

# The Auxiliary Pulse

Spring - 2020



## President's Message - Jeff Marks

"We live in interesting times" is an adaption of an often-quoted Chinese expression (a 'curse' actually) and indeed we do.

Each of us is experiencing such a profound change in our daily lives because of the virus, and I expect nothing reflects that more than our temporary suspension of Auxiliary services.

In meeting with the TCMC executive staff, CEO Steve Dietlin expressed such a feeling of heartfelt gratitude when acknowledging how difficult it would be for the staff to continue maintaining the quality of the contribution of time and extended services we have been providing the Medical Center.

It is such an odd feeling to not be able walk the halls of the Medical Center and see our cohorts with their smiles, giving hugs, the conversations (and yes, the gossip!) – I miss it all and with the many emails I receive I know you do also. For what I trust is a short while, we are estranged from each other, but we remain a family, truly a *family*.

I hope you all are keeping in touch by mail, email, or phone with your follow members – keeping the family spirit alive and strong, sharing compassion, empathy, your faith in knowing that this is all temporary, short-lived and, sharing too, your enthusiasm to return to our wonderful legacy of giving and contributing our time and joy to our follow Auxiliary members, the staff and patients of the Tri-City Medical Center.



## PALs Luncheon

By Linda Wolff, First Vice President

As times like these remind us, leadership is critical to any organization. Each spring our Auxiliary recognizes the past and current team at the Past Auxiliary Leadership (PALs) luncheon. These past presidents helped lead us through both good and challenging times and will always deserve our sincere thanks.

Attending, and pictured left to right were TCMC CEO Steve Dietlin, Mary Gleisberg (2017-19), TCMC Board Chair LeighAnne Grass, Linda Wolff (First Vice President), Connie Jones (2013-14), Donna McConnell (2007-09), Beth Hulsart (2003-05), TCMC COO Scott Livingston, Bertha Brooks (2009-11), and Sandy Tucker (2014-15). Seated are current President, Jeff Marks & Mildred Hill (1993-95).

Good times were had by all.





## Remembering My Dad - Linda Wolff

Father, husband, grandfather, great-grandfather, and Auxiliary volunteer - John Wolff was many things to many people. On January 18, 2020, at the age of 96, my dad passed away.

To generations of elementary school students, he was their Principal, a leader they could always count on. For nearly 74 years, he was loving husband and partner in life to my mother, Pat Wolff. From 1994 to 2011 John and Pat shared the experience of volunteering together as part of the Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary. Working as an escort, John loved traveling throughout the hospital, spreading joy and happiness everywhere he went.

My parents' positive volunteer experience is the main reason that, upon retirement, I decided to become an active Auxiliary member. I remain grateful for their example of kindness, service, and devotion to others. The family legacy lives on!

Pictured to the right, John happened to be on duty the day that his great-grandson was born at Tri-City Medical Center.



## Knowing Margie Smotony - Jeff Marks

I was then Chair of Orientation in 2013 when Margie came into the Auxiliary office to volunteer. She was a bit of a quandary for me; I frankly didn't quite know where to place this (then) 90-year-old applicant. She was charming, affable and direct.

There was of course Workshop, where she could enjoy the company of our excellent sewers. She wasn't intrigued and didn't sew much which was, in a word, a handicap. I thought her a bit too soft-spoken and knew she would be overwhelmed at the Information Desk and Registration. It was blatantly obvious to me she couldn't possibly work in Escort which required actual walking. I was to learn later that at 90 she was still playing golf and walking two miles a day.

The physical demands of Surgery or E.R. were obviously too demanding. She believed she would enjoy Greeters, a job I thought too strenuous, requiring a lot of standing. I knew that wouldn't work out but Lynn Fisher, Chair of Greeter, needed people so she took on Margie "as a favor."

Margie passed February 13 having worked 350 shifts, 1,700 hours, and seven years at age 97.

The last time I saw Margie in February she was pushing a patient to the car in a wheel chair. Beloved by absolutely every volunteer, employee, guest, and patient who had the great fortune of meeting her, Margie was the essence of the goodness of our Auxiliary volunteers.



Margie and Dee Coleman



## Looking Forward

At times like these we tend to focus our thoughts inward, considering current conditions and circumstances. While this is totally understandable, it is also important to look forward to the return of the many positive things in our lives.

Our Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary is one of those positive things and, even during these difficult times, our Auxiliary continues to make important investments in the future of healthcare across our region.

Since 1973, the Tri-City Hospital Auxiliary has provided scholarships to deserving young people seeking to dedicate their lives to delivering many critical aspects of healthcare. 2020 is no exception.



Stan Kukawka  
Scholarship Chair

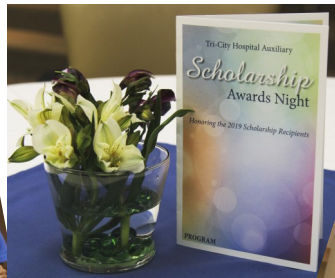
Thanks to the generous support of 30 individual donors and a significant grant of Auxiliary funds, we will deliver 96 scholarships to deserving individuals at various stages of their educational pursuit.

The primary institutions hosting scholarship recipients are Mira Costa College with 37 scholarship recipients, Palomar College with 38 recipients and California State University San Marcos with 18 scholarships. Additionally, ten scholarships will be awarded to current Auxiliary High School Volunteers and three to individuals at other colleges.

A total of \$75,250 has been committed this year alone to this excellent program. We can all be proud of the commitment of our members and scholarship donors to the future of our healthcare system.

Typically, these scholarships are presented at an annual reception in April of each year. Unfortunately, the extreme circumstances surrounding the current virus pandemic has caused us to cancel this event. Rest assured; these deserving students will be receiving their full scholarships.

Typically, we would provide photos of the annual event. Since that isn't possible this year, we hope you enjoy a few photos from past scholarship receptions. We all look forward to the 2021 Scholarship Reception.



## TCMC Recognized for Stroke Care



In October of 2019, Tri-City Medical Center became the 36th hospital in the nation to receive the Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center (TSC) certification from The Joint Commission, in collaboration with the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

If you, a friend, or family member ever experience a stroke, this is a pretty big deal. Tri-City Medical Center, our community hospital, has the equipment and expertise needed to provide excellent care for stroke patients.

Thanks to new equipment and training, TCMC physicians and staff can quickly address the clotting that can result in devastating long-term problems for patients.

As if this weren't enough, Tri-City Medical Center also recently launched an amazing program that links artificial intelligence and CT scanners to recognize a blood clot and alert the medical team before the patient is even off the exam table.

Each year, Tri-City Medical Center treats about 525 stroke patients. In 2018, our interventional radiology team was noted by the New England Journal of Medicine for achieving treatment rates among the top three best in the country.

Stroke is the fifth leading cause of death in the United States and 87 percent of strokes are caused by a clot that cuts off blood flow to a part of the brain. These types of strokes are largely treatable if the clot is identified and treated in time.

For more, visit [www.tricitymed.org/medical-services/stroke-care-center](http://www.tricitymed.org/medical-services/stroke-care-center) or email specific questions to the TCMC Stroke Coordinator, Carol Reeling, at [reeling@tcmc.com](mailto:reeling@tcmc.com).



### A Little Humor, Please

For decades, *Reader's Digest* had a column titled, "Laughter, the Best Medicine." Hoping to deliver a strong dose, here is the latest offering from our own Poet Laureate.

#### **THE COMMON COLD**

By Geoff Armour

Of all the ills iniquitous,  
The cold is most ubiquitous.  
It comes to indolent and dutiful,  
To ugly and to beautiful,  
To modest and to haughty folk,  
To pious and to naughty folk,  
And though you sneeze and cough a lot,  
It helps, though not an awful lot,  
To know that there's no preference  
Regarding colds or deference,  
And even royal highnesses  
Have trouble with their sinuses.

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