



Alabama Council of Hospital Auxiliaries

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An Affiliate of Alabama Hospital Association.

Mission

Serving the healthcare needs of Alabama, through advocacy, representation, education and service.

Fall Conference

Guntersville State Park

October 8-10, 2023

The ACHA

Communicator

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Message from the Chair - Bonnie Molett

This will be my last article to the Communicator as President of ACHA. It was an honor being your President the last four years.

I will always treasure working with the ACHA Board and all the Auxiliaries throughout Alabama. All of you are warriors, especially during the Covid epidemic. I have learned how to take directions, criticism, and compliments. Learned to be open-minded, to value other people's opinions and considering other ideas alongside my own.

I am looking forward to our Fall Conference. I have always loved seeing each smiling, sweet faces. Your volunteering efforts have helped so many people, and you are all appreciated in your Auxiliaries.

Our Fall Conference is themed 'KINDESS BEGINS WITH US'. We really need this in our world of today. I look forward to seeing you there.

As I always close: BE SAFE.
Bonnie Molett, ACHA Chair



Message from the Chair Elect - Johnnie Knott

I appreciate the opportunity to have served as Chair Elect and Program Chair. I am looking forward to being your Chair next year.

Excitement has set in as we approach the 2023 ACHA Fall Conference, scheduled for October 8—10, 2023, at Lake Guntersville State Park. What a perfect place to join our fellow auxiliaries to laugh and learn.

The pandemic separated us, but we will be 'BACK TOGETHER AGAIN'! The anticipation is electrifying! The agenda is packed with great topics and very knowledgeable presenters. WOW!!

As we enter the time of the year that's called 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', we are reminded that Autumn is a season famous for its harvest times, turning leaves, cooling temperatures, and darkening nights; it is also a time for 'Thanksgiving'.

Eleanor Halbrook Zimmerman once said, "Thanksgiving comes but once a year, and yet the whole year round - the heart of love, the heart of cheer will make a joyful sound, and we who keep Christ's loving ways will have Thanksgiving everyday".

Johnnie Knott, ACHA Chair Elect



District II

District II Chairman - Karen Roberts

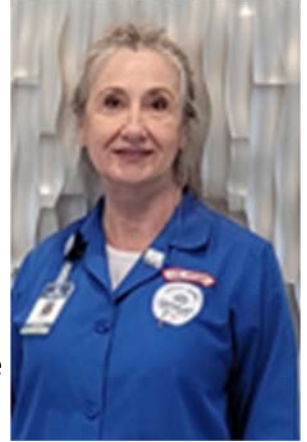
Message from the District Chairman

With the ACHA Convention quickly approaching, it is my hope that you are ready and excited to see old friends... make new friends... and to gain knowledge from the convention programs to help grow and strengthen each of your Auxiliaries.

It's been a long time coming and I am looking forward to meeting each of you at our District II meeting.

See you there !!!

- Karen Roberts, District II, Member-At-Large



Princeton Baptist Medical Center Auxiliary

Greetings to everyone from Princeton!

The Auxiliary hosted its second Uniform Sale of the year on August 23 and 24. The sale was very successful, and the staff was excited to get out of their area and shop. We added a new Volunteer to our Princeton family in July.

As the fall season nears, I am reminded that one of our ongoing projects is providing coffee in all of our guest rooms here at Princeton. We have families from all over coming to our rooms while their family members are a patient at Princeton, and I'm sure our families enjoy waking up to a great cup of coffee.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference!

- Linda Gray, President



District II

District II Chairman - Karen Roberts

Brookwood Baptist Medical Auxiliary

Someone once said, “Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in”. We see this every day among our hospital volunteers, don’t we? Such can be said of Gayle Watkins.

Gayle has served the Brookwood Women’s Medical Center for years, and even during the pandemic, she served behind the scenes when our hospital access was very limited. Gayle and others kept our relationship with the Women’s Center strong. Doors for our service continue to open post-pandemic, and Gayle continues to look for ways to help staff as they juggle the many demands of their jobs. Gayle’s desire to serve the Women’s Center stems from her days visiting her firstborn in the NICU. In fact, the doctor that treated her baby is still there.

Brookwood no longer has a cuddle program, since parents are usually on hand to give the babies the cuddles they need, but there are many opportunities for service. Gayle assembles the baby gifts that Brookwood gives to the new parents, filling each gift bag with a baby gown and various items to pamper the new mama (see picture). Then she goes to the NICU and travels from room to room to make sure that each is well stocked with plenty of blankets, burp cloths, baby gowns, diapers, etc.

Gayle’s focus is to help the nurses by freeing up some time with these tasks. She remembers the parents’ lounge also, keeping it stocked with coffee and other supplies. Gayle also covers the front desk if the clerk must step away for a bit. When possible, Gayle also visits the rooms of the new mamas, to see if they need water, refreshments, clean gowns, towels and such. Again, this frees up the nurses so that they can tend to each patient’s medical needs.

Gayle looks for ways to help and offers it. Through the years, she has earned the trust of the Women’s staff. It is important to note that Gayle was carefully selected and trained for this job a number of years ago by the staff at Brookwood. Brookwood is very careful in determining who can serve there, and that includes volunteers.

Those selected are trained in best practices and must maintain the trust of staff by consistently demonstrating excellence in their work. We are very proud that Gayle serves so well!



- Janis Cole, President

District II

District II Chairman - Karen Roberts

Grandview Medical Center Auxiliary

Never doubt that a group of dedicated volunteers can make a difference! The Grandview Medical Center Auxiliary has once again proven that the gift of time has a profound impact upon others.

This is most evident with the volunteers' unwavering support with our two very successful fundraising events this summer. The profits have allow the Auxiliary to provide an additional 168 heart pillows for the Cardiac Care Unit for a grand total of 600 pillows this year. The funds also enable the Auxiliary to begin the process of awarding scholarships to deserving students to continue their education in the medical field.

We are profoundly grateful for the support of Grandview Medical Center's Administration and staff, which allows us to continue to serve our community.

- Karen Roberts, President



District II

District II Chairman - Karen Roberts

Walker Baptist Volunteer Association Auxiliary

Throughout each year WBMC Volunteer Auxilians hold fundraisers. The profits from these events are used in several ways. One way is to provide equipment for our hospital to meet a specific need, which enables staff to function efficiently and improve patient care.

On March 17, 2023, in WBMC Education Center the Auxiliary Board of Directors presented 4 wheelchairs to supervisors and department heads. Mr. Colin Weaver, Administrator over Walker and Shelby hospitals in the BBH system, expressed his appreciation for the donations and remarked upon the dedication of volunteers. He also stated that our hospital scores highest in the system of Improved Patient Care, Clinical Care, and Outcomes and that Walker is best in their market.



WBMC Volunteer Auxiliary also uses funds to award scholarships to students who are engaged in studies in the medical field. For consideration the students must be starting the final semester of nursing school at Bevill State Community College and provide two letters of recommendation. These students have demonstrated their ability to stay the course and usually have a need. In 2023, we were pleased to present two scholarships. This year's recipients were Haley Hann and Hunter Miller.



- Rosa Lee Nicholson, President



Front Row: L-R Meci Dunn-Nurse Manager-ICU, Kelly Poe-Interim Nurse Manager-ED, Christine Bickelhaupt -Transporter, Deanna Lane-Nurse Manager IMC. Back Row: L-R Sandra Williams, Melissa Taylor-Volunteer Coordinator, Rosa Lee Nicholson-President, Walker Volunteer Association, Joanne Stephenson, Charlie Lou Berryhill, Hannah Gilliland-Director-Critical Care, Morgan Mobley-Critical Care Nurse, Diane Fender, Deborah Wallace, Mary Frances Phenicie, Colin Weaver-Interim Administrator, Lori Sumner-CNO, Nan Bishop.



District III

District III Chairman - Fay Burns

It is my pray that everyone is healthy and staying cool. I am looking forward to see each of you at our ACHA Fall Conference on October 8-10, 2023 at Guntersville State Park. Your Board members have worked hard to have an interesting and fun conference . AS I said earlier I am so excited to be able to visit with each of you in person. See you in Guntersville.

- Fay Burns, District III

Greene County Hospital—Nursing Home Auxiliary

Greene County Hospital—Nursing Home Auxiliary and the community mourns the loss of Chaplain Catherine Means on May 6, 2023. Ms. Means lived a remarkable 99 years, touching and impacting the lives of many people. She was awarded the “Volunteer of the Year” in 2020 for her extraordinary work and effort.

She retired after 50 years in the Medical Profession as a Nurse. She was one of the founding members of the auxiliary in 2010 under the auspices of ACHA Chairman, Sharon Farst.

The “Greene Team” as it called, has not returned to the hospital, nursing home, physical clinic but they are very active in the community.

Geraldine Walton, President



Chaplain Catherine Means—receiving the ‘Volunteer of the Year’ Award in 2020



WE ♥ VOLUNTEERS!

District III

District III Chairman - Fay Burns

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- Fay Burns, District III

Whitfield Regional Hospital Auxiliary

This quarter has been a time of CELEBRATION! The Celebration included adding new members, awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors whose chosen fields of study is within the healthcare profession, successful Blood Drives, and Vendor Fairs. We also welcome our Flying Footwear on August 17th, 2023.



On August 10, 2023, we celebrated Alice Boggs for her service. She was awarded the 8,000 Hour Pin. WOW! Alice was also a recipient of the 2009 Alabama Hospital Association Outstanding Auxilian Award.



As we are nearing year's end, new officers will take this auxiliary to the next level. It has been a year of renovation and renewing.



Just as we need to grow in our relationships and our careers, we need to grow as human beings,. By learning how to re-new yourself, you will be able to continuously reconnect with your purpose in life, reignite your passion and rediscover your true spirit.

- Johnnie Knott, President



District III

District III Chairman - Fay Burns

East Alabama Health (EAMC-LANIER) Auxiliary

EAMC-Lanier Auxiliary had the pleasure of helping out the Emergency Department recently by purchasing and replacing 8 of the 10 stretcher mattresses.

The purchase was made with the proceeds made from the Hospital Gift Shop. The gift shop is ran by volunteers and has many unique gifts for sale.

- Ashley Beck, President



Maria Lance, Gift Shop Volunteer, Leta Crawford, ED Tech and Jason Jeffries, RN.

East Alabama Health Auxiliary

East Alabama Medical Center has an active Sewing Group that meets once a month in our Spencer Cancer Center. Each month, the Sewing Group meet to fellowship with each other and share their love for service by sewing for the auxiliary.

The group create neck pillows for our cancer patients and port pillows for the cancer patients who are taking chemotherapy.



The Spencer Cancer Center appreciates all the volunteers! They make a huge impact in providing comfort and sharing they care to our patients.

They also make large red Christmas stockings each year. They are currently working on these stockings that will be gifted to our Women's Services Department for our newborn babies.

The stockings are also gifted to families of newborns during the month of

December. Many and the family take pictures of the baby in the red stocking for keepsake.

- Nicole Roberts



District III

District III Chairman - Fay Burns

Russell Medical Auxiliary

Hello everyone!!

It is hard to believe fall will be here in 14 days. Time is definitely a THIEF!! With that being said who doesn't love the smell of hot teas and ciders, watching the leaves change colors and college football season.

In June, the volunteers helped with the Massage Therapy Event for employees. They also raffled off a therapeutic basket filled with oils, candles and bath salts. The massages were offered free of charge to our Russell Medical employees, as a training opportunity for SUSCC therapeutic massage program. In July they also helped with the

Russell Medical employee wellness screening. They assisted with paperwork and showing the employees where to go. Russell Medical celebrated its 100th year birthday on July 15th and our volunteers played a big role in helping with the festivities. The volunteers have started passing out local newspapers to patients on our TCU floor (Transitional Care Unit). The patients love to see the volunteers out visiting and who doesn't love a paper with local news. The Auxiliary was very excited to award our first scholarship since covid. Our recipient was Taylor Sanders. She will be pursuing a career in Sports medicine from Troy University. Let's kick fall off with football, campfires, hayrides and pumpkin carving.



June Parker

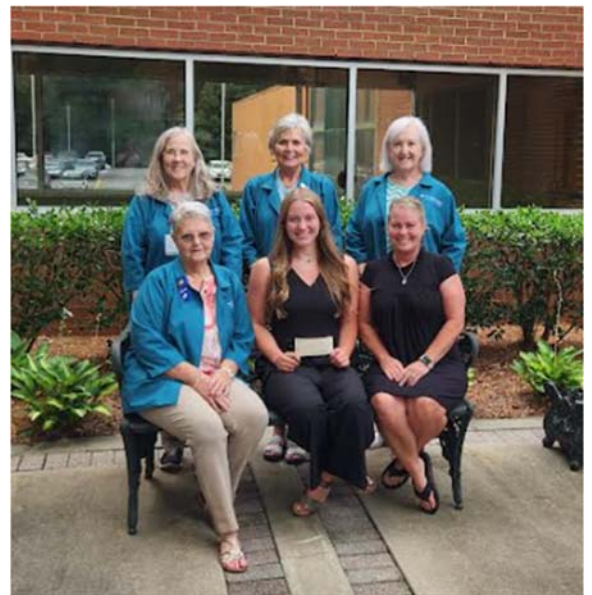
"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go"

Author: unknown

- Becki Hilyer, President



Massage Therapy Event: Lisa Forbus and Nancy Stephens



Second Row: Nancy Stephens, Julie Cotney, and Joanne Singleton. First Row: June Parker, Taylor Sanders, and Jennie Sanders.

District IV

District IV Chairman - Tammy Lee

Mobile Infirmary Medical Center Auxiliary

We have experienced an incredibly hot summer in Mobile, but now we are eagerly welcoming the arrival of the fall weather, along with the return of Alabama and Auburn football, which brings much excitement to our community.

In our gift shop, we are proud to offer a wide array of Alabama and Auburn-themed gifts for fans of both teams. Whether it is apparel, accessories, or memorabilia, we have something to delight every fan.

We are thrilled to introduce Alicia Davis as our Manager of Volunteer Services. Alicia has been serving the Mobile Infirmary and our Volunteer Auxiliary for 25 years. Her dedication, expertise, and leadership make her an invaluable asset to our organization. We consider ourselves fortunate to have such an exceptional manager guiding our volunteer services.

Unfortunately, due to the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic, we faced a significant decrease in the number of volunteers able to return. However, we are pleased to share that we have welcomed 12 new volunteers over the past year, bringing our total volunteer count to 36 individuals. Their commitment and willingness to contribute their time and skills to our cause are deeply appreciated.

On July 26th and 27th, we held a successful uniform sale, col-



laborating with the wonderful company Uniform2U. Their professionalism and quality service made the event a great success, providing our staff and volunteers with the attire they need to serve our community effectively.

Continue on next page.

District IV

District IV Chairman - Tammy Lee

Mobile Infirmary Medical Center Auxiliary

Continued...

One of the most memorable and highly anticipated events of our summer was the revival of the Teenage Auxiliary Volunteer program (TAV). This remarkable program had unfortunately been put on hold for the past four years due to the unprecedented challenges and restrictions brought about by the pandemic.

We had the pleasure of hosting 44 participants from high schools across the Mobile area. These remarkable teenagers dedicated their time and energy to various departments, including the gift shop, marketing, GI registration, front lobby, information desk, and patient family escorts (Wayfinders). Witnessing their enthusiastic smiles and witnessing their personal growth was truly rewarding.

We are delighted to share that all 44 participants have expressed their intention to return next year, recognizing the incredible opportunity this program provides them, especially those interested in pursuing medical careers.

To honor their invaluable contributions and bid them a fond farewell, we orchestrated a truly unforgettable. President goodbye luncheon at Lost Pizza for the participants of the Teenage Auxiliary Volunteer program (TAV). During this special event, we took the opportunity to present each participant with their well-deserved TAV T-shirts, symbolizing their dedication and commitment to our organization.

As we look ahead, we are eagerly anticipating the arrival of the fall season. We are excited about the upcoming events, initiatives, and opportunities to serve our community with renewed energy and enthusiasm. Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we strive to make a positive impact on the lives of those we serve.

- Dana Helms, President



*Dr. Glenn Porter addressing Teen Volunteers
Mobile Infirmary TAV 2023.*



District IV

District IV Chairman - Tammy Lee

USA Health Auxiliary

Submitted by Ashley Peyer

USA Health University Hospital Auxiliary purchased new Staxi wheelchairs for University Hospital to help with the safety and comfort of their patients. These new wheelchairs are designed to eliminate the well-known problems of ordinary wheelchairs and allow staff to focus on the patient and not the “push”.

As USA Health University Hospital is growing the USA Health Auxiliary Board saw the need and voted to support the following high traffic areas of the hospital: Patient Access, Patient Transport, Heart & Vascular Center. A total of 10 chairs were donated by the USA Health Auxiliary.

- Ron Wood, President



District IV

District IV Chairman - Tammy Lee

Springhill Memorial Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary

Greetings to everyone from Springhill Memorial Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary.

We hope it has been a good summer for everyone since our last communication, but as summer of 2023 draws to a close, the Mobile area can certainly attest to this being the hottest summer on record. That being said, we also find the entire southwestern portion of Alabama in a severe drought, exacerbated by the extreme three-digit temperatures and lack of rain. However, as we briefly review this summer, we, for the most part, can certainly give thanks that we have been spared the fires, floods, earthquakes, tornados and most recently, Hurricane Idalia, and all the death and destruction that others have been forced to endure. We have truly been Blessed.

It has been a relatively quiet summer for our Auxiliary with everyone simply going about serving our hospital in whatever ways we could. We have recently assumed volunteer duties in the waiting room of our new Heart Center, a beautiful building with a great view of our hospital grounds and surrounding area. As our hospital has grown in cardiology providers as well as patients, it has been our honor to step into this role and assist the patients and their families during this often, stressful time in which they find themselves with a smile, a kind, encouraging word and a helping hand.

VOLUNTEER



***It's not about having the time;
it's about having the heart!***

Additionally, we have hosted two fund raisers, One Touch Linens in June and Uniforms 2U in July, with our next one, Collective Goods coming up this month. We enjoyed having our teenage volunteers with us and all of their help for the past eight weeks, but with the return of the 23/24 school year, we had to say good-bye with love and gratitude for their unselfish service and wish them the best in their respective educational endeavors.

We hope they will be able to return next summer to again be a part of our volunteer family which, sadly, lost two of our volunteers, Del Herrin, in retirement after 25 years of service and the untimely death of Bill Porter after 14 years of service. They will certainly be missed and loved for the years we were blessed to spend with them.

Continue on next page.

District IV

District IV Chairman - Tammy Lee

Springhill Memorial Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary

Continued...

At this time, we are looking forward to our General Membership meeting in the next few weeks when we can, once again, gather to support our Auxiliary and enjoy the fellowship of a delicious lunch together. Nurses will also be on hand to administer flu shots to all of our volunteers prior to the start of the flu season.

Our plans are taking shape once again for our upcoming traveling art teacher event at which the Auxiliary honors the traveling art teachers in the Mobile County Public School System with a reception and a \$500.00 donation each for purchasing their necessary art supplies not covered by the school system budget. It is always so rewarding to see their smiling faces and hear their kind words of gratitude. It is a privilege we hold dear to help these deserving teachers who so lovingly give of their time and talents to shape the lives and education of their students.

In closing, we hope everyone will have a happy, blessed Fall as we all look forward to the cool, crisp days of Autumn and the upcoming holidays which, I know, we all enjoy so much. Regrettably, our Auxiliary will be unable to attend the ACHA conference in Guntersville this year, but we hope all who are able to attend will enjoy and appreciate all of the hard work that has gone into this event and will have a wonderful, productive time together. God Bless Each of You, Your Families and God Bless America.

- Brenda Kirkland, President



Announcements



Alabama Council of Hospital Auxiliaries
2023 Fall Conference

Oct. 8-10, Lake Guntersville State
Park

KINDNESS BEGINS WITH US!

Message from ACHA Board Member:

Promote Healthcare—April 16th is the big day of promoting Healthcare Decision Day all across the country encouraging individuals to think about the care they would want through the end of their lives! However it is everyday that we need to engage and encourage.

Here are a few things options for engaging: Utilizing the toolkits for advance care planning, publicly promoting advance care planning, and participation of community outreach and hospital participation.



- Cheryl Till, Project Chairman

ACHA Communicator



It is an honor to be the Communicator Newsletter Editor for ACHA and I am excited to meet everyone at the Fall Conference. I am looking forward to seeing your submission for our next newsletter!



Next Deadline to submit is **December 8, 2023** for the January Newsletter.

Don't forget to include your district and include caption for each picture.

Please submit all Articles to **TannyMcMillian@gmail.com**.

Happy Reading!

- Tanny McMillian, Newsletter Editor