done since its beginning in 1982.

Our semi-annual Jewelry Sale and Britches and Bows sale was held at the end of April and beginning of May respectively. They were both very successful, and we anticipate the next sales in November and December.

We all look forward to having a blessed and safe summer and hope you do too!

Debby Travis, President



Whitfield Regional:

When exactly is summer? Wednesday, June 21, through Saturday, September 23, is the official Summer Season this year. However, it feels as if we have entered into an early summer. It is called "A Loving Warming" at the Whit. As Auxilians, we lovingly warm one another by continuing to perform our duties in upholding the high principles in patient care and attention for which the hospital is especially noted.

These days, we are practicing sustainability in all areas of the hospital. Although we are few in numbers, our dedication to the job makes us forget self. We surely feel the reward of helping the aged, the ill, the very young, and being aware of the needs of the hospital far exceed what we have given and the light from our candles of service glows in our hearts.

How do we encourage, inspire and impact the community? We were busy this quarter making available blood drives every other month and bringing in vendors Britches & Bows and the \$5 Sale.

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Members attending the Appreciation Dinner.

District III (continued)

Page 11

Whitfield Regional continued:



Blood drive chairman Sandra Booen spent time with one of The Whit's donors at a recent event.

We don't believe something by merely saying we believe it, or even when we believe that we believe it. We believe something when we act as if it were true. When renovation first began at the hospital, we believed and acted as if we knew what the outcome would be, but when the auxiliary was given a guided tour of the Emergency Department, a WOW moment filled the air. The transformation was overwhelming!

Another WOW moment was an evening of celebra-tion given by the hospital, in honor of the auxiliary on April 18.

Famed Scottish preacher Alexander Whyte once said, "An appreciative heart brightens a dreary day and shortens the longest night." With appreciative hearts, the auxiliary and their guests enjoyed an evening of feasting on fine cuisine and fellowshiping. Doug Brewer, CEO, and the administrative staff served as host and hostesses for the evening. At the end of the fellowship, each auxilian was given a monogrammed jacket with the hospital's logo.

Johnnie Knott, President

District IV

Springhill Memorial:

Greetings to everyone from Springhill Memorial Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary. We hope everyone has had a pleasant and productive spring as we move closer to summer and the challenges it brings.

I know all our auxiliaries struggle with providing the necessary volunteer services in our respective hospitals during the summer months with many of our people on vacation, helping to care for children or grandchildren who are out of school for the summer and all the other circumstances that cause shortages in our volunteer staffs. Still, we persevere and do what must be done.

Sadly, we have had to say "good-bye" to two of our sweet volunteers who recently passed away. Our auxiliary was blessed with their faithful, loving service for many years, and they will surely be missed

by all of us as well as by everyone whose life they touched.

Since our last communication, things have really been busy here at SMH. Volunteer Appreciation Week, of course, was held in April with heartfelt appreciation shown to us through special gifts and the culmination of the week with a wonderful luncheon at a local restaurant. As always, it is a special time when we can all gather, and we always look forward to every opportunity to do so.

April also saw the submission and judging of all the amazing artwork submitted by students in Mobile County schools through our Color by Kids contest. It is amazing to see the talent these children have and the creative pictures that are submitted.

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District IV (continued)

Springhill Memorial continued:

A reception to announce the winners and award their prizes was held on May 5 at Mobile Museum of Art with great attendance.

May also ushered in our second fundraiser of 2023, our \$5 Sale on May 11, which is always a fun event, so much beautiful merchandise and so many happy shoppers.

We were also privileged to award two very deserving young college students in their senior year of studies in the health care field with a \$2,000 scholarship each and wish them great success upon graduation.

Hospital Employee Appreciation here at SMH, which always includes our volunteers, was held the week of May 15-18. The hospital presented everyone with a stylish SMH monogrammed backpack and tumbler with free refills all week in the cafeteria. Lunch was provided on Tuesday by Taco Mama's with a taco bar and on Thursday by Chick-fil-A. Games, treats and prizes were enjoyed throughout the week and our auxiliary very much appreciates being a part

of this special week of events.

Our General Membership Meeting was held on Monday, May 15, also with a delicious lunch (we have certainly eaten well). Our Director of Volunteer Services, Leigh Martin, arranged to have the Springhill Hospital's Head of Security speak to our membership on responding to an active shooter, should that ever become a threat. After viewing a graphic, sobering film, he discussed the Homeland Security advisory of RUN, HIDE or FIGHT. God save us all from ever having to deal with this ever-present danger that so many others have been forced to face, but it is better to be prepared to act than to have no knowledge of what to do. He also provided us with information on human trafficking and indications of suspicious activity of which we should be aware and report. We appreciate his insightful instructions.

Until next time, may we take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe, happy and productive summer, wherever your roads may take you. May God bless each of you in all you do and God Bless America.

Brenda Kirkland, President

**TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE, YOU
DON'T HAVE TO BE BRILLIANT, RICH, BEAUTIFUL OR
PERFECT.**

YOU JUST HAVE TO CARE.