

VAHAV Connection

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF HEALTHCARE AUXILIARIES AND VOLUNTEERS

CAPITAL • HAMPTON ROADS • NORTHERN • PIEDMONT • SOUTHWESTERN

www.vahav.org

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January 2016

Greetings from the President

As we begin a new year, let us reflect back on last year. We ended the year with a fabulous Conference, which was held October 5-7th at the Doubletree by Hilton in Richmond. Kudos to Carolyn Johnson and Patsy Garrett who spent endless hours organizing this Conference. There were fabulous speakers and workshops, but more importantly the time spent with fellow Auxilians and volunteers make these conferences extra special. Our registration committee volunteers were from Centra Lynchburg General Hospital and also worked many hours preparing the registration packets and nametags. A huge thanks also to those volunteers from Inova Fair Oaks Hospital who served as your social hosts and helped you get where you needed to be. Of course, without the support of our vendors and sponsors, we could never put on a Conference of this magnitude. We hope you visited our vendors and spent lots of money to show our thanks. A special thanks to all who helped to make this conference a success. The VAHAV would also like to thank Barney Barnwell for his term as VAHAV President and reminding us that "*Volunteering is Paying it Forward*".

We want to thank those Board members who will be leaving the board...Charlene Gray, Capital District Chair; Sue Gregory, Thrift Shop Chair; Joanne Hart, Webmaster; Becky Moomau, Piedmont District Chair and Loretta Shelton, Newsletter Chair. We are not saying goodbye but thanks and hope to see you at upcoming District Meetings and Conferences. New Board members include...Diane Glasgow, Capital District Chair and Conference Co-Coordinator; Marla McGaugh, Piedmont District Chair; Laurie Nistrath, Newsletter Chair; Joan Proctor, Gift Shop Chair and Brenda Shively, Communications Chair.

My theme for the coming year is "*Volunteers Light the Way*". As a lighthouse lights the way for incoming ships, you as volunteers light the way in your hospitals. No matter what volunteer position you have, if you think about it, you are lighting the way for either a patient, visitor or even a staff member. They are looking to you for your patience and your kindness.

Did you know that each District of the VAHAV has a color assigned to it? Do you know what those colors mean? Capital District is blue which represents trust, honesty and loyalty. Blue is the helper, the rescuer, the friend in need...a Volunteer! Hampton Roads District is green which represents balance and harmony. It is a good listener and loves to contribute to society...a Volunteer! Pink is Northern District and this color represents compassion, nurturing, love and the need to give... a Volunteer! Piedmont District is represented by Lavender. This color stimulates the imagination and inspires high ideals to do good for others...yet again, a Volunteer! And lastly, Southwestern District is represented by Yellow. It is the lightest hue of the spectrum and creates enthusiasm for life and loves a challenge. Yellow is the great communicator....the Volunteer! No one can hold a candle to you. Each of you create a spark in your individual hospitals. So as you Volunteer this year, think of all the ways you are *Lighting the Way* or showing others the path to follow.

Thanks for your trust in electing me to be your VAHAV President. I look forward to meeting many of you at upcoming District Meetings and at the 2016 Conference being held October 3-5 at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel...**SAVE THIS DATE!** Be sure to contact any member of the VAHAV board with any questions or concerns...we are here to help you.

(www.vahav.org)

Debbie Sammler, VAHAV President

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT

HAPPY NEW YEAR - I wish the best for each and every one of you. A volunteer is a person who of his or her own free will offer their services to help others. Be proud of what you do. Our actions speak for us.

My name is Patsy Garrett and at the VAHAV 2015 Annual conference, I was installed as President-Elect for 2016. I have been a volunteer at Centra Lynchburg General Hospital since 1998. Over that 17 years, I have been on the hospital auxiliary board, at different times, for about 14 of those years. My main areas to work in are the surgical waiting room and the gift shop. I have trained in other areas and can sub when needed in all but the ER. I love my hospital. My husband often says I should have kept on working, as I would go every day to volunteer if needed.

I have served as a VAHAV board member for three years. During that time, I have been Membership Chairman and Conference Co-Chair for 2015. In 2015, I attended all five of the district meetings where I met lots of new people, gathered new ideas for my hospital and exchanged stories with old friends.

If you did not make the 2015 annual conference at the Doubletree Inn in Richmond, you were greatly missed. We had great speakers, exchanged many ideas and according to the surveys one of the most uplifting conferences in a while. Please mark your calendars now for October 3-5, 2016. The conference will be held in Portsmouth at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to our chaplains, doctors, nurses, staff members and most of all to you - the volunteers. We all work together to support our community and state in the healthcare field.

REMEMBER -----
VOLUNTEERS LIGHT THE WAY.....

***Patsy Garrett,
President-Elect***

2015 Annual Conference

We wish to say a big THANK YOU to all who participated in the VAHAV Annual Conference held in Richmond at the Double Tree Inn. There were 189 people attending, with 37 hospitals represented out of 56 member hospitals. There were 27 first timers and our hope is that you all had a fun time, met lots of new people, exchanged many ideas and learned lots of new things to take back to your hospitals.

For those who attended the conference, we hope that you enjoyed the change up we tried and enjoyed the educational workshops. Give a report at your auxiliary board meeting and let them know how important it is to attend your district meetings and if possible annual conference, which is usually held in the fall. Remember there is the Anne Lewis Leadership Development Fund, which is there to help your auxiliary, should there be a finance problem sending someone to conference.

To learn more about the fund go to www.vahav.org , click on #9 or contact

Bettie Moores

9407 Brading Lane

Midlothian, Va. 23112 Phone No. 804-639-3786

Mark your calendars now for the **2016** annual conference to be held on October 3-5, 2016 in Portsmouth. Should you have any ideas for workshops or speakers please contact your district chairperson with that information and they will pass it on to the 2016 conference co-chairmen.

By the time this newsletter is released Thanksgiving and Christmas will have passed. Our hope is that you had a very Blessed, Happy, and safe holiday season with your family and loved ones. May 2016 bring each of you good and happy times. See you at your district meetings in the spring and at annual conference in October.

Patsy Garrett & Carolyn Johnson
2015 Annual Conference Co-Chairs

VAHAV VENDOR REPORT

We all know the economy is on a downward spiral, and knowing that made it difficult to find Vendors who would spend their time, effort, and sponsor money to the VAHAV Conference in Richmond. Fortunately, some did show up and VAHAV Conference attendees seemed to be pleased with them. We did have three new vendors who wanted to experience our conferences.

Those vendors participating were:

Amazing Fundraising (new)

Dilliards (new)

The Nutman Company (new)

Ultimate Linen

Origami Owl

Silver Events

Masquerade

AWI Fixtures and Interiors, Inc. (Market Place)

In The Bag

First Uniform Inc.

Choice Books

Lori's Gifts (Market Place)

Please consider these vendors when planning your fund raising projects.

Approximately 75 vendors were contacted either through mail or email. **KUDDOS to these Vendors for helping support our conference.**

The Vendor Committee welcomes any suggestions and ideas to help improve Vendor Attendance.

Alane Lovern, Vendor Committee Member

In Case You Missed It

The 66th VAHAV Annual Meeting and Educational Conference has ended, but the theme "Paying it Forward" resounds. Of the 55 member hospitals and healthcare facilities and the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA), 37 were represented by 168 members at the 2015 Conference.

VAHAV reported that 67 percent of their Hospital and Healthcare facilities participated. The large Northern District had the biggest representation of the five VAHAV districts with 13 facilities registered as shown in the table below.

District	Representation**	# Attendees**
Capital	6/9	26
Hampton Roads	6/11	23
Northern	13/14	71
Piedmont	8/10	31
Southwestern	4/11	17
TOTAL	37/55	168

** Number of Member Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities Having At Least One Person Attending/ Number of Member Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities in the District

*** Does not include guests and non-members.

The most popular meal was Tuesday's lunch with 195 attendees and guests, followed by Monday's evening banquet with 161, and Wednesday's breakfast with 149. No such statistics are available for well-attended workshops, but the newly planned 'round tables' merited huge raves from many.

The VAHAV Membership Chair is proud that there were 27 first timers.

The VAHAV website (www.vahav.org) captures the monetary "value" breakdown of our volunteers in "Paying It Forward" based on the survey information returned by all but two facilities. VAHAV boasts of over 8,000 adult volunteers and 1,600 teens. Donations to hospital facilities totaled over \$3 million; donations to the community, over \$200,000; and donations to scholarships, over \$400,000.

To each of you, the community is appreciative. As VAHAV continues its work in providing and developing effective leadership, support, and education to member organizations of Virginia healthcare facilities, we thank each of you for your contribution to society and encourage even more participation of the 2016 conference to be held October 3-5, 2016 in Portsmouth, VA.

Submitted by

Theda Foster

VAHAV Webmaster

MEET OUR VAHAV BOARD MEMBERS

While we will always miss retiring VAHAV Board Members, it is always a pleasure to introduce our “new Board members”. It is a great honor and privilege to introduce two of them.

Marla McGaugh, Piedmont District Chairman, is a Volunteer at the UVA Hospital Board for 10 years. She has been a “jack of all trades” by holding many volunteer jobs in the hospital, and has held many positions on the board. She is currently the Past President and is working in the gift shop.

Marla lives in the Charlottesville area and was a kindergarten teacher. She is married to a retired Army officer, mother of two children and grandchildren.

WELCOME ABOARD MARLA!

Laurie Niestrath, Newsletter Chairman, is a president of the UVA Hospital Auxiliary. She began as a community volunteer in 1998 with the Flowers for Patients program. She joined the board in 1998 and served until 2000, at which time she returned to the classroom as a middle school educator. Her current board service began in 2012 where she chaired the Venture Awards and was president-elect. Laurie is an avid soccer mom who spends a considerable amount of time on the field watching her son play both travel and high school ball. As a graduate student at Virginia Commonwealth University, she studies Adult Learning with a focus on Human Resource Development.

WELCOME ABOARD LAURIE!

We also welcome Diane Glasgow, Capital District Chairman for 2015-2017 and Co-Conference Coordinator for 2016. Diane has been volunteering for 16 ½ years for Bon Secours Memorial Regional Medical Center. She began her volunteer career at the Information Desk on Wednesday afternoons. After retirement from her full-time job of 38 years, she spends three days a week volunteering.

On Tuesdays, she answers phones and provides assistance when needed in the Critical Care Unit. Thursday and Friday are spent on the second floor Diagnostic Center where she tracks patient names, type of procedure, arrival and wait time.

Diane has a great passion for volunteering and writes "It is a great feeling to know you are helping people". She serves on the Auxiliary Board, has held the position of Vice President and currently serves as Treasurer. She has attended several VAHAV and District Conferences.

Diane and Barry, her husband, have a son and two grandsons. She is also Treasurer and Elder in her church and serves as Chief Officer of Election for her voting precinct. My question is: WHEN DO YOU SLEEP? BTW: BON SECOURS MEANS, "GOOD HELP TO THOSE IN NEED"

WELCOME ABOARD DIANE!

Happy Holidays!!!

Alane Lovern, Corresponding Secretary

ANNE LEWIS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FUND

By now, many of you know that the Anne Lewis Memorial Scholarship has changed its name to the Anne Lewis Leadership Development fund. The name change came about due to the confusion of the association of scholarships for tuitions. The scholarship is to be used to assist those VAHA's organizations, which wanted to send volunteers to VAHAV's annual meeting but were financially unable to do so.

The goal is the same despite the name change. Later the committee added the invitation to all members to send a volunteer to a regular VAHAV board meeting. The fund will cover room and meals to these meetings for whomever the committee approves if there are multiple requests.

I hope this article has you thinking. I plan to give more information in the next Connection. If you cannot wait or are just curious, you can check the website.

**Bettie Moores
9407 Brading Lane
Midlothian, Va. 23112
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Bettie Moores, Chair

District News

NORTHERN DISTRICT

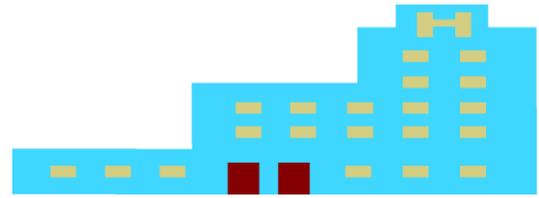
The 2016-17 VAHAV Northern District inauguration ceremony took place at the annual VAHAV Education Conference in October. District officers include Bill Foster of Inova Fairfax Medical Campus, District Chair; Ruth Simone, of Novant Health Prince William Medical Center, District Vice-Chair; and Sue Perry of Inova Fairfax Medical Campus, Recording Secretary. The District Chair is a member of the VAHAV Board of Directors, which meets quarterly. Present for the installation were 13 of the 14 affiliated hospitals and healthcare facilities in the Northern District. The Northern District extends west as far as Interstate 81 and south to Fredericksburg.

For the year, the Northern District encompassed over 3,000 adults and 700 teen volunteers totally over 800,000 total volunteer hours. Details on our contributions, based on surveys completed by 10 of our 14 hospitals, is available on the VAHAV website (www.vahav.org). The website also captures schedules, the VAHAV newsletter (*The Connection*), and membership information. On-line forms enable mailing questions to Board members including me; filling out the annual survey; updating Auxiliary information for the VAHAV database and mailing lists; and governing documents.

I encourage each of you to put on your 2016 calendar the date of the Northern District Spring meeting, which will be held on Monday, May 16 at the Inova Fair Oaks Hospital. And – looking even further into 2016 – the annual VAHAV Education Conference will be held on October 3-5 at the Renaissance Portsmouth Norfolk Waterfront Hotel. I look forward to meeting many of you over my tenure – at these District functions – but also at your local installations.

As my first duty as your District Chair, I wish you all a warm and happy holiday season and the best of health. Thank you for supporting our finest healthcare facilities.

Bill Foster
Northern District Chair



Hospital Auxiliary News



CENTRA LYNCHBURG GENERAL HOSPITAL

Excellent Care ---- For Life

As we near the end of another year, our hospital like many of yours is in a big construction era. We are growing and expanding in many ways. The 5th floor of the East Tower was completed and opened on November 17, 2015 for our Pulmonary Unit. The old health department building behind the hospital has been torn down, is going to become an area for additional parking, and in Danville and in Amherst Centra has new medical centers under construction.

During all of this, the auxiliary has been busy with a lot of the end of the year functions. Weather permitting, Our Let Your Love Shine program will be held outside on December 2 at the East Tower entrance. To the volunteers, staff and hospital patients, when the Christmas Lights are turned on during this event, it is the beginning of the holiday season. Another big fundraiser we have in December is the \$5.00 jewelry sale. For the first time we trying something new. We are having a 3-day sale, with one of them being all night. Our nighttime staff is looking forward to this.

Another big holiday event held in December here at Centra is the Trees of Hope fundraiser for the Pearson Cancer Center.

This is a community function, where different businesses and groups decorate Christmas trees, wreaths and other items in memory or in honor of a cancer patient. This is done as a silent auction type bid and the pieces are out for several weeks at the center for people to

come by and bid on.. The decorations look so beautiful and it is so uplifting to our patients as they come for doctor visits and treatment. The proceeds from this benefit goes to the Cancer Patient Support Fund, which assists area patients in need of immediate financial help during one of the most uncertain times of their lives.

Our own gift shop volunteer, Marge Brandt, donated and decorated a tree titled "While Sugarplums Dance in your Head" in honor and in Memory of current and past gift shop volunteer cancer patients.. All the items on the tree were handmade by her. She even went so far as to put a "baby" in a cradle under the tree. The tree is just beautiful and the auxiliary cannot thank her enough for all the time, thought and effort that went into this project.

We at Centra hope you all had a very Blessed and Happy Christmas season and that 2016 will brings many good things into your lives and to your hospitals and auxiliary.

Submitted By

Patsy Garrett, Volunteer

Centra Lynchburg General Hospital

Inova Fairfax Medical Campus

The Auxiliary executive board has been busy working on the budget for 2016, which includes approval of seven Hospital Grants totaling \$151,915:

1. \$2,222 for patient education resources in the Neuroscience ICU
2. \$48,686 for computerized 3D training equipment in the Department of Orthopedics
3. \$2,644 for patient-focused enhancements at the Inova (Fairfax City) Emergency Care Center
4. \$30,057 for innovative simulation training equipment to reduce post-partum hemorrhage associated with C-sections
5. \$11,067 for state-of-the-art computerized training manikins in the Pediatric Emergency Room
6. \$6,240 for four geriatric chairs in the Department of Medicine Nursing Units
7. \$50,000 for an innovative Inova Heart & Vascular Institute research project to reduce bleeding complications during heart surgery and cardiac catheterization.

At the fall education breakfast/meeting, Auxiliary President Tom Rupp announced that 2015 is on a pace for roughly 1,000 volunteers serving more than 120,000 hours ... at \$25 per volunteer hour, that's \$3M in service we provide IFMC each year. He also reported that volunteers serve in nearly 50 different roles and service areas, including animal assisted care, newborn nursery, medical library, mended hearts, surgical desk, patient support services, the emergency department and Gift Shops and Treasure Troves.

For the first time at IFMC, an Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year was announced. Nominations were solicited and a committee of executive board members, led by Barry Wickersham, selected Fred Rogusky as the recipient. Fred serves two shifts each week in Patient Support Services, is the go-to person for wheelchair repairs and keeps many service areas stocked with refreshments. He was presented with a certificate and a gift card, and his will be the first name on a permanent Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year plaque.

Longtime volunteer Gene Ciotti was also honored at a recent board meeting and at the education breakfast. Now retired, Gene has served for 45 years and has accumulated 35,000 hours in numerous positions including Auxiliary President (1982-1984), Vice president, Legislative Chair, Membership Chair, and multiple service coordinator roles. She is a Life Member and becomes the Auxiliary's newest Legacy Member.

Auxiliary's Holiday Giving Program will be supporting five families in the Inova Kellar School and Inova Juniper Program. The Auxiliary also helped fund the holiday decorations throughout the medical campus.

The Auxiliary continues to grow and train more volunteers. Recruitment plans are in the works. The new tower housing Inova Women's Hospital and Inova Children's Hospital opens on January 25 and the tower volunteers will shift to a new location. A new women's and Children's Gift Shop will also open in January. A committee has also formed to explore different fundraising ideas. 2016 holds much promise with new leadership in Volunteer Services and openings in the management of the Troves and Gift Shops filled.

Bill Foster, former Auxiliary president, is serving as president of the VAHAV Northern Region for the upcoming year. Joining him on the board is another former Auxiliary president, Sue Perry, as secretary.

Judy Shapleigh
INOVA Fairfax

The Ladies Board of Inova Loudoun Hospital

*It is a "Wonderful Time of Year" as we quote that iconic song! The 77th Annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale is now history with great memories. We were fortunate to enjoy good weather, an abundance of quality donations, hundreds of volunteers, and many happy shoppers! We set another new record with gross sales over \$258,000. We are grateful to everyone involved, and it will be gratifying to share even more good news as funds are distributed to support nursing scholarships and patient services.

Our Rummage Sale chairperson, Lisa Cromwell, expressed both delight and appreciation for the success of this year's sale. "I am thrilled with everything about the event!" Donations are already being collected for the 78th Annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale, scheduled for October 15 and 16, 2016.



*The Lights of Love is a cherished, ongoing endeavor where contributions are received in memory or honor of someone that has touched another's life in a positive way. On Sunday, December 6, the annual tree lighting ceremony will be held in the Atrium at Inova Loudoun Hospital. Music will be provided by the chamber choir from Loudoun County High School, and the names of those honored will be read aloud in a touching tribute.

All funds from Lights of Love go directly to nursing scholarships. Nursing scholarship applications will be available in early January 2016 (www.ladiesboard.org).

*Volunteers at the Inova Loudoun Hospital Gift Shop report that this is also the "busiest time of year." By early November, the shop was looking even more festive than usual with two beautifully decorated Christmas trees and hundreds of ornaments, along with many other items of holiday décor. Thanksgiving also had a place of honor, of course! We are anticipating lots of enthusiasm for the "Christmas Bear Drawing" and the "Twelve Days of Christmas" event.

*Our thrift shop, Twice is Nice, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2015! The original shop opened in 1990 in downtown Leesburg. By 2000, the operation was so successful that more space was needed, and the shop relocated just a few blocks to the east, still on Market Street, at the Tollhouse Shopping Center.

The current site features 2,400 square feet with space for sorting and pricing, plus a large display area for clothing, household items, books, toys, furniture, and other items. Located in the small but inviting Tollhouse Center, Twice Is Nice is nestled among a yoga studio, Italian restaurant, spa, health food store, dance studio, and pet grooming salon, among others. Many first time guests come to visit one of the other locations, often leading them to discover the treasures of the thrift shop!

*While Ladies Board members were anticipating the merriment of our annual December luncheon, a far more serious topic was addressed at the November meeting – one surely appropriate to share with our fellow volunteers throughout Virginia and beyond. Shondra M. Jones, a clinical coordinator with the INOVA Heart and Vascular Institute, was the guest speaker. Her presentation included statistics, symptoms, and care of heart disease. Ms. Jones emphasized the critical importance of recognizing the acute symptoms of heart disease more unique to women. Time is critical to the heart when one is experiencing symptoms!

*With good wishes to all for a healthy and prosperous 2016!

Gerri Hill
Inova Loudoun Hospital

Sentara RMH Medical Center

This year is coming to an end very quickly. For the SRMHVA it has been a busy and productive year. Several new service areas have been opened and with the 100+ volunteers, which have been recruited this year, we have been able to extend volunteer services to these areas. We are very blessed with our college student volunteers who are able to assist our volunteer program during the academic year. Sentara RMH is looking forward to opening our new Orthopedic and Sports Center early in 2016 and volunteers will be placed there as well.

The auxiliary has been busy with fundraising activities and will finish out our year with our Cookie Sale on December 18th. On that day, we will hold a mini-raffle and the winners of the Auxiliary's Annual Raffle will be announced.

I will be going off the board as president at the end of the year. I want to thank the SRMHVA Board and all members of the auxiliary for all your hard work the past two years. To our Director, Debra Thompson thanks for your leadership and the great job in recruiting new members to the auxiliary.

We recently held our last board meeting for the year and the following picture is of the old and new board for 2016. It has been a great year and we look forward to being there for Sentara RMH patients, families, and staff in 2016.



Front row: Paula Faverio, Gloria Heishman, Pat Messner, Diane Trobaugh, Debra Thompson, Denise Whitman; Back row: Louise Butler, Nancy Bradfield, Pat Shoemaker, Evie Showalter and Rosemary Brenner.

Nancy Bradfield
President

Mary Washington Healthcare Stafford Hospital



Mary Washington Healthcare Stafford Hospital

At Stafford Hospital, we have launched a new award for Volunteers called the W.A.V.E. Award (We Applaud Volunteer Excellence). Volunteers can be nominated by an associate, fellow volunteer, patient, patient family member or visitor. The first W.A.V.E. Award was

presented to Joe Lamantia Thursday, November 5th at the Quarterly Associate Awards ceremony. Pictured here Tammi Ellis, Stafford Hospital Administrative Associate for Volunteer Services, is presenting the award to Joe. Staff nominated Joe for this award for his compassionate response



W.A.V.E. Award

in caring for a family in crisis. Joe's actions in this instance exemplify the spirit of volunteerism this award was truly meant to recognize. The awardee receives a certificate and a medal that he/she can proudly wear on his/her jacket or vest. The W.A.V.E. award will be presented quarterly throughout the year and will give great recognition to our outstanding volunteers.

Gene Zeiszler, President

University of Virginia Hospital Auxiliary

UVA Culpeper Auxiliary Exchange

An exchange between our auxiliary and the auxiliary of UVA Culpeper occurred on Tuesday, October 22. Sally LeBeau, Marla McGaugh and Laurie Niestrath spent the day visiting with members of the Culpeper Hospital Auxiliary as well as their Director of Volunteer Services. Our visit included a time for the sharing of ideas, a tour of the hospital, their gift and coffee shop.

The pride and joy of this Auxiliary is the thrift shop. The Thrift Shop, located in a shopping center adjacent to the hospital, generates thousands of dollars of revenue that supports the work of this auxiliary. We have welcomed their auxiliary on several occasions at UVA. We value our relationship through the Virginia Association of Hospital Auxiliaries and Volunteers as well as through the Medical Center.



Sally LeBeau, DVS



**Marla McGaugh, Past President,
Piedmont District Chair**

Bras for a Cause

The Blue Ridge chapter of the Women's Council of Realtors certainly understands the concept of "Make It Fun!" The auxiliary purchased a table at the year's event, held at the Elks Club on Friday, October 2, 2015. Mr. Chris Ragu sported a bra around the theme, "Kicking Cancer" and the music of Waka Waka by Shakira. We appreciate his desire to support the cause by serving as our model. Flourish Boutique Coordinator, LaTisha Barnes did an outstanding job helping to emcee the event. Her creative skills always sparkle through the creation of the outfit and the coordination of the performance. She accepted the donation of \$5555.00 at a recent realtor breakfast. This donation, which exceeds last year's contribution, is used to support Flourish. We are so fortunate to have the Blue Ridge Chapter champion our cause to provide a service to help those fighting cancer to look and feel their best. They certainly know how to *Do It Well!*



Bras for a Cause male models with LaTisha Barnes, Flourish Boutique Manager

Laurie Niestrath, President

Virginia Baptist Hospital Auxiliary

Our Auxiliary has had a fairly busy year supporting our hospital and caring for the patients and visitors that come through our doors.

Our volunteers helped to discharge over 6,000 patients while our information desk offered assistance to more than 7,700 visitors, patients and employees. And of course, in true auxiliary style all was done with a smile. Since we are the labor and delivery hospital for the central Virginia areas, some of our volunteers knit baby hats (blue & pin) which are given to each newborn.

We are also supported in our missions by local church organizations that in addition to baby hats they also make prayer shawls and neck pillows for our patients.

We are planning for and looking forward to 2016, as we will be celebrating our 60th year anniversary. The auxiliary is planning some big doings for this anniversary year.

Ken Slusher, President

Winchester Medical Center

The Winchester Medical Center Auxiliary always looks forward to December each year because that is when our "Lights of Love" project takes place. The twenty-eighth year of this fund-raising project was celebrated in 2015. Three evergreen trees are located at the entrance to the Medical Center and beginning December 1, these trees are adorned with thousands of lights, which remain lit throughout the holiday season.

Each light represents a \$5 dollar donation in memory or in honor of a loved one. The profits are traditionally shared between the WMC Auxiliary and Blue Ridge Hospice. An outstanding volunteer with ties to the medical community is chosen each year to "throw the switch" to light the trees. The outdoor lighting ceremony includes a welcome from dignitaries from Hospice and WMC, a presentation of checks and the singing of Holiday songs by the children from the WMC child-care center. Refreshments are served afterwards.

"Lights of Love" is a beautiful tradition, which not only provides much-needed funds, but also involves a large number of community members. Media coverage results in awareness of our Auxiliary and our many projects.

Linda B. Caley, Publicity Chair

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Parliamentarian/By-Laws: Carolyn Johnson, parliamentarianbylaws@vahav.org

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Northern District Chairman: William Foster, NorthernDistrict@vahav.org

Piedmont District Chairman: Marla McGaugh, PiedmontDistrict@vahav.org

Southwestern District Chairman Donna Raines, SouthwesternDistrict@vahav.org

VHHA Liaison: Jennifer M. Wicker, jwicker@vhha.org

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